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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 17, 2022

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 17, 2022 in the Council Chambers, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was permitted for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Barton, Chair
C. Antram, Ajax
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Clarington
J. Hollingsworth, Member at Large
I. Liang, Scugog
G. Weddel, Uxbridge
M. Roche, AAC
J. Sankarlal, Student Association representative, Ontario Tech University,
Durham College and Trent University

***all members of the Committee participated electronically**

Absent: K. Ginter, Member at Large
H. Hall, AAC
J. Layne, Oshawa
A. Macci, Pickering
J. Martin, Brock

Staff

Present: J. Austin, Deputy Manager
M. Binetti, Supervisor, Transportation Service Design, Durham Region
Transit
T. Giannandrea, Eligibility Coordinator – Review, Durham Region Transit
B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

***all staff participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by C. Antram, Seconded by J. Hollingsworth,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee
meeting held on Tuesday, November 16, 2021, be adopted.
CARRIED

Moved by C. Antram, Seconded by J. Sankarlal,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee
meeting held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022, be adopted.
CARRIED

8. Other Business

8.1 Specialized Services Eligibility Review Update

Taylor Giannandrea, Eligibility Coordinator – Review, Durham Region Transit,
provided a verbal update with regards to the Specialized Services Eligibility Review.

T. Giannandrea advised that the eligibility review process is a review of eligibility for all active specialized services clients who were registered with Durham Region Transit prior to 2015 to ensure fairness and equity for all clients. She provided the following update:

- Approximately 650 customers will be participating in the eligibility review, and of those..
- Approximately 360 customers have completed the process.
- For the customers completed, 75% have been actively participating in the review by completing the required documentation.
- The remaining 25% of customers have not submitted their documentation by the required date.
- The eligibility breakdown for customers who have been reassessed is as follows: 13% are unconditional; 66% are conditional; <1% are temporary; approximately 10% are not eligible; and 10% are participating in the service agreement only.
- Approximately 6% of reassessed customers have appealed their decision, and the appeal panel has upheld 80% of the DRT decisions.

T. Giannandrea responded to questions with regards to the third-party appeal hearing panel; the process at the appeal hearing; and resources available for “travel training” for those transferring from Specialized Services to scheduled or On Demand services.

4. Presentations

4.1 Michael Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit; Re: Upcoming Service Update

Michael Binetti, Supervisor, Service Design, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Upcoming Service Update.

M. Binetti advised that ridership is at approximately 70% of pre-pandemic ridership on weekdays, and of the remaining 30%, approximately 75% is made up of people not travelling to downtown Toronto. He also advised that Saturday ridership is at 87% and Sunday ridership is at almost 100% of pre-pandemic ridership.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Service Implementation Considerations
 - The Route Ahead – Service Strategy 2022-2025
 - Service Guidelines
 - Social Equity Guidelines
- June 2022 – Highlights
 - Expanding the PULSE rapid bus network
 - Supporting seasonal travel patterns
- 224C to Ajax Waterfront
 - Service Change: weekday evening, weekend and holiday seasonal service to Ajax waterfront reinstated
 - Developing Markets: recreational/seasonal travel
- PULSE 901/N2 to Windfields Farms
 - Service Change: service extended from North Campus to Simcoe and Windfields Farm Drive and 10-minute frequency reinstated on weekday daytime
 - Expanding PULSE Rapid bus: aligns with The Route Ahead to expand PULSE rapid bus service
 - Developing Transit along High Demand Corridors: density of development in the area supports PULSE rapid bus service
- 917Z to Toronto Zoo/Rouge Park
 - Service Change: weekend and holiday seasonal service to the Toronto Zoo and Rouge National Urban Park and every 30 minutes between 8:30 and 20:00
 - Service Integration: additional integration with TTC
 - Developing markets: recreational/seasonal travel and expanding service levels compared to Summer 2021 due to growing demand
- September 2022 – Highlights
 - Align service levels with projected demand
 - Supporting general ridership growth including secondary and post-secondary student markets
- Frequency Increases
 - Service Change – PULSE 900 and 920

- 211 Northwest Ajax and East Pickering
 - Service Change: new route linking Ajax Station and Pickering Parkway Terminal via Church and Ravenscroft
 - Service Integration: GO Rail and Bus
 - Developing Markets: secondary school travel
- 216, 216C to Williamson Drive
 - Service Change: service increase to every 15-minutes during weekday AM & PM peak periods and every second trip during the weekday AM/PM period to extend to Williamson Drive and Audley Road
 - Developing markets: secondary school travel
- 222 Audley South
 - Service Change: New route between Ajax Station and southeast Ajax during weekday AM and PM peak period
 - Service Integration: GO Rail and Bus
 - Developing Markets: secondary school travel
- 409 West Oshawa and East Whitby
 - Service Change: new weekday daytime route between Oshawa Centre and Taunton and Thicken via Garrard Road and Stevenson Road
 - Developing Markets: secondary school travel and employment in commercial areas
- 411 Routing Updates
 - Service Change: updates to routing in south Courtice and extension of weekday AM/PM peak service to Oshawa station
 - Service Integration: GO Rail and Bus
 - Developing Markets: secondary school travel and employment in industrial areas

Staff responded to questions with regards to a potential route 902 extension to Newcastle; how the route 901 and 902 buses will turn around in the Windfield Farms neighbourhood; when the 915 bus route will officially be designated a Pulse route; and when Pulse buses are used on non-Pulse routes.

5. Correspondence Items

There were no communication items to be considered.

6. Information Items

There were no information items to be considered.

7. Discussion Items

7.1 Bus Shelter Design for Highway 2 Survey

B. Holmes provided the following update:

- The transit-oriented development and rapid transit group consulted the public on the bus shelter design for the Durham Scarborough Bust Rapid Transit corridor along Highway 2.
- The Median BRT Shelter Design has been finalized.
- There were a number of suggestions and recommendations from the public that that will be shared with the consultant working on the detailed design.
- The approved design is included in the March 2, 2022 Transit Executive Committee agenda.

7.2 Next Bus Digital Signs - Pilot

B. Holmes provided the following update:

- There have been 5 next bus digital signs installed at four key terminals that display real time information bus arrivals.
- The signs include a button than when pressed announce the various routes and next departures.
- The signs are being evaluated for performance over all seasons, as well as feedback from customers
- The installation of similar signs will expand in the years to come.

7.3 Zero Emission Bus Strategy

J. Austin provided the following update:

- The zero-emission program outlines the different initiatives underway to move to a more sustainable network of vehicles, infrastructure and facilities over the next 20-25 years.
- There are four current projects: autonomous shuttle vehicle pilot; the battery electric bus and charging infrastructure demonstration project (currently underway); the development of a net zero bus storage and maintenance facility in north Oshawa; and the completion of a full zero emission fleet and facility transition plan.
- For the development of a transition plan to a zero green-house gas emission fleet, DRT has worked with HDR Consulting to undertake the analysis that includes an industry scan of the available technologies and detailed modelling specific to DRT and Durham.
- DRT will continue to review advancements in battery range and hydrogen supply chains as technologies mature.
- The analysis includes an assessment of the current state of the facilities and the service requirements to inform of our vehicle and charging infrastructure requirements.
- The study looked at different scenarios to compare to the business as usual case (continuing to purchase/operate diesel buses); transition plan(s) to achieve the Region's Corporate Climate Change Action Plan reduction target of 100% reduction below 2019 levels for GHG emissions by 2045; study includes a more accelerated transition plan to reach a zero emission fleet

ahead of the 2045 target and maximize current federal government funding and financing programs available through Infrastructure Canada and the Canada Infrastructure Bank.

- The outcome of the work will be a full year over year transition plan which will result in phasing out diesel buses from the fleet.
- Information will be brought to the June 8, 2022 Transit Executive Committee in order to proceed with the transition plan, subject to approval of the financing plan prior to the 2023 budget process.

J. Austin responded to questions with regards to the location of the new building; when the hybrid electric buses will be in service; the procurement phase for the charging infrastructure; and the type of recycling programs available for retired buses and electric buses with batteries.

7.4 Station, Terminal and Hub Strategy

The update for Station, Terminal and Hub Strategy will be provided at the September 20, 2022 meeting.

8. **Other Business**

Bill Holmes welcomed Fazia Amin to the DRT administration team and advised she would be assisting with the Transit Advisory Committee and Transit Executive Committee.

9. **Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, September 20, 2022 at 7:00 PM

10. **Adjournment**

Moved by J. Hollingsworth, Seconded by R. Claxton-Oldfield,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 PM.

D. Barton, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

K. Smith, Committee Clerk