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The Regional Municipality of Durham`

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, December 2, 2020

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, December 2, 2020 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM

1. Roll Call

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

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford
Commissioner Kerr

Absent: Commissioner Drew was absent on municipal business

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
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
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
N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, and Commissioner of Finance
C. Tennisco, 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,
(46) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 4, 2020, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations to be heard.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – December 2, 2020 (2020-DRT-22)

Report #2020-DRT-22 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, was received.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the data in the report; and, whether
the data is revised regularly, such as the monthly ridership.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(47) That Report #2020-DRT-22 of the General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, be received for information.
CARRIED

B) Durham Region Transit U-Pass Agreement 2020-2021 Academic Year Update (2020-DRT-23)

Report #2020-DRT-23 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

B. Holmes responded to questions with respect to amending the existing U-Pass Agreement with Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University; clarification of the U-Pass suspension for the 2021 winter and summer semesters; and the execution of a one-year extension to the existing Agreement for the period of September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022.

J. Austin also responded to questions regarding the student U-Pass compulsory ancillary fees charged for the duration of the existing Agreement and any subsequent suspensions; whether the potential exists for a student referendum to withdraw from the U-Pass agreement; and, what would constitute a 'break' in the U-Pass Agreement and how would it impact the students utilizing the U-Pass.

Discussion ensued regarding the financial net impact from suspending the U-Pass participation on the 2020 budgeted U-Pass revenues; the level of transit services currently being provided to the campuses; and, the estimated boardings per hour and fare revenues for students currently travelling to the campuses.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,

(48) A) That the Treasurer and General Manager of Durham Region Transit (DRT) be authorized to execute, in response to the ongoing impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, an amendment to the existing U-Pass Agreement with Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University to:

- i) Suspend participation in the U-Pass agreement without prejudice for the Winter and Summer 2021 semesters; and
- ii) Extend the existing U-Pass agreement with Durham College, Ontario Tech University and Trent University (Durham Campus), including a 1.9 per cent increase in the fee per eligible student from \$141.75 per semester to \$144.50 per semester for the period of September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022 conditional upon Finance and Administration Committee approval.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on December 8, 2020 and presented to Regional Council on December 16, 2020.

C) PRESTO Device Replacement (2020-DRT-24)

Report #2020-DRT-24 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

The Committee inquired whether the installation of the new PRESTO devices will issue paper transfers. B. Holmes advised that the new device refresh does include transfer printing capabilities, if and when, DRT begins to re-issue paper transfers

Commissioner Anderson reiterated customers' concerns regarding the fare resumption and the elimination of paper passes resulting in additional costs to travel the buses from Bowmanville to Oshawa; and, the need to ensure that any new DRT services are also communicated to the customers who do not own a cell phone or have limited or no internet connectivity. B. Holmes advised that at this time, DRT is not issuing paper transfers as approved by TEC on June 3, 2020; and, that as an incentive for a contactless option, DRT has distributed over 5,000 free PRESTO cards to Durham residents, approximately 500 of which were free when they loaded a minimum of \$6.50 onto the PRESTO card at the time of purchase.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the various channels used to communicate DRT information to residents including the PRESTO Card incentive to the public; the DRT PRESTO Point of Sale locations, along with the options for broader availability; and, clarification that the PRESTO Card incentive remains in place until the end of this year.

Discussion ensued regarding the Metrolinx pilot to test the open payment function on its PRESTO fare card system to allow transit users to pay by tapping a credit card, debit card or smart phone on the reader; and whether the open payment function will be compatible with the DRT PRESTO system. J. Austin explained that the Metrolinx open payment function is compatible with the PRESTO systems within the 905 area and will provide a seamless travel option throughout the Greater Toronto Hamilton Area (GTHA). Open payment is expected to be available to DRT customers in mid 2021, which will benefit customers by reducing the PRESTO card load delays and continue to provide unlimited rides in a 2 hour period (transfer window).

Detailed discussion ensued regarding open source payments and the need for cash fares and paper transfers; how customers with no cell phone, PRESTO card, or debit card proceed to pay to ride the bus; and the approved DRT fare strategy to accelerate electronic payment and reduce the use of paper and cash as payment options. J. Austin advised that 10 to 12 percent of DRT customers pay fares using cash; and noted that in the summer, DRT restricted the use of paper tickets except for the community agencies.

Councillor Collier referred to Item 3.1 on page 27 of the agenda and asked staff to clarify whether Metrolinx is responsible for the procurement and installation and of new devices and if DRT is responsible for the device acquisition and installation costs. J. Austin advised that the capital costs for the new devices and the installation costs would be borne by the transit agencies.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(49) That the replacement of the Region's PRESTO infrastructure, including devices on all buses, be approved, at an estimated cost of \$3.2 million conditional upon Finance and Administration Committee approval of project funding.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on December 8, 2020 and presented to Regional Council on December 16, 2020.

8. Advisory Committee

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

A) Transit Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(50) That the minutes of the regular Transit Advisory Committee held on November 17, 2020, be received for information.

CARRIED

8.2 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee Resolutions

A) Update on the Status of Issuing Transfers to Customers Paying by Cash

Chair Collier inquired why staff recommended that the Transit Advisory Committee's resolution be received for information as opposed to an action item or referred back to staff. The Committee Clerk advised that at the Transit Executive Committee meeting held on June 3, 2020 the Committee approved Report #2020-DRT-20: Resumption of Fare Collection which directed staff to investigate and implement additional alternative contactless fare payment technology strategies; and provided advice on the process for moving the TAC resolution forward for discussion.

Detailed discussion ensued with respect to TEC endorsing the resolution from the TAC; and the TAC members strong support for cash fares and paper transfers.

B. Holmes provided a PowerPoint presentation on the background for the decision to eliminate transfers for cash fare payment during the pandemic.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Background
 - Report #2020-DRT-11: Resumption of Fare Collection, June 3, 2020
 - Report #2020-DRT-18: PRESTO Card Incentive, September 9, 2020
- Risks identified
- Status (October)

B. Holmes outlined the risks identified, for both the customers and operators, when handling cash fares and papers transfers; and, the Provincial recommendation to adopt contactless fare payment when possible in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding whether the open payment counts for the required PRESTO adoption rate; and, if the endorsement of the TAC resolution was approved, would it change anything during or after the pandemic is over. He advised that it is critical that DRT ensures and promotes that DRT is safe to use.

Moved by Commissioner Pickles, Seconded Regional Chair Henry, (51) That the resolution of the Transit Advisory Committee regarding the Update on the Status of Issuing Transfers to Customers Paying by Cash be referred to staff to explore options for paper transfers and provide an update at the January 6, 2021 Transit Executive Committee meeting.

CARRIED

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 Update on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) bus lanes along Kingston Road in the City of Pickering

Commissioner Pickles asked that staff provide an update on the Bus Rapid Transit bus lanes along Kingston Road in the City of Pickering. B. Holmes advised staff would provide an update on the BRT and ICIP funding.

10.2 Route 902 Service into Newcastle

Commissioner Anderson inquired when the Route 902 will provide service into Newcastle. C. Norris advised that service will be extended as ridership levels come back up and noted that staff is monitoring the ridership recovery framework and looking at the customer demand and level of services in Newcastle.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

The Chair advised the Members that the upcoming scheduled Durham Region Transit Commission (DRTC) meeting will be held prior to Council at 9:00 AM on Wednesday, December 16, 2020, in the Council Chambers.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(52) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:42 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk