

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Tuesday, March 23, 2021**

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, March 23, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. In accordance with Provincial legislation, electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: Commissioner Barton, Chair  
C. Antram, Ajax  
J. Beaton, Whitby  
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Clarington  
A. Desai, Student Association representative, Ontario Tech University,  
Durham College and Trent University  
K. Ginter, Member at Large  
I. Liang, Scugog  
A. Macci, Pickering  
J. Hollingsworth, Member at Large  
J. Martin, Brock  
M. Roche, AAC  
G. Weddel, Uxbridge

**All members of Committee participated electronically**

Absent: J. Layne, Oshawa

#### **Staff**

Present: \*A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit  
\*B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
\*L. Huinink, Director, Rapid Transportation & Transit Oriented Development,  
Office of the Chief Administration Officer  
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
\*L. Kubilis, Planner, Service Design, Durham Region Transit  
\*C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit  
\*J. Phelen, Planner, Service Design, Durham Region Transit  
\*C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by A. Macci, Seconded by R. Claxton-Oldfield,  
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, January 19, 2021, be  
adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentations**

**4.1** David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation; re:  
Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit – Project Update

C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit, advised that the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) Project is in the preliminary design stage and entering into the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) consultation and documentation period. He noted the DSBRT is a multi-jurisdictional cross-boundary project being led by Metrolinx and involving the City of Toronto, the Toronto Transit Commission, and the Region of Durham.

David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the scope of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) Project across the Region. A copy of the presentation was provided electronically to the members.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Purpose
- Map: 2041 Regional Transportation Plan Frequent Rapid Transit Network
- Map: Study Area
- Why Bus Rapid Transit?
- Project Benefits
- Project Schedule: Overall Timeline
- What We've Heard So Far
- Preliminary Design
  - Proposed BRT Stop Locations
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – City of Pickering
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – Town of Ajax
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – Town of Whitby
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – City of Oshawa

- Images depicting what the future BRT could look like: Kingston Road at Liverpool Road in the City of Pickering; and Bond Street at Stevenson Road in the City of Oshawa
- BRT Stop Design: Design Standards
- BRT Stop Design: Shelter Concepts
- BRT Stop Design: Platforms
- BRT Stop Design: Platform Details
- BRT Stop Design: Platform Access
- Active Transportation
  - Walking and Cycling
  - Cycling Facilities in Pickering
  - Cycling Facilities in Ajax
  - Cycling Facilities in Whitby and Oshawa
- Next Steps

D. Hopper provided an update on the next steps and advised that in mid 2021 the Notice of Commencement will notify stakeholders that the 120-day Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) consultation and documentation period has begun. He also noted that additional stakeholder meetings and a Public Information Centre (PIC) will be held during the 120-day TPAP consultation and documentation period in mid-2021. This will be followed by a 30-day public review period and 35-day ministerial review period.

D. Hopper stated that segments of the corridor are planned to be constructed by the Region of Durham as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, subject to Federal approval.

D. Hopper invited the Committee to email any questions or comments regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project to [dsbrt@metrolinx.com](mailto:dsbrt@metrolinx.com) or [Metrolinx Engage DSBRT](#).

Discussion ensued regarding the current Highway 2 PULSE Route 900 service into Centennial Circle at the University of Toronto Scarborough Campus (UTSC). D. Hopper responded to questions with respect to whether the Route 900 service will continue along Ellesmere Road into the Scarborough Town Centre; if the PULSE bus will enter the bus loop or stop at the Scarborough Centre station; whether the PULSE bus corridor at the Scarborough Centre station will be located in the GO Transit terminal or the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) paid fare zone; and, the potential for operational cross-boundary transit and fare integration for only one fare.

D. Hopper also responded to questions regarding opportunities to facilitate the traffic movement along the PULSE routes including one-way streets or tunnelling under the downtown Whitby area; utilizing transit priority signaling; and, additional bus stops along Highway 2 for the DRT local buses.

Discussion followed on the locations of the proposed nine PULSE bus stops in Town of Ajax, and whether there will be more or less PULSE stops.

Concerns were expressed regarding the proposed DSBRT corridor impacts with respect to road widening requirements, the disruption and removal of the existing tree canopy; the development of the tower apartments on Valley Farm Road in the City of Pickering; and the protection of the heritage and historical characteristics in Pickering Village and the Town of Ajax. D. Hopper responded to questions regarding the tree compensation plan; whether public art will be implemented into the stations, particularly in Pickering Village; the virtual Public Information Centres and being able to engage the public; and, the timelines for implementing the segments of the DSBRT network.

Further discussion ensued regarding 'all-doors boarding' and 'off-board fare payment' systems at PRESTO machine platforms and enforcing proof of valid fare payment.

At the request of the Committee, D. Hopper provided an overview on how the PULSE buses will operate through the downtown area in the Town of Whitby. He noted that Metrolinx is also looking at expanding the Transit mall in the future.

The Committee suggested that attention also be given to the cyclists and pedestrians during the reconstruction of the bridges, particularly the standards for the size of the bike and walking lanes; the planning of the route in the City of Pickering to meet up with the mobility hub being developed at the Pickering Parkway terminal and the GO Station pedestrian bridge; and, the opportunity for proposing a pedestrian and transit mall with the City of Pickering, to divert transit priority to the mobility hub, similar to downtown Markham.

D. Hopper responded to additional questions regarding the feasibility for a future Light Rail Transit (LRT) system and subway in Durham Region; if the IBC is available online; and, the cost benefit ratios.

## **5. Correspondence Items**

There were no items of correspondence to be considered.

## **6. Information Items**

### **6.1 General Manager's Report – February 3, 2021 (2021-DRT-03)**

Report #2021-DRT-03 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the opportunity to increase the goals outlined within the matrix of the Report, such as the On-Time Performance and Availability measures; the potential for taking on new goals; and the importance of existing matrix's for the purposes of comparison within the other transit agencies. A. McKinley advised that she would take the comment backs to staff.

A. McKinley responded to questions with respect to the feedback received from the community regarding the Paramedic Services' Mobile Paramedic Clinic initiative; and, whether the opportunity exists to assist other services within the community.

J. Phelen responded to questions regarding the projected boardings per hour required to restore a route back to fixed service; the fluctuation in the required boardings per hour, per route; and whether there is a different threshold for rural areas proposed in Phase 3.

Discussion ensued regarding the status of the ICIP Projects outlined on page 10 of the Report with respect to passenger comfort. It was noted that people are feeling uncomfortable on the new buses when they are seated, face to face, and, there is a preference for the cushion seats used previously. A. McKinley advised that going forward the seats will be a vinyl material for the safety of the riders and employees.

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

6.2 2021 Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets (2021-DRT-04)

Report #2021-DRT-04 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Discussion ensued regarding the discontinuation of the DRT paper transfers. A. McKinley advised that DRT is looking at re-implementing the paper transfers, and that a report will be coming forward at the April 7, 2021 TEC meeting.

Discussion also ensued regarding the availability of the On-Demand App video on the DRT website.

The Committee inquired whether DRT has a 5-Year Service Plan outlining the proposed 3,000 service hours in 2021. A. McKinley advised there is a plan and noted that staff will provide a presentation on the 5-Year Service Plan at the June TAC meeting. It was also questioned whether DRT has a 5 Year Strategic Plan that could be shared with TAC. A. McKinley advised

there is a strategic plan and that she would check whether this document can be shared with the members.

J. Phelen responded to questions regarding whether there is a detailed transit service plan for the proposed Amazon facility; how the DRT operators work schedule will be impacted and managed for the route to the Metro Zoo, should the Metro Zoo not re-open; and, if any On-Demand zones will transition to fixed service in 2021.

A concern was raised by Ontario Tech University and Trent University (Durham Campus) students regarding the discontinuation of the U-Pass and the 1.9 percent fee increase. It was suggested that the students be provided the option to opt out of the U-Pass; and, that DRT consider a digital pass. A. McKinley advised she will take back the suggestion for a digital pass.

Moved by A. Macci, Seconded by J. Hollingsworth,  
That Information Item 6.2 be received for information.

CARRIED

6.3      Internal Bulletin; re: Public Information Centres: Customer Policies and Fares, and Social Equity

A. McKinley provided an update on the upcoming virtual Public Information Centres (PIC) being held to allow DRT to inform and obtain feedback to better understand customers' attitudes towards cash-free fare payments. J. Phelen responded to questions regarding the details for the upcoming PICs, including post-COVID proposals for the next phase of transit services.

Moved by J. Hollingsworth, Seconded by A. Desai,  
That Information Item 6.3 be received for information.

CARRIED

**7.      Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items to be considered.

**8.      Reports**

**9.      Other Business**

9.1      Process for Members to introduce New Business Items

R. Claxton-Oldfield inquired on the status of his previous request in February to introduce new business items on the TAC \agendas. He asked that in going forward, could the members be emailed the timelines to submit items for inclusion on the upcoming agendas; and, if the members could be kept

regularly informed on current transit events to allow for a more interactive experience.

9.2 Bus Stop Signage within Durham Region

Discussion ensued with respect to the bus stop signage, at the bus stops, within the Region. It was questioned what the bus stop sign depicting 'Future Bus Stop' means. A. McKinley clarified that the future bus stop notification signs indicates that a bus stop will be added in the future. Bus stop closure signs are notification of a bus stop closure.

9.3 PRESTO Card Pass

C. Antram advised that she no longer needs her PRESTO card and that the administrative cost to buy the card is non-refundable. She inquired whether there is an opportunity for the people who no longer require their PRESTO card to donate or transfer these cards to people within the community.

A. McKinley advised that she would refer this suggestion to the appropriate staff.

9.4 On Demand Contracted Services

Discussion ensued regarding the upcoming change in the contracted provider for the DRT On Demand services (Hutchins Transportation).

J. Hollingsworth questioned whether it is anticipated that the change will be seamless and that customers can be assured the services for On-Demand will be reliable. It was also questioned if there are any benefits to the DRT and its customers, such as DRT branding on the vehicles. A. McKinley advised that she would speak with staff and respond back to J. Hollingsworth, directly.

9.5 PRESTO Device Replacement

J. Hollingsworth inquired whether an update is available on the timelines for the PRESTO device installations on the contracted service vehicles. A. McKinley advised that the PRESTO devices should be in place by the third quarter of 2021.

10. **Date of Next Meetings**

Tuesday, May 18, 2021 at 7:00 PM

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by C Antram, Seconded by J. Beaton,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 PM.

---

D. Barton, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

---

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk