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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 16, 2023

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 16, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair

A. Ali*, Ajax

A. Andrus*, Community Group, Participation House

M. Bonk, Brock

R. Claxton-Oldfield, Member at Large

P. Gunti, Clarington

J. McEwen, AAC Representative

A. Mujeeb, Pickering

T. Ralph, Whitby

T. Smale, Member of Large

***denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: W. Henshall, AAC Representative

Staff

Present: R. Adamsz, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit

C. Baker*, Durham Region Transit Ambassador, Durham Region Transit

F. Amin*, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit

B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit

R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT

C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit

Z. Osime-Fakolade, Program Manager, Community Engagement & Change Management, Durham Region Transit

K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

***denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Election of the Vice-Chair

K. Smith called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Transit Advisory Committee.

Moved by M. Bonk, Seconded by T. Smale,

That Pranay Gunti be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Transit Advisory Committee.

K. Smith asked if there were any further nominations and if P. Gunti wished to stand. P. Gunti indicated he would stand.

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by M. Bonk,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

P. Gunti was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Transit Advisory Committee.

Chair Crawford invited members of the Transit Advisory Committee to introduce themselves and provide a brief overview of their background and their involvement with transit.

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by P. Gunti, Seconded by R. Claxton-Oldfield,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, September 20, 2022, be adopted.

CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Review of Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Terms of Reference

W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a presentation with regards to the Review of the Transit Advisory Committee Terms of Reference.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Goal and Mandate
- Scope of Activities
- Administration

Staff responded to questions with regards to the number of sitting members; the number of members required to meet quorum; connectivity issues between Durham Region Transit and GO Transit; whether speaking with GO Transit is within the scope of the committee and/or staff; how to provide input to the Transit Executive Committee; whether fare cost discussion is within the scope of the committee; who can sit as a member of the student association; and whether meetings are rescheduled if quorum is not met.

B) DRT Service and Financing Strategy (2023-2032)

W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Report #2023-DRT-05 Transit Service and Financing Strategy (2023-2032).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Transit Service and Financing Strategy (2023-2032)
- Approved Recommendations
- Transit is Essential to Durham's Future
- Ridership Recovery and Outlook
- Service Enhancement
- Durham Transit Investment vs Peers
- 2023-2032 Service Investment
- 2032 Frequent and Available Transit Network
- 2032 Integrated Transit Network
- Transition to Zero Emission Vehicles
- Fare Moderation
- Fare Structure
- DRT Charter Service
- Cost Pressures and Financing Opportunities
- 10-Year DRT Forecast
- Risks and Considerations
- Conclusions

Staff responded to questions with regards to funding for Durham Region Transit; whether DRT partners with other transit agencies when purchasing new electric buses; the supplier providing buses to DRT; potential upgrades with the changes of technology; whether PRESTO fare card stations can be placed outdoors; whether the charter service bus offers services for weddings; and whether there is the opportunity for heated bus shelters.

C) Overview of Fleet Maintenance

Robert Adamsz, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Overview of Fleet Maintenance (DRT Maintenance Division).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Region Transit Bus Maintenance
- Bus Maintenance Activities
- Regular Inspections Schedule
- DRT Maintenance
- DRT On-Route Facilities Maintenance
- Challenges Ahead

Staff responded to questions with regards to whether there is the opportunity for heated bus shelters; when the North Oshawa garage (2400 Thornton Road) will be open; whether the current garages can handle the increase in fleet prior to the North Oshawa garage opening; whether diesel buses will be kept for backup; training being provided to present DRT diesel mechanics on the electric buses;

whether Ontario Power Generation and Hydro One will have the capacity to keep up with the demand for electricity to charge buses; and the warranty and repair process associated with electric buses.

D) Principle of Service Planning

Christopher Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit, advised that the presentation with regards to Principle of Service Planning will be provided at a future meeting.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Correspondence Items

There were no communication items to be considered.

8. Information Items

There were no information items to be considered.

9. Discussion Items

A) Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Objectives for the Term of Council

This item was discussed during Presentation Item 5.A) Review of Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) Terms of Reference on page 2 of these minutes.

10. Other Business

A) Concerns with Metrolinx and Bowmanville GO Transit

Discussion ensued with regards to the station buildings at the new GO Transit facilities for the Lakeshore East extension to Bowmanville; the connectivity between Durham Region Transit and the new GO Transit stations; and the impact to persons with disabilities if the stations do not meet accessibility requirements.

B) Request for Feedback Regarding Issues or Concerns with DRT Services

B. Holmes asked the Committee for their feedback regarding what works well and issues or concerns the Committee may want to establish as objectives or priorities for this term of TAC. The following positive comments were put forward by members of the Committee:

- Cleanliness;
- Economical;
- Route 900 bus is convenient, clean, and smooth;
- On Demand service being available in the Township of Brock; and
- Friendliness of bus drivers.

The following issues were put forward by members of the Committee:

- Parents in the community being concerned with number of school bus cancellations by the school board transportation consortia and the opportunity to try a pilot project to offer busing through Durham Region Transit;
- Transit services being offered in Newcastle as the community continues to grow;
- Providing more frequent north-south connections;
- Unreliable timing and longer wait times;
- Consistency of the Durham Region Transit app for On Demand services;
- Marketing for providing accessible service;
- Consistency, frequency and affordability of services for youth;
- Increasing awareness of the public regarding route changes, how to pay for fares, and increases in fares; and
- Providing transit information to school boards for distribution to new members to the community.

11. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 19, 2023 at 7:00 PM

12. Adjournment

Moved by M. Bonk, Seconded by A. Mujeeb,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 PM.

M. Crawford, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk