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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, April 5, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023 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 Crawford, Chair
Commissioner Schummer, Vice-Chair*
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Brenner*
Commissioner Carter*
Commissioner Garrod
Regional Chair Henry
Commissioner Roy attended the meeting at 1:44 PM
Commissioner Wotten
***denotes Commissioners participating electronically**

Also

Present: Commissioner Woo

Absent: None

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
R. Adamsz, Deputy General Manager of Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
L. Huinink, Director - Rapid Transit and Transit Oriented Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
D. Margiotta, Manager, Operations, Conventional East
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Legal Services
C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
Z. Osime-Fakolade, Program Manager, Community Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit
N. Taylor, Commissioner of Finance
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(16) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, March 8, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

4.1 Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, re: General Manager's Verbal Update

Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit provided a verbal update to the Committee.

B. Holmes advised that Metrolinx will implement several service adjustments effective April 8, 2023 that include the discontinuation of Routes 81 and 88A into the Village of Newcastle. He advised that staff are reaching out to Metrolinx for further details. He further advised that Metrolinx will introduce a new Regional Express Bus Route 94, connecting Durham (at Pickering GO and Town Centre), Toronto, and Peel via Highway 401, and that the route is intended to service six employment areas, including Pearson Airport.

B. Holmes highlighted Transit Operator and Worker Appreciation Day that is celebrated annually on March 18 and thanked Durham's dedicated public transit staff who keep the Region running and contribute to safety and security in our communities.

B. Holmes advised that staff have taken actions to improve the reliability of On Demand and mitigate impacts to customers resulting from the current resource challenges. DRT has assigned a stand-by driver on weekdays, adjusted process for next-day trip confirmations for customers registered with Specialized Services, and used local taxis when appropriate. He further advised that Durham Region Transit (DRT) has expedited the transition of On Demand services to a third-party vendor to increase capacity over the coming months.

B. Holmes responded to questions from the Committee regarding the service adjustments announced by Metrolinx including what the impact would be for Durham residents; whether Durham Transit would take over the routes cancelled by Metrolinx; and whether staff/residents are given advanced notice of service adjustments.

In response to a question from Commissioner Schummer regarding the 2022 revenue collected from the disposal of retired transit buses, B. Holmes advised that he would gather that information and provide it to Commissioner Schummer directly.

5. Delegations

5.1 Carl Pauff, Ajax Resident, re: Durham Region Transit Specialized Services

Carl Pauff, Ajax Resident, participating electronically, appeared before the Committee regarding Durham Regions Transit specialized services.

C. Pauff stated that their family uses DRT's specialized services to transport their special needs son to his day program at Brody Residential & Community Services in the City of Oshawa, but the cancellation or modifications of that service have caused many issues including being late to work, and their son being late or absent for his day program.

C. Pauff expressed his concerns regarding the frequent last minute changes or morning of cancellations and noted the increased lack of consistency with DRT's specialized services.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether offering a taxi service would be a possible solution to the ride shortages; the amalgamation of On Demand and specialized services; how to guarantee medical trips such as trips for dialysis treatment; and what types of vehicles would be available to be used for specialized services.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – April 2023 (2023-DRT-08)

Report #2023-DRT-08 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Roy,
(17) That Report #2023-DRT-08 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Appointment of Members to the Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee (2023-DRT-09)

Report #2023-DRT-09 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Wotten,
(18) That the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee (TEC) appoint the following nominees to the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) for the term of this Council:

A) Nominated by Local Municipal Councils:

- i) Town of Ajax: Arshia Ali
- ii) Township of Brock: Monique Bonk
- iii) Municipality of Clarington: Pranay Gunti
- iv) City of Pickering: Azmat Mujeeb
- v) Town of Whitby: Tim Ralph

B) Two (2) members at large to be appointed by the Executive Committee from the applications received but not nominated by local municipalities who use public transit service:

- i) Richard Claxton Oldfield
- ii) Tyler Smale

C) Two (2) members nominated by the Accessibility Advisory Committee:

- i) Wayne Henshall;
- ii) Jim McEwen;

D) Chair of TEC as Chair of TAC:

- i) Commissioner Crawford

E) Durham Region Transit (DRT) General Manager, as a non-voting member:

- i) Bill Holmes.

CARRIED

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

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, May 3, 2023 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Roy,
(19) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:00 PM

Respectfully submitted,

M. Crawford, Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk