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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM REGION TRANSIT EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, September 8, 2021

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, September 8, 2021 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Collier, Chair
Commissioner Barton, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Carter
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Pickles
Commissioner Smith
Regional Chair Henry

Also
Present: Commissioner Crawford

Absent: Commissioner Drew

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
W. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit
M. Binetti, Transportation Service Design, 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
A. McKinley, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
C. Norris, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Walton, Regional Clerk/Director of Legislative Services
S. Glover, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Commissioner Carter, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(37) That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Executive
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 2, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

5. Presentations

5.1 Josh Colle, Executive Director for Government and Public Sector practice, Ernst and Young LLP re: Durham Region Transit Demand Responsive Transit Study, Executive Summary

J. Colle, Executive Director for Government and Public Sector practice, Ernst and Young LLP provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Durham Region Transit Demand Responsive Transit Summary. A copy of the presentation was provided in the Agenda.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Executive Summary
- Project Approach
- Current State Assessment and Future State Recommendations
 - Overview of Current State Findings
 - Overview of Current State Assessment
 - Design Principles
 - Overview of Future State Recommendations
- The Path Forward
 - Transit Evaluation Framework – Overview
 - Implementation Roadmap – Overview
 - Conclusion – Demand Responsive Transit Study

J. Colle advised that the full detailed report will be forthcoming and that it will be provided to the Committee.

Chair Collier on behalf of the Committee thanked J. Colle for his presentation.

5.2 Michael Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit re: The Route Ahead, 2022-2025 Service Strategy [Item 7. B)] (2021-DRT-20)

M. Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, provided a PowerPoint presentation on The Route Ahead, the 2022-2025 Service Strategy. A copy of the presentation was provided in the Agenda.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Looking to 2025
- Strategy Pillars
 - Availability
 - Innovation
 - Reliability
 - Safety
 - Growth
- The Route Ahead – Growing Ridership
- Integrated Network
- Service Guidelines
 - Span and Service Levels
 - Ridership Productivity
- Local Area Transit Plans
- Infrastructure
- 2025 Network – Urban
- 2025 Network – Rural

M. Binetti and B. Holmes responded to questions from the Committee regarding the establishment of new routes through new developments such as the Seaton Development and how new developments are being educated on Durham Region Transit services; what lower technology options, such as the telephone, are available to the public in order to book On Demand services; the use and reliability of On Demand services and whether enough resources are being utilized to meet demand; and ensuring there is continuous monitoring of Durham's population and demand growth, as well as new opportunities for transit such as the independent living facilities that are being built within Durham Region.

5.3 Jamie Austin, Deputy General Manager, Business Services, Durham Region Transit, re: E-Mission Zero – Towards Zero Emission Public Transit in Durham Region [Item 7.C] (2021-DRT-21)

J. Austin, Deputy General Manager, provided a brief PowerPoint presentation on E-Mission Zero – Towards Zero Emission Public Transit in Durham Region.

J. Austin provided an overview of Attachment #1 of Report #2021-DRT-21: DRT E-Mission Zero Framework that includes a wide variety of opportunities for residents of Durham to learn more about electric vehicles.

J. Austin advised that the E-Mission Zero program is a suite of initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from public transit through clean technologies and highlighted the following E-Mission Zero initiatives:

- Battery Electric Bus and Charging Infrastructure Pilot Project
- Whitby Autonomous Vehicle Electric (WAVE) Shuttle Pilot Project
- Zero Emission Bus Fleet and Facility Feasibility Study
- Flagship Transit Operations and Maintenance Facility

Chair Collier on behalf of the Committee thanked J. Austin for his presentation.

6. Correspondence

There were no correspondence items to be considered.

7. Reports

A) General Manager's Report – September 8, 2021 (2021-DRT-19)

Report #2021-DRT-19 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Pickles,
(38) That Report #2021-DRT-19 of the General Manager, Durham Region Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

B) The Route Ahead, Durham Region Transit 2022-2025 Service Strategy (2021-DRT-20)

Report #2021-DRT-20 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Regional Chair Henry, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(39) A) That the 2022-2025 Service Strategy, The Route Ahead, be approved; and

B) That the 2022-2025 Service Strategy be funded through the annual Durham Region Transit Business Plans and Budgets.

CARRIED

C) E-Mission Zero – Towards Zero Emission Public Transit in Durham Region (2021-DRT-21)

Report #2021-DRT-21 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Moved by Commissioner Smith, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(40) That Report #2021-DRT-21 of the General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

D) Administration of U-Pass Agreement (2021-DRT-22)

Report #2021-DRT-22 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, was received.

B. Holmes highlighted the changes that have been made to the U-Pass Program now that it has incorporated into the PRESTO platform. He advised that the U-Pass has transitioned to the e-ticketing program which students will now be able to use and includes a QR code to scan. He advised that from a data collection perspective, the e-ticketing program will greatly benefit staff and inform of ridership numbers and boarding locations.

B. Holmes advised that the partnership with the post-secondary institutions has been greatly beneficial and that they have been very supportive. He also advised that students who don't have phones can work with their school and issued a PRESTO card to use along with displaying their school ID in order to access Durham Transit services.

Moved by Commissioner Anderson, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
(41) That Report #2021-DRT-22 of the General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, be received for information.

CARRIED

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

8.1 Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee

Moved by Commissioner Mulcahy, Seconded by Commissioner Barton,
(42) That the minutes of the regular Transit Advisory Committee held on May
18, 2021, be received for information.

CARRIED

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

10.1 100,000 Rider on Durham Region Transit (DRT)

B. Holmes advised that on August 28, 2021 DRT reached the milestone of the 100,000th On Demand rider; a post-secondary student from Clarington who

regularly uses On Demand to connect to Route 902 to travel to and from Oshawa. He advised that more information will be presented to the Committee at the October 6, 2021 TEC meeting.

10.2 Uptake of On Demand Services in Northern Rural Communities

In response to a question from Commissioner Smith regarding the lack of awareness of the On Demand services in northern rural communities including the Township of Brock, B. Holmes advised that he would circulate the On Demand ridership numbers to the Committee members over the next few weeks.

B. Holmes advised that some people perceive On Demand as an inferior service because it is not delivered with a bus. He indicated that On Demand is an important part of the DRT network and provides a high level of transit service with frequencies up to 15 minutes in the urban areas and 40 minutes in the rural areas. On Demand is a reliable transit service, and it's delivered differently than scheduled services.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 6, 2021 at 1:30 PM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:56 PM

Respectfully submitted,

S. Collier, Chair

S. Glover, Committee Clerk