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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, May 3, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, May 3, 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 Anderson
Commissioner Brenner
Commissioner Carter*
Commissioner Garrod
Commissioner Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

***denotes Commissioners participating electronically**

Also

Present: Commissioner Jubb*
Commissioner Woo

Absent: Commissioner Crawford, Chair, absent on municipal business
Commissioner Roy, absent on municipal business
Commissioner Schummer, Vice-Chair, absent on municipal business

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
R. Adamsz, Deputy General Manager of Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Mak, Supervisor, Financials, Durham Region Transit
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
P. Uthayakumar, Program Manager, Sustainability and Strategic Initiatives
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

In the absence of Chair Crawford and Vice-Chair Schummer an Acting Chair was appointed for the May 3, 2023 Transit Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(20) That Commissioner Brenner be appointed as Acting Chair for the May 3, 2023 Transit Executive Committee meeting.

CARRIED

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(21) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, April 5, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

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

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

B. Holmes advised that PRESTO announced yesterday an additional contactless payment of the debit card that is now available for members of the public to use to pay for transit. He also advised that the PRESTO mobile wallet will be launched later this year.

B. Holmes advised that the Canadian Urban Transit Association recently released their recommendations aimed at addressing route causes of violence on transit which Durham staff will be reviewing. The recommendations are focussed on the following four focus areas:

- 1) Customer and Staff Safety;
- 2) Substance Use;
- 3) Housing and Supports; and
- 4) Mental Health.

B. Holmes advised that staff have finished their annual in-person Public Information Centres (PIC), and that there will be a final virtual session held on May 15, 2023. He advised that the three key themes that arose from the PICs was the lack of awareness of On Demand by rural residents; On Demand availability at select times in the Municipality of Clarington and the Township of Brock; and interest in the Simcoe Street and Highway 2 Rapid Transit projects.

B. Holmes advised that staff are seeking specific feedback on transit demand between Newcastle and Bowmanville through a 10-minute survey. He advised that the survey will remain open until May 21, 2023.

B. Holmes advised that staff will be hosting a drop-in session on May 15, 2023, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM at the Abilities Centre in the Town of Whitby, for families and customers registered for specialized services.

B. Holmes advised that with respect to recent operational performance, both the scheduled and On Demand services were adjusted resulting in on time performance and service availability improvements in the first quarter of 2023. He also advised that scheduled service boardings for the week ending April 30, 2023 exceeded pre-pandemic boarding levels for the same period. This is the first time during the ridership recovery period that weekly boardings have exceeded pre-pandemic levels. He further advised that the DRT transit service model has evolved since 2019, but that On Demand boardings are increasing week over week.

B. Holmes responded to questions from the Committee regarding updates with respect to concerns raised regarding On Demand service in the Municipality of Clarington and the Township of Brock.

In response to a question from Commissioner Anderson regarding the rural versus urban demand response service where the Municipality of Clarington (rural) has the most riders for the month of March 2023 and the year to date, and how many of those riders were from the Village of Newcastle, B. Holmes advised that he would follow-up with Commissioner Anderson directly after the meeting.

Commissioner Garrod advised that in the Town of Uxbridge, he has an article placed in the local newspaper once a month and a session on a local radio station and that staff are welcome to contribute to the writing of an article or to attend the radio station sessions to further leverage more channels in order to have consistent communications regarding Durham transit services across the Region.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – May 2023 (2023-DRT-10)

Report #2023-DRT-10 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding scheduled transit service into the Village of Newcastle and details of the survey issued to residents with respect to their travel patterns which will inform the service design in the Village of Newcastle moving forward, staff advised that they will be reviewing the results of the survey and report back to the Committee in the Fall.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the one-way route from Stevenson Road/Rossland Road in the City of Oshawa to the Oshawa Centre, and whether a review is being done of that route.

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(22) That Report #2023-DRT-10 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-11)

Report #2023-DRT-11 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(23) That the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee (TEC) appoint Andrea Andrus, representing The Participation House (Durham Region) to the Transit Advisory Committee as one of the two members from various community groups representing persons with disabilities in Durham Region.

CARRIED

C) E-Mission Zero - Highlights Electric Transit Buses (2023-DRT-12)

Report #2023-DRT-12 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the two manufacturers of electric transit buses (Nova Bus LFSe+ and Xcelsior Charge NG) in Canada; the price of an electric bus versus a traditional bus, and how long it would take an electric bus to pay for itself; and the plan for managing bus batteries at the end of their useful life.

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(24) That Report #2023-DRT-12 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

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, June 7, 2023 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 Anderson,
(25) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 PM

Respectfully submitted,

M. Brenner, Acting Committee Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk