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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 8, 2022

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, June 8, 2022 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 Smith
Regional Chair Henry*
***denotes Commissioners participating electronically**

Also

Present: Commissioner Crawford*

Absent: Commissioner Pickles

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, Rapid Transit Implementation
L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transportation & Transit Oriented Development, Office of the Chief Administration Officer
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Mak, Supervisor, Financial, Durham Region Transit
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, and Commissioner of Finance
P. Uthayakumar, Program/Project Manager, Durham Region Transit
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
K. Smith, 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 Smith,
(18) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 4, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

A) Bill Holmes, General Manager, re: General Manager's Verbal Update

B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a verbal update regarding fare revenues; projected fuel budget pressures; request for proposal for electric buses; hybrid bus delays; amalgamating services; the new maintenance management system; and the transition to a zero-greenhouse gas emissions transit fleet.

B. Holmes stated that Durham Region Transit (DRT) is moving forward to meet their objective of a transit network that is increasingly convenient to access and use and to influence the necessary modal shift to public transit.

B. Holmes advised that the May fare revenues exceeded the budget by 27% and have reached 70% of the pre-COVID monthly fare revenue. He also advised that year to date the fare revenues have exceeded the budget by 17% and have reached 59% of the pre-COVID fare revenue.

B. Holmes advised that as a result of the continued increase in fuel prices, DRT is projecting a year end deficit of approximately \$1.25 million. He noted that if the Provincial reduction in fuel rates continues from July to December, the projected year end deficit would be reduced to \$1.08 million. He stated that the projected fuel budget deficit will be accommodated within the approved 2022 Budget and he will advise the committee of any significant changes.

B. Holmes stated the Request for Proposal for the first electric buses has been released and proposals will be reviewed in the coming months. He also stated there is a delay for the delivery of 10 hybrid buses due to labour action at the assembly plant but the buses are expected to be ready for service by September.

B. Holmes advised that as part of the Demand Response service (amalgamating Specialized transit and On-Demand transit) DRT recently engaged a consultant to complete a fulsome overview of the Specialized services policies and procedures

related to operations and eligibility. He also advised that service and fare integration efforts among the GTHA agencies are expected to resume in the coming weeks.

B. Holmes stated that the maintenance group is continuing to advance implementation of the new maintenance management system as they establish key performance metrics to support their commitment to continuous improvement and productivity.

B. Holmes advised that after many months of study and evaluation, the commission strategy for the transition to a zero-greenhouse gas emissions transit fleet will be approved today. He stated that there are two choices, one being more conservative that achieves a zero emission fleet by 2045, and one that is more progressive that will achieve a zero emission fleet by 2037. He also advised that after the decision of the committee today, DRT will move forward with the Canadian Infrastructure Bank to work towards a funding agreement by March 31, 2023.

B) Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit, re: E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan (2022-DRT-10)

J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan. A copy of the presentation was provided to Committee members prior to the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Overview
- E-Mission Zero
- Feasibility Study
- Technology Assessment
- Fleet Transition Plan – Objectives
- Pathway Option 1 – Standard, complete transition by 2044
- Pathway Option 2 – Accelerate, complete transition by 2037
- Depot and Charging Strategy
- Financial Analysis
- Recommendation – Pathway Option 2
- Opportunities
- Next Steps

J. Austin stated that he is joined by Pri Uthayakumar, DRT Program Manager responsible for fleet transition to zero emission technologies, and Robert Mowat, and Tian Yang Lee from HDR Consultants who have been instrumental in the development of the DRT Fleet Electrification Plan.

J. Austin advised that the DRT Fleet Electrification Plan presents an important opportunity for Durham Region to demonstrate leadership in the adoption of clean technologies that build on its growing reputation as an innovation hub. He also advised that the plan will help the Region to achieve their goals to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from the transportation sector in support the Corporate Climate Change Action Plan. He stated that with this approach, DRT's fleet will be fully transitioned to zero emission vehicles by 2037.

J. Austin advised that the emission zero program was officially launched in September 2021 and that DRT retained HDR Consultants in the fall of 2021 to complete a study on the fleet and facilities, complete a feasibility assessment, and develop a multi year zero emission bus fleet transition plan to identify infrastructure requirements and anticipated financial impacts. He stated that Federal government financing and funding programs are currently structured to support transit agencies to switch to these types of zero emission vehicles.

J. Austin reviewed the capital cost, annual operating cost, route flexibility, facility constraints, maintenance complexity, and technology maturity between battery electric buses and hydrogen fuel cell electric buses.

J. Austin also provided an overview of the two potential pathways in moving forward. He stated that the first pathway proposed a standard, complete transition by 2044 and the second pathway proposed an accelerated, complete transition by 2037.

J. Austin noted that the majority of vehicle charging will take place at DRT garages and retrofit upgrades to enable this will be completed in phases. He added that the new garage at 2400 Thornton Road is expected to accommodate future replacement and growth in buses beginning in 2026.

J. Austin provided a high-level summary of the costs for pathway Option 1 and pathway Option 2 including capital and operating costs.

J. Austin stated that staff are recommending pathway Option 2 and advised that there are costs associated with adapting to the plan, however there are opportunities over the life span for additional savings and efficiencies to help reduce the overall financial impact.

J. Austin also provided an overview of the financing and funding opportunities available through the Canada Infrastructure Bank, Infrastructure Canada – Zero Emissions Transit Fund (ZETF), and Natural Resources Canada – Infrastructure Funding Programs, and discussed the next steps for DRT.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(19) That the order of the agenda be altered to consider Report #2022-DRT-10: E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan at this time.

CARRIED

7. Reports

B) E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan (2022-DRT-10)

Report #2022-DRT-10 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Staff responded to questions with regards to the average battery charging time for electric buses; the average distance a bus travels in a day; the charging time for batteries; the life span for electric buses versus conventional buses; cost of battery electric buses; savings associated with electric buses; return on investment for electric buses; potential upgrades as technology changes; the timeline for the replacement of the buses; locations where electric buses are being charged; whether training policies will change with the transition to electric buses; whether small modular reactors are available in terms of a power source; any restrictions with funding programs available and stacking funding sources; retrofitting required for existing maintenance and storage facilities; how electric buses will withstand winter weather; feasibility of using battery electric buses and fuel cell electric buses; and considerations and contingencies to respond to electricity outages.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(20) That the Transit Executive Committee recommends to the Finance and Administration Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That Durham Region Transit's Fleet Electrification Plan, transitioning its revenue and non-revenue fleet vehicles to zero emission technologies by 2037 based on the battery electric technology Pathway Two with the procurement of only electric buses starting in 2024, be endorsed as the Transit Executive Committee's (TEC) preferred option and be referred for consideration of multi-year phasing and financing as part of the long-term servicing and financing strategy to be presented to TEC, Committee and Council in advance of the 2023 Business Plans and Budget.

CARRIED ON THE FOLLOWING RECORDED
VOTE:

Yes

No

Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Barton
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Drew
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Smith
Commissioner Collier, Chair
Regional Chair Henry

Members Absent: Commissioner Pickles

Declarations of Interest: None

This matter will be considered by the Finance and Administration Committee on June 14, 2022 and presented to Regional Council on June 29, 2022.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – June 2022 (2022-DRT-09)

Report #2022-DRT-09 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,
(21) That Report #2022-DRT-09 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) E-Mission Zero – DRT Fleet Electrification Plan (2022-DRT-10)

This item was considered earlier in the meeting. Refer to pages 5 and 6 of these minutes.

C) Amending Agreement to the Metrolinx-905 PRESTO Operating Agreement (2022-DRT-11)

Report #2022-DRT-11 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(22) That the Transit Executive Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk execute an amendment to the PRESTO Operating Agreement between Metrolinx and the 905 transit agencies to provide the Region with the necessary revenue protection to enable the implementation of open payment fare transactions on Durham Region Transit vehicles; and
- B) That the Regional Chair and Clerk have authority to execute any further documents or subsequent amendments related to the PRESTO Operating Agreement.

CARRIED

This matter will be presented directly to Regional Council for consideration at the Regional Council meeting on June 29, 2022.

D) Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Terms of Reference
(2022-DRT-12)

Report #2022-DRT-12 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,

(23) A) That the revised terms of reference for the Transit Advisory Committee Policy included as Attachment #1 to Report #2022-DRT-12 of the General Manager, be approved; and

B) That a copy of Report #2022-DRT-12 be forwarded to the area municipalities for information.

CARRIED

E) Update Demand Response Service (2022-DRT-13)

Report #2022-DRT-13 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,

(24) That Report #2022-DRT-13 of the General Manager be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

9. Confidential Matters

A) Confidential Report of the General Manager – Matters Subject to Labour Relations/Employee Negotiations and Advice Subject to Solicitor-Client Privilege with Respect to DRT Collective Bargaining Update (2022-DRT-14)

Confidential Report #2022-DRT-14 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Smith,

(25) That the recommendations contained in Confidential Report #2022-DRT-14 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be adopted.

CARRIED

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, September 7, 2022 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(26) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

K. Smith, Committee Clerk