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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Tuesday, September 17, 2019

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2019 in the Lower Level Boardroom (LL-C), Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:06 PM

Present: Commissioner Barton, Chair
J. Beaton, Whitby
A. Macci, Pickering
J. Martin, Brock
J. Nguyen, Student Association representative, Ontario Tech, Durham College and Trent University
M. Roche, AAC

Absent: C. Antram, Ajax
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Clarington
G. Weddel, Uxbridge

Staff

Present: W. Holmes, Acting General Manager, Durham Region Transit
C. Norris, Manager, Customer Experience, Durham Region Transit
M. Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by A. Macci, Seconded by J. Beaton,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 21, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

Chair Barton introduced Mike Roche, the Accessibility Advisory Committee's representative appointed to the Transit Advisory Committee; and he invited M. Roche to provide a brief overview of himself.

Chair Barton advised that Greg Gormick provided his resignation as the City of Oshawa representative on the Transit Advisory Committee.

3. Recommendation for two (2) Members of Large who use Public Transit

3.1 2018 – 2022 Two Members at Large Selections

Chair Barton provided an update on the work of the sub-committee reviewing the remaining candidates. This included an interview process that led to the recommendation of the two Members at Large to the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) for appointment at the October 4, 2019 Transit Executive Committee meeting.

Moved by J. Nguyen, Seconded by J. Martin,
That the Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) recommends to the
Transit Executive Committee:

That Kayla Ginter and Jordan Hollingsworth be appointed by the Transit Executive Committee as the two Member at Large positions on the Transit Advisory Committee for the term of Council.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

4.1 Michael Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit, re: Stop Planning & Accessibility; September Service Changes

M. Binetti provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Stop Planning & Accessibility; September Service Changes”. A copy of the presentation was provided in the agenda.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Bus Stop planning and accessibility
 - Bus stop spacing
 - Bus stop intersections
 - Open bus bays
 - Roundabouts

M. Binetti displayed pictorials depicting bus stop designs with a clearance area to deploy a ramp at the front door; a stop with a hard surface at the front door and fully accessible; the waiting area of a newly constructed 10 metre-long accessible bus stop with a shelter and access through both doors; an accessible alternative bus stop reconfiguration with a rear-door hard surface pad; and a rural cross-section waiting area.

M. Binetti provided an overview on the bus shelters and the hard surface retrofitting program. He advised that shelters are placed at bus stops with 25 or more average weekday boardings; and, are prioritized sequentially by most customer boarding activity.

M. Binetti explained that the objective of the hard surface retrofit program is for all DRT stops to be accessible by 2025; and, that the sequence of retrofits is based customer boardings at the stop.

M. Binetti provided an update on the September 2019 service changes for DRT routes in the City of Oshawa, Town of Whitby and Township of Scugog; the expansion of the On Demand service to Brock Township and the extended Lindsay and Orillia On Demand services; and the updates of schedules to align with the changes to GO Train schedules and improve service reliability. He advised that a study is underway to review the delivery and communications of transit services in the rural areas of the Region, with implementation for the year 2020.

M. Binetti reviewed the approved December 2019 service changes. Discussion followed on opportunities to extend bus routes into the property and parking lots of stores; the responsibilities of the private property owners' and DRT's operational safety and evaluation for bus service access onto private property; and the current Community Route and On Demand services being offered in Durham Region.

M. Binetti responded to questions regarding how a bus negotiates stops on a single lane roundabout; who determines the standards for the design of a bus stop waiting area; and the need for hard surface pads and shelters at rural cross-section bus stops.

Discussion ensued regarding the challenges resulting from snow windrows, particularly for passengers utilizing mobility aids and strollers; who is responsible for the clearing of snow and ice at the bus stops; the winter maintenance standards at bus stops; and, how DRT ensures the contractor is delivering these services.

Discussion also ensued regarding the safety of passengers waiting at bus shelters; the placement of advertising to not interfere with sightlines for passengers in and out of a bus shelter; and the use of frosted glass and lighting. M. Binetti advised that DRT will be installing solar lighting at 100 bus shelters this year.

M. Binetti responded to questions regarding how boardings per hour are collected. C. Norris invited the Members to view a live demonstration on the data collection system following the meeting.

5. Correspondence Items

There were no items of correspondence to consider.

6. Information Items

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

A copy of Report #2019-DRT-12 of the General Manager of Durham Region Transit was provided as a handout. C. Norris provided an update on the discussions with Pacific Western Transportation to pilot an automated vehicle, that is accessible, connecting the Port of Whitby area to the Whitby Station. He noted that the shuttle would be staffed with an on-board attendant.

Moved by J. Beaton, Seconded by A. Macci,
That Information Item 6.1 be received for information.
CARRIED

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

A copy of Report #2019-DRT-14 of the General Manager of Durham Region Transit was provided as a handout. C. Norris provided an overview on the Transit Assistant Program (TAP) for a low-income person's pilot. He advised that the TAP will be effective November 1, 2019; is open to all beneficiaries of the Ontario Disability Support Program and Ontario Works to improve transit access and affordability; and beneficiaries will be provided with a free PRESTO card.

C. Norris responded to questions regarding how the TAP will be communicated to the beneficiaries; and the transit connections in which the PRESTO card can be used during the pilot.

Moved by J. Martin, Seconded by M. Roche,
That Information Item 6.2 be received for information.
CARRIED

6.3 Update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) Meeting

M. Roche provided an update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meetings. He advised that Durham Region Transit will be providing a presentation at the September 24, 2019 Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) meeting; and the Joint Forum of the Accessibility Advisory Committees is scheduled for October 30, 2019 from 5:00 PM to 8:30 PM in the Lower Level Boardroom at Regional Headquarters.

The Chair inquired when a second AAC member will be appointed to sit on the Transit Advisory Committee. M. Roche explained that to-date, a second Accessibility Advisory representative has yet to volunteer.

Moved by J. Nguyen, Seconded by J. Beaton,
That Information Item 6.3 be received for information.
CARRIED

7. Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to be considered.

8. Other Business

A) The PULSE 900 Highway 2 Route Services

A. Macci questioned whether DRT is considering increasing the PULSE 900 Highway 2 route services to reduce the number of transit stops between Scarborough and the City of Oshawa. C. Norris noted this would be considered as part of the work underway for the Durham-Scarborough BRT, a Metrolinx led project; and that Metrolinx will be hosting a series of Public Information Centres (PICs) in the Fall of 2019 and suggested this would be the appropriate venue to raise this question.

Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to install PRESTO self-serve machines at transit stops.

9. Date of Next Meetings

- Tuesday, November 19, 2019 at 7:00 PM

10. Adjournment

Moved by A. Macci, Seconded by J. Nguyen,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 PM.

D. Barton, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk