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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, October 4, 2023

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, October 4, 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 Garrod
Commissioner Roy
Regional Chair Henry
***denotes Commissioners participating electronically**

Absent: Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Wotten

Also

Present: Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Woo
***visiting Commissioners participated in-person**

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, Chief Administrative Officer
A. Bridgeman*, Solicitor, Legal Services
A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
K. Hornburg, Deputy General Manager, Business Services
D. Margiotta*, Manager of Operations, Conventional East
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance
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
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
***denotes staff participating electronically**

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Commissioner Brenner, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(37) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, September 6, 2023, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. **Presentations**

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

Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit (DRT) provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the General Manager's Update to the Committee.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- October Transit Executive Committee (TEC) Highlights
 - Monthly Metrics for August
- Preliminary September Ridership
 - Schedule – Boardings
 - Scheduled – Historical
- Follow-Up to September Specialized Transit Report
- Bill 131

B. Holmes advised that in follow-up to the \$12 million capital approved in the 2023 budget and business plan, a report was proceeding to the Finance & Administration Committee on October 10, 2023, and subsequently Regional Council on October 25, 2023, for approval of funding for Harmony and Windfields Farm Terminals.

B. Holmes advised that recovery continues at the Raleigh site and that staff will soon be gearing up to look at the rebuild of the facility. He also advised that an order for 13 of the 19 busses lost in the fire has been placed, and again thanked staff for their exceptional work under very trying circumstances. Staff are also working to secure leased buses by end of the year.

B. Holmes responded to questions from the Committee regarding the cause of the Raleigh site fire, and if the cause was found to be undetermined, would that negatively affect receiving the insurance; and whether the replacement buses would be conventional, hybrid, or electric.

4.2 Nicole Ratti, Manager of Policy & Planning, Durham Region Transit, re: Stations,

Terminals, and Hubs Strategy (2023-DRT-21) [Item 7.2]

Nicole Ratti, Manager of Policy & Planning, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Stations, Terminals, and Hubs Strategy.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Customer and Operational Infrastructure
- Transfer Hub Overview
- Terminals
 - Upgraded/Expanded
 - Expansion Terminals
- Rail Stations
 - Current
 - Future
- Customer and Operational Amenities
- Planned Infrastructure
 - Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, Oshawa, Toronto, York Region
 - Clarington
 - Brock, Scugog, Uxbridge

N. Ratti responded to a question from the Committee regarding how staff will forecast bus services for the increasing growth in the Village of Newcastle and Newtonville in the Municipality of Clarington and advised that bus services will be determined through continued monitoring of demand throughout the Region. She responded to an additional question regarding the overall funding required for the full the Strategy.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations heard.

6. Correspondence

There were no communication items considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – October 2023 (2023-DRT-20)

Report #2023-DRT-20 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(38) That Report #2023-DRT-20 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) Stations, Terminals, and Hubs Strategy (2023-DRT-21)

Report #2023-DRT-21 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(39) That Report #2023-DRT-21 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

C) DRT Rebrand (2023-DRT-22)

Report #2023-DRT-22 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

In response to a question from the Committee regarding what the rebrand would cost, B. Holmes advised that if the Committee approved the recommendations contained in Report #2023-DRT-22, staff would investigate the options and determine the costs that would then be considered in the 2024 DRT Business Plan and Budget process.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(40) A) That Durham Region Transit (DRT) initiate a rebranding strategy, including professional services required to develop a brand strategy, standards, and designs; and

B) That the required funding to develop the rebranding strategy for consideration during the 2024 DRT Business Plan and Budget process, be approved.

CARRIED

D) E-Mission Zero – Approval to Negotiate an Agreement for Durham Region Transit’s Electrification Infrastructure Delivery (2023-DRT-23)

Report #2023-DRT-23 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(41) A) That a partnership framework with PowerON Energy Solutions LP (“PowerON”) (a subsidiary of Ontario Power Generation Inc.) for the engineering, procurement, and construction of the Electrification Infrastructure (the “EPC Services”) and management, operations and maintenance of the Electrification Infrastructure and related services (the “O&M Services”) to support the Durham Region Transit Fleet Electrification Plan be approved in principle and such partnership framework to include:

i. A Principal Agreement that defines the electrification program

- requirements and fee structure, financial management and relationship between the parties; and
- ii. Supplementary Project Forms, once completed, that detail the scope of work, workplan, and cost for EPC Services and O&M Services to be provided under the Principal Agreement and would be subject to any required approvals;
- B) That the General Manager of Transit be authorized to negotiate the Principal Agreement for the provision of EPC Services and O&M Services with PowerON and any ancillary documents, subject to the following requirements:
- i. That the initial term be for five years, with the option to renew for an additional three, five-year terms, subject to compliance of terms under the Principal Agreement and future funding approvals; and
 - ii. That the Principal Agreement align with the principles of the confidential term sheet (Attachment #1 to Report #2023-DRT-23 of the General Manager of Transit) and the partnership framework outlined in Recommendation A) of Report #2023-DRT-23;
- C) That the General Manager of Transit and the Treasurer report back to the Finance and Administration Committee to seek approval for the execution of the Principal Agreement, project costs and the associated financing strategy, subject to:
- i. Approval of the partnership framework with PowerON by Infrastructure Canada (INFC) as it relates to the Region's application for funding under the Zero Emissions Transit Fund (ZETF) program;
 - ii. Approval of the Region's application for funding under the ZETF program; and
 - iii. General terms and conditions being satisfactory to the Commissioner of Finance and the Regional Solicitor.

CARRIED

8. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**

There were no advisory committee resolutions considered.

9. **Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 Request to Reinstate Weekday January 2020 Levels of Service on the Metrolinx Operated GO Lakeshore East Line

B. Holmes provided some background on the pre-pandemic level of GO train service that included 15-minute all-day service on the Metrolinx operated GO Lakeshore East Line. He advised that re-instating this level of service would enhance the viability of public transit as ridership continues to increase and eliminate the currently challenges shared customers experience when Go Train schedules are shifted from time to time.

Moved by Commissioner Brenner, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(42) That whereas up until Winter 2020, Metrolinx operated 15-minute all-day two way service on the GO Lakeshore East line;

And whereas the GO Lakeshore East line is the only Metrolinx rail service connecting Durham Region with the Greater Toronto and Hamilton Area;

And whereas increasing frequency of service is key to increase transit ridership;

And whereas the increased GO train frequency will create easier transfers with local transit services and maximize opportunities for transit ridership, supporting the intended outcomes of the free fare integration;

And whereas frequent GO Train service into Durham Region is key to economic growth and creating transit first mobility choices, including to the new OPG headquarters in Oshawa;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Region Transit Commission requests that Metrolinx reinstate weekday January 2020 levels of service with the return of 15-minute all-day service on the Metrolinx operated GO Lakeshore East Line.

CARRIED

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 8, 2023 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,
(42) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:06 PM

Respectfully submitted,

M. Crawford, Chair

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk