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**The Regional Municipality of Durham**  
**Durham Region Transit Executive Committee Minutes**

**Wednesday, December 3, 2025**

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, December 3, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM.

Commissioner Crawford assumed the Chair.

**1. Roll Call**

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.  
\* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair  
Commissioner Garrod, Vice-Chair  
Commissioner Anderson  
Commissioner Brenner  
Commissioner Mulcahy  
Commissioner Pettingill  
Commissioner Wotten\*  
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Commissioner Kerr  
Commissioner Neal

Members

Absent: Commissioner Carter

Staff Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, S. Ciani, D. Daniel, S. Dessureault, N. Harkness, W. Holmes, K. Hornburg, R. Inacio, C. Norris, B. Lodge, N. Lysaght, A. Mak, A. Naeem\*, A. Pezzetti, J. Phelan, N. Prasad and P. Uthayakumar

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Motion #45

Moved by Commissioner Brenner, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,  
That the minutes of the regular Transit Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, November 5, 2025, be adopted.

**Carried**

#### 4. Presentations

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

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

Highlights from the presentation included:

- General Manager (GM) Information Highlights
- 2025 Fares – Comparison
- On Demand Facts
- Updates and Highlights
  - Celebrating DRT with the Generals
  - 2026 Service Plan
  - Federal 2025 Budget and Transit
  - Public Transit Service in Durham
  - Ontario Public Transit Association (OPTA) Lobby Day
  - One Fare Program Extended

##### 4.2 Anthony Pezzetti, Deputy General Manager, Operations Re: 2026 Service Plan

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A. Pezzetti, Deputy General Manager, Operations, and J. Phelan, Policy and Planning Manager, Durham Region Transit provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the 2026 Service Plan.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Major Themes
- Summary of Service Initiatives
- Service in Seaton
- Service in North Oshawa
- Service in South Pickering
- Service in West Whitby
- Service in Bowmanville
- Extending Evening Service
- Service Adjustments
- On Demand Capacity

A. Pezzetti and J. Phelan responded to questions from the Committee regarding how service adjustments are determined and how the need for adjustments is assessed; how route changes have impacted service in other areas; whether DRT has begun planning for the anticipated impacts of the FIFA World Cup on transit within the Region of Durham; how DRT decides where to add regular service hours in new areas; whether transit services specific to seniors will be

looked at in the future; whether DRT is involved in municipal planning for new roads or road improvements.

B. Holmes advised that DRT offers a travel training program available to all residents to help individuals gain confidence using transit services.

## 5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

## 6. Correspondence

- 6.1 Memorandum from Alexander Harras, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk  
Re: Resolution adopted by Regional Council regarding Additional Transit Services to the Subdivision West of Harmony Road North at Nancy Diamond Boulevard, City of Oshawa
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### Motion #46

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,  
That the memorandum received from Alexander Harras, Director of Legislative Services/Regional Clerk, re: Resolution adopted by Regional Council regarding Additional Transit Services to the Subdivision West of Harmony Road North at Nancy Diamond Boulevard, City of Oshawa, be received for information.

### Carried

- 6.2 Correspondence received from Doug Glass (Ajax Resident) dated December 1, 2025  
Re: 2026 Service Plan
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Staff advised that in the new year DRT will be partnering with the University Health Network, which works with Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities (NORCs), to gather feedback from seniors and help assess the transit needs of the senior population in the Region of Durham.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether DRT operators make exceptions to allow riders to get off closer to their destination rather than at designated bus stops.

### Motion #47

Moved by Commissioner Pettingill, Seconded by Commissioner Garrod,  
That the correspondence received from Doug Glass (Ajax Resident), dated December 1, 2025, re: 2026 Service Plan, be received for information.

### Carried

## 7. Reports

### 7.1 General Manager's Report – December 2025 ([2025-DRT-20](#))

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Report #2025-DRT-20 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

#### Motion #48

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That Report #2025-DRT-20 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

#### **Carried**

### 7.2 Radio Communications System: Contract Amendment with Metrolinx ([2025-DRT-21](#))

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Report #2025-DRT-21 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

#### Motion #49

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That the contract with Metrolinx be amended, to renew for a period of three years effective January 1, 2026, expiring on December 31, 2028, with the option to extend for two additional one year terms, to continue to use Metrolinx's radio communication systems and regular maintenance services at an estimated annual operating cost of up to \$210,000 for the first year (2026), with a total estimated contract cost of \$1.5 million over five years, considering inflation and service costs for future growth vehicles, to be financed from DRT's annual Business Plans and Budget; and
- B) That the Commissioner of Finance be authorized to execute the necessary agreements.

#### **Carried**

### 7.3 Council Motion to Review Immediate Conventional Service to Oshawa Subdivision ([2025-DRT-22](#))

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Report #2025-DRT-21 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

#### Motion #50

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That we recommend to Council:

That further to the resolution adopted by Regional Council regarding additional Transit Services to the Subdivision West of Harmony Road North at Nancy

Diamond Boulevard, City of Oshawa, that Durham Regional Transit implement Option 1 as contained in Report #2025-DRT-22 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, which introduces scheduled bus service to the impacted area in April 2026, based on anticipated new bus arrivals in Q1 2026.

**Carried**

## **8. Advisory Committee Resolutions**

### **8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee**

#### **A) Resolution regarding Fare Cap Policy**

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Motion #51

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That the resolution received from the Transit Advisory Committee regarding a fare cap policy that states the maximum allowable fare percentage increase, and that this cap be publicly available, be referred to staff.

**Carried**

#### **B) Resolution regarding Radio Communications System: Contract Amendment with Metrolinx**

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Motion #52

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That the resolution received from the Transit Advisory Committee regarding a policy of announcing an intention to raise fares the meeting prior to the fare increase report being presented to the Transit Executive Committee, be referred to staff.

**Carried**

#### **C) Resolution regarding Written Notice to Local Municipalities regarding Sidewalk Clearing**

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Motion #53

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,  
That the resolution received from the Transit Advisory Committee regarding providing the local municipalities with written notice to clear the sidewalks particularly in the areas at bus stops in a timely manner during the winter months, be referred to staff.

## **9. Confidential Matters**

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

**10. Other Business**

10.1 Fare-free DRT service for New Year's Eve

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B. Holmes advised that DRT will be offering fare-free service on New Year's Eve, beginning at 7 PM December 31, 2025 through until start of the service day on January 1, 2026 (4 AM). In response to a question from the Committee, B. Holmes advised that TEC would be informed at the next meeting the costs to provide fare-free service on Christmas Day, in consideration of future fare-free service.

**11. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, January 7, 2026 at 1:30 PM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

**12. Adjournment**

Motion #54

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Brenner,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

**Carried**

The meeting adjourned at 2:25 PM

Respectfully submitted,

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M. Crawford  
Chair

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S. Dessureault  
Committee Clerk