

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 5, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, May 5, 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

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
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
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 Services, attended the meeting at 1:37 PM
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 Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,
(22) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 7, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

There were no presentations to be heard.

6. Correspondence

6.1 Email correspondence received from A. Swalm dated May 3, 2021, re: concerns regarding social distancing on Specialized Transit Services

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Smith,
(23) That Correspondence received from A. Swalm, Durham resident dated
May 3, 2021, re: concerns of social distancing on Specialized Transit
Services be received for information.

CARRIED

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – May 5, 2021 (2021-DRT-10)

Report #2021-DRT-10 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued with respect to the release of an Request For Proposal (RFP) from Oshawa Power and Utilities Corporation (OPUC) for the procurement of electric bus charging equipment and the infrastructure to support the energy supply requirements of DRT's electric bus pilot in the City of Oshawa; the Letter of Intent with OPUC to assist with the development and submission of a business case to the Region for charging as a service; and, the partnership model with OPUC.

J. Austin advised that DRT entered into a partnership with OPUC for the initial pilot for the charging and grid infrastructure acquisition at the Raleigh Avenue Facility in the City of Oshawa to support the first eight battery electric buses.

J. Austin added that the plans for the DRT Facility in the Town of Ajax have yet to be confirmed; and, that staff will be conducting a feasibility study on the requirements for the transition of DRT's fleet to zero emission propulsion technology including looking at the arrangements with the local utilities and potential parties to support the fleet transition and requirements at DRT's facilities.

J. Austin responded to questions regarding the requirements outlined in the RFP policy to ensure the Region is getting the best price and options, and, the Letter of Intent with OPUC. B. Holmes advised that staff would be reporting back to TEC in the Fall.

Discussion also ensued on the Ontario Inclusive Community Grants program for the installation of nine transit service kiosks in the local retirement residences, long-term care homes, and community service locations. B. Holmes responded to a question on why only one kiosk will have a television monitor displaying the real-time bus arrival information.

Chair Collier, on behalf of the Transit Executive Committee, congratulated the DRT bus operators who have driven without a preventable collision, and the 31 bus operators who achieved the safe driver milestones in 2020. B. Holmes advised that these individuals will be formally recognized at the 2020 Safe Driver Awards presentation scheduled for the May 26, 2021 Regional Council meeting. He commended the commitment to safety demonstrated by all DRT employees, through their daily actions and accomplishments, particularly during the past year with the challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(24) That Report #2021-DRT-10 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Zero Fare Transit – Experience and Implications (2021-DRT-11)

Report #2021-DRT-11 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

The Committee clarified that the annual operating cost pressures for a universal zero fare transit service, for all DRT riders, would be approximately \$30 million and would need to be financed by the Region, in addition to the regular annual budget pressures to maintain and grow the services.

B. Holmes responded to questions regarding the benefits and deterrents experienced by transit agencies who have implemented a universal zero fare transit service pilot; whether a universal zero fare transit service would always run a deficit; and, the impacts on the Provincial Gas Tax funding including the growth in ridership and the adoption of the PRESTO agreement.

J. Austin noted that currently there is no model of a universal zero fare transit system within Canada; and, that the City of Victoria in British Columbia and BC Transit will implement a pilot program to phase out fares for youth aged 18 and under.

Discussion ensued on future opportunities to revisit the various transit service fare programs to assist lower income residents and the residents in Durham Region; and, the monies generated from the farebox.

In response to a question regarding whether the opportunity exists for a three month free fare program, post-COVID, to grow the DRT ridership levels, B. Holmes advised that staff would look at the lost revenues pressures and, bring a report back to TEC in the fall of 2021.

In response to a further question regarding the requirement for DRT's participation in PRESTO for the Provincial Gas Tax funding, B. Holmes noted that staff will review the PRESTO agreement to evaluate the implications of a zero fare transit system in terms of the Provincial Gas Tax funding; and, to demonstrate the overall costs associated with DRT's fare system, including the electronic fare payment system. He advised that staff would be reporting back to TEC in the fall of 2021 on these matters.

Discussion also ensued with respect to the challenges outlined in the Report regarding the potential overcrowding and over capacity associated with the zero fare transit systems; and, if staff could project the financial capital cost requirements associated with a ridership increase of up to 50 percent. B. Holmes advised that staff would estimate the additional capital costs, above and beyond the \$30 million in fare and U-Pass revenues.

In reference to Table 3 on page 12 of the Report, B. Holmes was also asked to report back to TEC on a potential phased in approach to implement some of the DRT service enhancements above and beyond the regular annual service increases. B. Holmes advised that staff would report back, with an inclusive summary at an early fall TEC meeting. It was questioned if staff could also look at the potential savings in terms of road infrastructure costs resulting from less vehicular traffic in response to increased transit ridership from additional investment in public transit. B. Holmes advised that DRT would liaison with Regional staff to determine if it is possible to quantify future road infrastructure savings resulting from increasing the transit modal share, and report back to TEC in the fall.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(25) That Report #2021-DRT-11 of the General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

C) Sole Source Purchase of Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) bus parts and farebox collection system parts, warranty, and service (2021-DRT-12)

Report #2021-DRT-12 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,

- (26) A) That a three-year extension from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 to the existing standing agreement with New Flyer Industries and Prevost (Nova Bus) to continue the sole source purchases of proprietary bus parts at an estimated annual cost of \$700,000 for New Flyer Industries, and \$300,000 for Prevost, to be funded from the annual Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget, be approved;
- B) That a three-year extension from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 to the existing standing agreement with Garival to continue to sole source the purchase, repairs, required proprietary parts and equipment for fareboxes at an estimated annual cost of \$75,000, to be funded from the annual Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget be approved; and
- C) That a three-year extension from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2024 to the existing standing agreement with Garival Inc. to continue to sole source for system warranty and support for the GFI system at an estimated annual cost of \$45,000, to be funded from the annual Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budget be approved.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee on May 11, 2021 and presented to Regional Council on May 26, 2021.

D) Sole Source Purchase for supplemental washroom facilities to support daily operations (2021-DRT-13)

Report #2021-DRT-13 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,

- (27) That a sole source agreement extension with Classy Potties To Go for portable washroom facilities, extending the term of the contract from July 1, 2021 to December 31, 2021, and increasing the total value of the contract from \$85,000 to approximately \$140,000, to be funded from the approved 2021 Durham Region Transit Operating Business Plans and Budget, be approved.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee on May 11, 2021 and presented to Regional Council on May 26, 2021.

E) Sole Source Purchase for software to operate On Demand transit (2021-DRT-14)

Report #2021-DRT-14 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(28) That a sole source agreement extension with Spare Labs for the supply and management of software to operate On Demand transit, extending the term of the contract from six months to 18 months (up to February 28, 2022) and increasing the total value of the contract from \$46,215 to approximately \$172,000, to be funded from the approved 2021 Durham Region Transit Operating Business Plans and Budget, be approved.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee on May 11, 2021 and presented to Regional Council on May 26, 2021.

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Smith,
(29) That the minutes of the regular Transit Advisory Committee held on March 23, 2021, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 Durham-Scarborough BRT Project

Commissioner Mulcahy asked that staff continue to work with Metrolinx on the BRT project through the downtown area in the Town of Whitby regarding the desire of some Whitby councillors and residents to keep the four lanes of traffic on the table. B. Holmes advised that consultation with Metrolinx is continuing; that the regional Project Team is working closely with Metrolinx in terms of advancing the recommended final design; and, that staff will share the input that the four lanes is still a solution of interest by some parties.

Chair Collier inquired when TEC will be advised of the final tangibles for the project. B. Holmes advised that the final consultations are ongoing at this time through the Town of Whitby and the City of Oshawa; Public Information Centres (PIC) are scheduled for May; and, that the timeline for this phase of the Project for the preferred solution is the end of June 2021.

Chair Collier asked what TEC could be to ensure that Metrolinx fully understands that TEC be notified in advance of the final decisions being made in order to provide their feedback, particularly on the pinch-point areas within the municipalities. B. Holmes advised that a final PIC would be held to share the recommended final solution and remains on schedule.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(30) That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk