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The Regional Municipality of Durham`

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, November 4, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:31 PM

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Collier, Chair
Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Drew
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Pickles
Regional Chair Henry
*** all members of Committee, except Regional Chair Henry, participated electronically**

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford attended the meeting at 1:34 PM
Commissioner Kerr
Commissioner Smith

Absent: Commissioner Bath-Hadden

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit
D. Beaton, Commissioner of Corporate Services
B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning & Economic Development
D. Dunn, Project Manager, Transportation Design, Durham Region Transit
L. Hatch, Marketing Assistant, Durham Region Transit
L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transportation & Transit Oriented Development, Office of the Chief Administration Officer
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal
C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
S. Pollock, Communication Coordinator, Durham Region Transit
M. Simpson, Director, Financial Planning and Purchasing, Finance Department

N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, and Commissioner of Finance
C. Tennesco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Pickles, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(42) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, October 7, 2020, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

5.1 Margaret Parkhill, Associate Director, Practice Lead, Transportation Engineering,
IBI Group; re: Simcoe Street Dedicated Transit Lanes Pilot Study

B. Holmes advised that, as part of the COVID-19 ridership recovery strategy, Durham Region Transit (DRT) and Works Department staff looked corridors across the Region where transit priority measures would most impact transit reliability and competitiveness. It was determined that the Simcoe Street corridor provided the best opportunities and engaged the IBI Group to undertake a study of this area.

Margaret Parkhill, Associate Director, Practice Lead, Transportation Engineering, IBI Group, provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Simcoe Street Dedicated Transit Lanes Pilot Study. A copy of the Presentation was distributed electronically to the Committee Members.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- Why a Transit Pilot on Simcoe Street
- What could the Transit Pilot look like?
- How to balance transit priority and traffic impacts?
- What are the next steps?

M. Parkhill advised that the Transit Pilot provides an opportunity to address the COVID-19 related impacts; and, improve transit travel times and reliability to ensure the competitiveness of transit to retain and regrow its ridership. She noted that the Simcoe Street corridor has been identified for future rapid transit; and, the Region will be conducting an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Rapid Transit.

The Study area follows the 901 PULSE Simcoe route extending from Ontario Tech University / Durham College to Highway 401 and will assess the traffic impacts on adjacent streets, including the Mary Street and Somerville Street area, and transit service for three of the Region's priority neighbourhoods.

M. Parkhill displayed a series of images for examples of existing signage and curbside / bus only lanes projects located within Ontario and Quebec; and, reviewed the preliminary options for the Simcoe Street corridor. She also advised the Study will look at how to balance the transit priorities with traffic impacts and build support for future transit infrastructure improvements and investments. Considerations will include transit operations and delays; customer trips and traffic operations. Potential transit priority elements include reserved lanes and curbside bus lanes; transit signal priority; queue jump lanes; and, bus stop optimization along the route.

M. Parkhill also displayed a map illustrating the Simcoe Street Transit Pilot preliminary findings. She noted that the traffic analysis will inform the final recommendations and, outlined the key performance indicators such as travel times; reliability and ridership; traffic operations; and, safety.

M. Parkhill provided an update on the next steps which includes the IBI Group meeting with the City of Oshawa's Development Services Committee on November 9, 2020; hosting virtual public information sessions starting November 16th to 30th; developing a Pilot monitoring plan and the cost estimates; and the proposed implementation solutions as early in the Spring of 2021, pending the funding approval and operational criteria.

The Committee suggested that the proposed markings for dedicated Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes be coloured red and be considered for all of the lane markings within Durham Region, to ensure consistency.

Questions were raised regarding the proposed date of Spring 2021 to implement the Simcoe Street dedicated transit lanes Pilot; and, the budget costs and funding required to implement the Pilot. B. Holmes advised that the estimated costing and timelines for the Pilot will be part of the DRT 2021 budget considerations.

Commissioner Carter asked that Option 1: the Toronto Eglinton Avenue East Corridor or Option 3: the Halifax Robie/Young Street Transit Priority Corridor be taken under consideration as the recommended markings for the downtown core in the City of Oshawa.

Commissioner Carter also discussed the impact of diverting the traffic flow from Simcoe Street onto Mary Street and Somerville Street and how problematic the diversion was for the surrounding community, in the past during construction activities on Simcoe Street. Commissioner Carter questioned how the IBI Group will evaluate these impacts; to what degree the IBI Group will consider the impacts; and, what elements will be included in the traffic analysis to make a

judgement call with respect diverting the traffic onto Mary Street and Somerville Street.

Commissioner Carter also recommended that a door knock be undertaken by the IBI Group, to talk with the residents that live in the area of Simcoe Street and Mary Street regarding issues experienced in the past from diverting traffic off of Simcoe Street to ensure a proper elevation of their issues.

Commissioner Carter further requested that a consistent, fulsome communication plan be put in place, by the IBI Group to ensure that people are well aware of the Pilot Program.

Commissioner Kerr asked that, going forward, the IBI Group refer to the Pilot's northern terminus site as Ontario Tech University and Durham College.

An issue was also raised with respect to constricting the vehicular traffic flow and the availability of on-street paid parking along Simcoe Street and Centre Street to accommodate bus-only lanes.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – October 2020 (2020-DRT-21)

Report #2020-DRT-21 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(43) That Report #2020-DRT-21 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

A) Transit Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(44) That the minutes of the regular Transit Advisory Committee held on September 29, 2020, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 On Demand Services in Uxbridge

Councillor Barton informed the Committee that he had the opportunity to ride the On Demand services within the Township of Uxbridge and he thanked DRT staff for providing this service to ensure the residents have easy access throughout Uxbridge and the rural areas of Durham Region.

10.2 PRESTO Point of Sale – Customer Service Outlet in the Township of Scugog

Councillor Drew thanked staff for establishing a new PRESTO Point of Sale for the residents living in the northern municipalities.

10.3 Durham Region Transit Holiday Services

B. Holmes advised that, due to the cancellation of all 2020 New Years Eve's events, the Durham Region Transit regular service will finish at 10:00 PM. He also advised that DRT will continue to provide free services after 8:00 PM on New Year's Eve.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(45) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:04 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk