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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 3, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, February 3, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

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

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford
Commissioner Hight
Commissioner Wotten

Staff

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
M. Binetti, Transportation Service Design, Durham Region Transit
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. Pincombe, Director, Business Planning & Budgets, Finance Department
S. Ramoutar, Transit Financial Analyst, Durham Region Transit
T. Steffler, Supervisor, Transit Durham East, 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 Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,
(5) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 6, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

5.1 Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, and Nancy Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, Finance Department, regarding: 2021 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets (2021-DRT-04) [Item 7. B)]

Nancy Taylor, Bill Holmes and Jamie Austin provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2021 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets.

N. Taylor advised that the 2021 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets have been challenging based on the competing priorities and those affected by COVID. She advised that the budgets submission supports the approved guideline of 2.0% and is dependent on the safe restart of the transit stream.

N. Taylor provided an overview of the Strategic Priorities for the 2021 Budget.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- 2021 Budget – Strategic Priorities
 - Environmental Sustainability
 - Community Vitality
 - Economic Prosperity
 - Social Investment
 - Service Excellence
 - COVID-19 Response

Bill Holmes advised that the Durham Region Transit 2021 Business Plans and Budgets outlines the steps and investments that DRT is making in 2021 to advance key objectives, service improvements and initiatives; and addresses the current challenges, while being positioned to quickly respond to increasing ridership demands.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- Budget Overview
 - 2020 – A Year Like No Other
- 2020 Accomplishments
 - Service Improvements
 - Customer Service
 - Moving transit forward

Jamie Austin presented an overview of the Durham Region Transit 2021 proposed expenditures and financing.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- 2021 Proposed Expenditures and Financing
 - Proposed Gross Expenditures by Program Area (millions)
 - Proposed Gross Funding by Source (millions)
- 2021 Priorities and Highlights
 - Operating Costs
 - Staffing
 - Capital
- 2021 Risks and Uncertainties
- 2021 Initiatives to Modernize & Find Service Efficiencies
- Future Budget Pressures
 - Impacts on 2022 Budget
 - Forecasted Pressures

Commissioner Carter, on behalf of the Committee, thanked the Durham Region Transit Team for their extraordinary work throughout the COVID-19 pandemic; during a period of challenging times and difficult situations.

J. Austin and A. McKinley responded to questions regarding the logistics and required infrastructure costs to transition to the battery electric buses, including charging infrastructure and training requirements for staff to operate and perform the equipment maintenance and repairs on these buses; and, the life expectancy and maintenance costs of an electric bus compared to a conventional bus.

B. Holmes responded to a question regarding whether the 60 percent bus capacity meets the guidelines for social distancing. He advised that most Ontario transit agencies are operating at a seated load capacity. He added that currently, approximately 99 percent of the DRT trips are less than a seated load; and, that

the bus operators would continue to pick up customers, and not leave them stranded, if a bus encountered a seated load.

B. Holmes reviewed the COVID-19 policies in place which enables DRT to operate with a full load safely, and which are to be adhered to by all DRT customers on the buses.

J. Austin also responded to a question about the impacts resulting from the reduced 2020 DRT ridership fare revenues on the transit revenue to operating costs ratio.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – February 3, 2021 (2021-DRT-03)

Report #2021-DRT-03 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Chair Collier commended DRT staff on the launch of two retrofitted retired buses for the mobile COVID-19 testing clinic, in collaboration with the Region of Durham Paramedic Services.

At the request of Chair Collier, B. Holmes outlined the allocation of the Provincial Gas Tax funding being based on 70 percent transit ridership and 30 percent municipal population.

Chair Collier advised that residents have questioned why they cannot utilize the On Demand service in their area even though the regular transit services are being provided in their area. B. Holmes clarified that the On Demand service is provided within the urban areas of the Region where ridership is low.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(6) That Report #2021-DRT-03 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) 2021 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets (2021-DRT-04)

Report #2021-DRT-04 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(7) That we recommend to the Finance & Administration Committee for
subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the 2021 Business Plans and Budgets for Durham Region Transit be
approved.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee on
February 9, 2021 and presented to Regional Council on February 24, 2021.

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

A) Transit Advisory Committee Minutes

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(8) That the minutes of the regular Transit Advisory Committee held on
January 19, 2021, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee
meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 3, 2021 at 1:30 PM in the Council
Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(9) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk