

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, June 5, 2019

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM

Present: Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Bath-Hadden
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Drew attended the meeting at 1:37 PM
Commissioner Mulcahy attended the meeting at 1:36 PM
Commissioner Pickles
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Commissioner Wotten

Absent: Commissioner Collier, Chair, was absent on municipal business

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
C. Boyd, Solicitor, Corporate Services – Legal Services
W. Holmes, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
C. Norris, Manager, Customer Experience, Durham Region Transit
K. O'Brien, Director, Income & Employment Support, Social Services Department
S. Pollock, Communication Coordinator, Durham Region Transit
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair, chaired the meeting in the absence of Commissioner Collier, Chair.

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Bath-Hadden,
(34) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 8, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

4. Presentations

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

Vincent Patterson, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on Durham Region Transit (DRT). A copy of the presentation was provided in the Agenda.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Conventional Ridership is up 1.2 percent above last year's, and 2.2 percent above Budget Target
- Changes in Ridership, by Type: every DRT market segment sees year-to-date ridership increases except Adults
- Bus Full Occurrences
- DRT's annual service planning cycle

V. Patterson provided an update on staff's participation at the Ajax Accessibility Awareness Fair events to focus on DRT's initiatives for accessible transit in Durham Region.

K. O'Brien responded to questions regarding a low income pass for Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) recipients; the potential for activity-based, limited funding from the Ministry of Children, Community and Social Services to assist with these costs along with Income and Employment support programs; and the opportunities to move Specialized transit clients onto conventional bus services.

V. Patterson responded to questions regarding re-introducing the bulk school board rate for a Student pass program; DRT services for students inside / outside the 3.2 kilometre school zone; and the Durham District School Board's (DDSB) bus transportation timelines. He advised that staff is actively pursuing conversations with the DDSB regarding Youth transit fare incentives.

Commissioner Carter requested that DRT staff meet with the Oshawa Accessibility Advisory Committee to ensure full inclusion on upcoming DRT service changes; and if DRT could build on the transit needs for residents living in the Durham Region “Priority Neighbourhoods” areas.

Discussion ensued regarding garbage collection at the Durham Region Transit (DRT) bus stops and the installation of garbage receptacles; and if the potential exists for the local area municipalities to oversee the provision of garbage receptacle installations, maintenance and collection of the garbage at the DRT bus stops within their community.

4.2 Christopher Norris, Manager, Customer Experience, Durham Region Transit. re: 2020 Service Priorities

Christopher Norris, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation on Durham Region Transit's 2020 Service Priorities. A copy of the presentation was provided in the Agenda.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- 2016 – 2020 Service Strategy
 - Annual change in boardings and revenue hours
- 2020 Service Priorities: Engagement – annual PICs
 - What we heard
 - Connecting to the GO Train
 - Growth and Employment
 - Frequent Network
 - Rural Service Review
- Planning for 2021 – 2025
 - Focus
 - Future public engagement

V. Patterson and C. Norris responded to questions regarding the timelines for a DRT transit services in the new Seaton development area located in the City of Pickering; the Rouge Hill DRT service frequency; DRT's strategy in response to Metrolinx's GO Bus reductions to their Route 81 service in the northern municipalities, and the Route 90 service between Oshawa and Newcastle; and the opportunity for DRT bus service between Oshawa and the Municipality of Clarington.

Discussion ensued regarding eliminating the Route 302 one-way loop service in Brooklin as it is problematic; and any opportunities for two-way loop service in and out of North Whitby. C. Norris advised that in September DRT will be expanding the Route 304 services to provide two-way service into Brooklin.

Discussion also ensued regarding the Region's preferred option for the Bowmanville GO Train extension being on the Canadian Pacific (CP) line, via the Oshawa, Courtice and Bowmanville stations located on the north side of Highway 401.

5. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

6. Reports

A) Radio Communications System: One Year Extension of Contract with Metrolinx (2019-DRT-10)

Report #2019-DRT-10 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,

- (35) That the negotiation of a one-year extension from January 1, 2020 to December 31, 2020 to the existing contract with Metrolinx for Durham Region Transit (DRT) to continue to use Metrolinx's radio communication systems, be approved, at an estimated annual operating cost of \$310,000 to be financed from DRT's 2020 annual Business Plans and Budgets.

CARRIED

A similar report will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on June 11, 2019 and presented to Regional Council on June 26, 2019.

B) Multi-Year Governance Agreement for Joint Procurements Facilitated by Metrolinx (2019-DRT-11)

Report #2019-DRT-11 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,

- (36) A) That Durham Region Transit (DRT), subject to Council authorizing the appropriate contract execution, participate in joint competitive Request for Proposals (RFP) for the procurement of transit related vehicles, equipment, technologies, facilities and related supplies and services in conjunction with Metrolinx and other participating transit agencies in the province for a five-year period beginning in 2019 and ending 2024, with an option to renew until 2029; and

- B) That to meet Metrolinx's requirements, the Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, or a designate, be DRT's representative in the process.

CARRIED

A similar report will be considered by the Finance & Administration Committee on June 11, 2019 and presented to Regional Council on June 26, 2019.

C) Durham Region Transit Automated Shuttle Pilot (2019-DRT-12)

Report #2019-DRT-12 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,

- (37) That the General Manager of Durham Region Transit, be authorized to work with Regional staff partners to:

- i) Further discussions with Pacific Western Transportation on potential development of an automated shuttle demonstration pilot;
- ii) Identify and pursue funding sources to enable pilot deployment including other orders of government and in-kind and/or funding contributions from public and private sector partners; and
- iii) Report back to the Transit Executive Committee for approval of the terms of the pilot, including timelines, risk management, contract and funding arrangements with all contributing partners as necessary.

CARRIED

D) Policy regarding Surveillance System in DRT Vehicles (2019-DRT-13)

Report #2019-DRT-13 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,

- (38) That the revised policy as detailed in Attachment #1 to Report #2019-DRT-13 regarding the Surveillance System in DRT Vehicles, effective June 6, 2019, be approved.

CARRIED

E) Low Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) Pilot (2019-DRT-14)

Report #2019-DRT-14 from V. Patterson, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

At the request of the Committee, V. Patterson reviewed the key components of the Low Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) pilot. He advised that an

electronic PRESTO Card, with a capped e-purse solution, will replace the Access Pass; eligibility will be open to ODSP as well as OW recipients; and the recipients will be eligible for unlimited travel after 14 single Adult fare paid trips. He explained that the PRESTO card must be registered for the low income concession; the \$6.00 PRESTO acquisition fee will be waived for the first card; that a customer would pay \$44.80 to reach the unlimited travel level, being \$1.20 less than the current \$46.00 monthly cost of an Access pass and, a 62 percent discount on the monthly Adult pass; and any unused portion can be carried forward to the next month.

K. O'Brien responded to questions regarding assisting the non-recipients of Ontario Disability Support Program (ODSP) and Ontario Works (OW) including the unsheltered residents, to access DRT services; and opportunities to reach out to the Primary Care Outreach Pilot (PCOP) team to assist with providing access to Low Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) for the homeless residents.

V. Patterson and K. O'Brien advised that at the onset of the pilot program, a DRT customer representative and PRESTO machine will be available at the Durham Region Social Services office at 200 John Street West, in the City of Oshawa.

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Drew,
(39) That the General Manager of Durham Region Transit (DRT) be authorized to implement the Low Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) pilot, subject to the following:

- A) That effective November 1, 2019 and for the duration of the pilot up to March 31, 2021, the current Access pass be replaced with a special concession on the PRESTO card providing unlimited free trips on DRT in any given month after 14 trips have been paid for at the PRESTO Adult fare in the same month;
- B) That the eligibility for this Low Income Transit Assistance Program (LTAP) pilot be open to all social assistance beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works;
- C) That \$30,000 for the provision of free PRESTO cards to program participants be funded from within DRT's approved 2019 budget for ridership incentive initiatives; program revenue impacts be monitored and reported in subsequent budget status reports; and DRT to include all 2020 pilot costs in its 2020 budget submission; and
- D) That DRT and Durham Social Services, in collaboration with Finance, report back through the 2021 budget process on LTAP pilot uptake and proposed modifications as the case may be, including potential pilot expansion to cover additional low income residents of Durham Region.

CARRIED

7. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no Advisory Committee resolutions to be considered.

7.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

There were no Transit Advisory Committee resolutions to be considered.

8. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

9. Other Business

9.1 Metrolinx PRESTO Agreements and Administrative Costs

V. Patterson responded to questions regarding opportunities to revisit the Metrolinx PRESTO Agreements costs; and the \$6.00 PRESTO Card administration fee.

9.2 Request for Durham Region Transit Services in the Lake Road Industrial area in the Municipality of Clarington

Discussion ensued regarding the rapid growth in the Lake Road industrial area within the Municipality of Clarington.

The Regional Chair asked that staff look at building upon the existing DRT transit services to support these businesses, in the Lake Road growth areas, during the peak hours.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, September 4, 2019 at 1:30 PM in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(40) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:32 PM

Respectfully submitted,

D. Barton, Vice-Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk