

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 6, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, February 6, 2019 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:31 PM

Present: Commissioner Collier, Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Mulcahy attended the meeting at 1:36 PM
Commissioner Pickles
Regional Chair Henry

Absent: Commissioner Bath-Hadden was absent due to municipal business
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Drew

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit
B. Eyre, Manager, Operations, Specialized Services, Durham Region Transit
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
A. Naeem, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal
C. Norris, Manager, Customer Experience, Durham Region Transit
S. Pollock, Communication Coordinator, Durham Region Transit
M. Simpson, Director, Financial Planning and Purchasing, Finance Department
N. Taylor, Treasurer, Durham Region Transit, and Commissioner of Finance
S. Rashad, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. Wismer, Economic Analyst 2, Finance Department
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(11) That the Rules of Procedure be suspended in order to add the election of the Transit Executive Committee Vice-Chair to the agenda.
CARRIED on a 2/3rds Vote

2. Election of Transit Executive Committee Vice-Chair

Chair Collier called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Transit Executive Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
(12) That Commissioner Barton be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the Transit Executive Committee.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(13) That nominations be closed.
CARRIED

The Chair asked if Commissioner Barton wished to stand. Commissioner Barton indicated he would stand.

The Chair declared Commissioner Barton acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Transit Executive Committee.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(14) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, January 9, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

4.1 Mr. Floyd Diaz, BAE Systems, regarding Report #2019-DRT-2: Preparing for Transit Innovations

Mr. Floyd Diaz, Regional Sales Manager, BAE Systems, appeared before Committee to explore solutions and options for hybrid and electric engine technology for buses. He provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Power & Propulsion Solutions".

F. Diaz advised that BAE Systems is a world leading supplier of electric power propulsion systems and solutions. He noted that their key differentiator in the

industry is their systems in development and integration expertise. He outlined the cities and bus manufacturers worldwide for which that BAE Systems has helped electrify transit.

F. Diaz provided details on the economics of electric buses in terms of capital and operating cost trade-offs; the “break even” point (vs Diesel) which varies by market based on energy prices; and “other” costs including a charging strategy.

F. Diaz displayed a graph comparing the “Electric Bus Average Life-time Costs” of diesel, hybrid and electric buses. He reviewed the various electric market barriers in terms of the lack of capital funds; lack of national regulatory drivers; manufacturer exaggeration of current capabilities; lack of standards; limits on secondary distribution infrastructure (charging); and a fragmented approval process for charger installations.

F. Diaz outlined the TTC evaluation for the Series Hybrid, being the best proven CO₂ (kg/km) solution for measures of tailpipe and upstream fuel production delivery emissions. He stated that the Series-ER extended range electric capabilities, for a fully electrified bus with an on-board battery charger, offers zero emission operations when needed; and is convertible to battery electric at its mid-life term.

F. Diaz concluded by advising that the Series Hybrid can be part of Durham Region Transit’s long-term planning strategy.

F. Diaz responded to questions of the Committee.

V. Patterson responded to questions with respect to the technology of the hybrid and electric buses. The Committee suggested that DRT consider hybrid and electric buses as an option for Durham Region Transit.

[Further discussion ensued on this matter later in the meeting. See Item 7. A) on pages 5 and 6, and Item 10.1 on pages 6 and 7 of these minutes.]

5. Presentations

5.1 Vincent Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, Re: Update

Vincent Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on Durham Region Transit (DRT).

Highlights of the presentation included:

- 2018 ridership is up, being the highest other than in the year 2014
 - 2018 conventional ridership is up 4.2 percent over 2017’s, and 1.7 percent over budget target

- “Bus full” occurrences are concentrated on three routes, which are each the focus of considerations regarding increased bus capacity and/or higher-order transit infrastructure
 - Seasonal pattern
 - No information on net impact on customers
 - Expectations? Should occurrences ever happen?
- Overview of inter-regional travel on specialized transit services, with a particular focus on the inter-regional transfers from/to DRT Specialized Services
- GTHA Specialized Services Work Group
- Next steps for inter-regional transfers

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities for seamless inter-connectivity for specialized services passengers at an inter-regional transfer hub; and the proposed accessible transfer hub at Meadowvale Road and Sheppard Avenue in the City of Toronto. It was questioned whether the potential exists for an interim bus bay at the Scarborough Town Centre. V. Patterson advised that the Scarborough Town Centre bus centre is at full capacity.

At the request of the Committee, V. Patterson reviewed the process to use a DRT fare to connect with the TTC under the City of Toronto by-law; why DRT is unable to pick up passengers travelling wholly inside the boundary of Toronto; DRT passengers transferring at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus; the contributing factors for a 4.2 % increase in the 2018 DRT ridership; the Co-fare rate of .80¢ per trip; and DRT’s revenue-cost-ratio.

V. Patterson also responded to questions regarding when the DRT Pulse service will be extended into the Municipality of Clarington; and the need for the number of Clarington bus routes and times to be extended to allow residents to travel to and from their homes, particularly in the evening.

5.2 Vincent Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, and Mary Simpson, Director, Financial Planning and Purchasing, Finance Department, Durham Region, re: 2019 Durham Region Transit Servicing and Financing Study

V. Patterson and M. Simpson provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2019 Durham Region Transit (DRT) Servicing and Financing Study. A copy of their presentation was provided as a handout.

V. Patterson provided an overview of the DRT strategic framework. He advised that the framework is comprised of DRT’s 2018 to 2020 organizational objectives to create value for its customers; enhance effectiveness at delivering transit services; and to identify, pursue and achieve financial efficiencies.

V. Patterson also provided details on 2019 Service priorities which include investing in service enhancements; strengthening transit services in rural north Durham; building upon customer amenity and outreach initiatives; managing fleet

assets and transit innovations; continuing the transition to electronic fare media; and advancing higher-order transit.

M. Simpson provided an overview of the 2019 DRT financial considerations. She outlined the operating pressures in terms of the annualization of previous years service enhancements; major repairs of an aging fleet; and the general cost of DRT's operation.

M. Simpson provided details on DRT's future risks and uncertainties including future growth forecasts resulting from a rapid growth in population; the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP); competing Regional programs and services; and affordability for the taxpayer and fare payer.

M. Simpson outlined DRT's Capital needs to meet future vehicle and facility growth demands; replacement of vehicles; and technology requirements.

At the request of the Committee, A. McKinley provided an overview of DRT's procurement initiatives for transportation innovation opportunities for hybrid and articulated buses. Discussion followed on bus technology based on DRT's carbon footprint. It was suggested that DRT staff approach Metrolinx on this matter with respect to future joint procurements.

V. Patterson responded to questions regarding the fare revenue deficit projected for 2018; the phase out of the DRT paper fare media; the GO One-Fare agreement; and when the bus shelters will be installed along Taunton Road.

Discussion ensued regarding the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program funding opportunities and changes to the current programs; the possible financial impacts to the Region along with the Region's contributions over ten years for ineligible capital costs under the program.

6. Correspondence

- A) Mayor Dave Ryan, City of Pickering, writing to John Henry, Regional Chair and CEO, advising that effective immediately, David Pickles, Regional Councillor, has been appointed as his designate to the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee
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Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Regional Chair Henry,
(15) That Correspondence Item TC-01, from Mayor Dave Ryan, City of
Pickering, be received for information."

CARRIED

7. Reports

A) Joint Bus Procurement Results ([2019-DRT-3](#))

Report #2019-DRT-3 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding information provided by the delegation earlier in the meeting with respect to hybrid and electric engine buses as an option for future DRT bus acquisitions.

[Further discussion ensued on this matter. See Item 10.1, Other Business, on pages 6 and 7 of these minutes.]

This matter will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on February 12, 2019 and presented to Regional Council on February 27, 2019.

Moved by Commissioner Pickles, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,

- (16) That approval be granted for the award of the 2018 Metro-linx led RFP for seven-metre and eight-metre low floor para-transit buses.

CARRIED

B) 2019 Durham Region Transit (DRT) Servicing and Financing Study ([2019-DRT-4](#))

Report #2019-DRT-4 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,

- (17) That Report #2019-DRT-4 be received as background information to the forthcoming 2019 Durham Region Transit budget.

CARRIED

This matter will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on February 12, 2019 and presented to Regional Council on February 27, 2019.

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

There were no advisory committee minutes to be considered.

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

- 10.1 Request that Metrolinx consider Hybrid engine technology and Electric technology as options in the specifications for all future bus acquisitions

The Committee discussed the need for DRT and Metrolinx to consider hybrid and electric engine technology as options for future bus acquisitions.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(18) That Durham Region Transit staff be directed to ask Metrolinx to included Hybrid engine technology and Electric engine technology as options in the specifications for all future bus acquisitions.

CARRIED

11. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 6, 2019 at 1:30 PM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Moved by Commissioner Barton, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(19) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:52 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk