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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 21, 2024

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, May 21, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:02 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair
A. Andrus*, Community Group, Participation House
M. Bonk, Brock
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Member at Large
P. Gunti*, Clarington, Vice-Chair
W. Henshall*, AAC
J. McEwen, AAC
A. Mujeeb*, Pickering attended the meeting at 7:12 PM
T. Ralph, Whitby
T. Smale, Member at Large attended the meeting at 7:09 PM
J. Westerman, Oshawa
R. Smith, Community Group, Durham Association for Family Resources
*** denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: A. Ali, Ajax
I. Giffin, Uxbridge

Staff

Present: F. Amin, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit
M. Fitzgibbon*, Policy Advisor, Innovation
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Kilgour, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit
J. Lopez-Wilson*, Policy Advisor, Innovation
N. Lysaght*, Manager, Policy and Planning, Durham Region Transit
Z. Osime-Fakolade*, Program Manager, Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit, attended the meeting at 7:30 PM
A. Pezzetti*, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
*** denotes staff participating electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

A) Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee meeting – February 20, 2024

R. Smith request an update on when to anticipate a response regarding the feasibility of allowing On Demand vehicles to use transit lanes due to the Region of Durham’s Traffic and Parking By-law.

F. Admin advised that a response would be provided at a later date.

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by R. Claxton-Oldfield,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory
Committee meeting held on Tuesday, February 20, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

B) Special Durham Region Transit Advisory Committee meeting – May 1, 2024

Moved by M. Bonk, Seconded by T. Ralph,
That the minutes of the special Durham Region Transit Advisory
Committee meeting held on Wednesday, May 1, 2024, be adopted.
CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Zefe Osime-Fakolade, Program Manager, Community Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit, re: Sunflower Program

F. Admin, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Sunflower Program in the absence of Z. Osime-Fakolade, Program Manager, Community Engagement and Change Management, Durham Region Transit.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- What is the Sunflower Program?
- What does this mean for Durham Region Transit (DRT)?

F. Admin responded to questions from the Committee regarding when the Sunflower program will be implemented; and whether the training videos for staff will be provided to the Committee to ensure they are inclusive to all.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Correspondence Items

There were no communication items to be considered.

7. Information Items

There were no information items to be considered.

8. Discussion Items

A) AODA Standards

W. Henshall advised of an accessibility and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) concern with respect to the Region of Durham's expanding Rapid Transit Systems, related to the placement of shelters.

Discussion ensued regarding enhancing the placement of shelters to facilitate easier access for DRT riders; and the possibility of having the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) team provide an update to the Committee.

Chair Crawford requested scheduling a Rapid Transit Update presentation for a meeting in the fall.

B) Review of Identified Priority Focus Areas

J. Lopez-Wilson, Policy Advisor, Innovation, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to a review of the identified priority focus areas - Design Dash Follow-Up Session.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Design Dash Recap
- Innovation: An Iterative Process
- Practical Vision
- Strengths
- Challenges
- Priority Focus Areas
- Next Steps

J. Lopez-Wilson responded to questions from the Committee regarding the survey tool utilized for the survey.

Discussion ensued regarding the utilization of broad terminology in relation to the priority focus areas and the individual interpretation of those terms.

Staffed advised that Committee members are welcome to suggest any changes through the survey they will be completing.

Discussion ensued regarding the survey deadline and it was requested that the Committee be given an additional week to complete it.

Staff advised that the survey deadline would be extended to June 10, 2024.

C) Motion re: Construction of Stations for the Lakeshore East Go Train Extension to Bowmanville

J. McEwen advised the Committee that Metrolinx will only be funding and constructing train platforms at new station stops and requires the private sector to fund and construct station buildings and associated infrastructure at all new stops along the Bowmanville Go train extension. J. McEwen also advised that the lack of infrastructure proposed could negatively affect Region of Durham residents who use public transit, especially those with accessibility issues, and that the Region of Durham could assist with the project delivery by taking financial responsibility.

Discussion ensued regarding the safety elements of this construction for all residents of the Region of Durham; similar issues occurring at other Go stations in the Region of Durham; the impact of funding shortages on DRT; and whether the Region of Durham should be responsible for constructing Go station buildings and associated infrastructure.

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by W. Henshall,

That we recommend to the Transit Executive Committee for approval:

Whereas the Transit Advisory Committee takes the position that Metrolinx must construct station buildings and associated infrastructure at all stops for the Lakeshore East Go train extension to Bowmanville before the extension opens for the following reasons:

- i) To protect Durham Region's ridership from nature's harsh elements;
- ii) To house properly designed accessible washrooms; and
- iii) To ensure the safety of individuals utilizing transit connections;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Transit Advisory Committee supports Durham Region's potential decisions to financially assist with project delivery for the Bowmanville GO train extension and with the objective of collecting charges as new development proceeds around the new station sites;

And further that if Durham Region Council concludes that the Metrolinx Market Driven Strategy is not a viable funding option in Durham Region, that the Ontario government be requested to fully fund the Bowmanville GO train extension, including all station developments.

CARRIED AS AMENDED
(See Following Motion)

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by W. Henshall,
That the main motion of J. McEwen and W. Henshall be amended by
deleting the third paragraph in its entirety and replacing it with the
following:

Now therefore be it resolved that the Transit Executive Committee coordinate
with the Region to request Metrolinx to fully fund the Bowmanville GO train
extension, including all associated infrastructure and stations;

CARRIED

The main motion of J. McEwen and W. Henshall was then put to a vote and
CARRIED AS AMENDED

9. Other Business

A) Clean Buses in Canada Conference

Chair Crawford announced having been a keynote speaker at the Clean Buses in
Canada Conference on May 16, 2024 and that the Region of Durham will have six
electric buses by the fall of this year.

10. Date of Next Meeting

Tuesday, September 17, 2024 at 7:00 PM

11. Adjournment

Moved by T. Smale, Seconded by J. Westerman,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM.

M. Crawford, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

Sarah Dessureault, Committee Clerk