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## The Regional Municipality of Durham

### MINUTES

#### TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**September 17, 2024**

A meeting of the Transit Advisory Committee was held on Tuesday, September 17, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-A, Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:13 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### 1. Roll Call

Present: Commissioner Crawford, Chair  
A. Ali\*, Ajax  
M. Bonk, Brock  
R. Claxton-Oldfield, Member at Large  
P. Gunti\*, Clarington, Vice-Chair  
W. Henshall\*, AAC, attended the meeting at 7:11 PM  
J. McEwen\*, AAC  
A. Mujeeb, Pickering, attended the meeting at 7:12 PM  
R. Smith, Community Group, Durham Association for Family Resources  
**\* denotes members of the Committee participating electronically**

Absent: A. Andrus, Community Group, Participation House  
I. Giffin, Uxbridge  
T. Ralph, Whitby  
T. Smale, Member at Large  
J. Westerman, Oshawa

#### Staff

Present: F. Amin, Administrative Assistant, Durham Region Transit  
S. Dessureault, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
D. Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, Durham Region Transit  
B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit  
J. Kilgour\*, Deputy General Manager, Maintenance, Durham Region Transit  
A. Pezzetti\*, Deputy General Manager, Operations, Durham Region Transit  
J. Phelan\*, Manager, Policy and Planning, Durham Region Transit  
M. Rippin\*, Eligibility Coordinator, Special Service, Durham Region Transit  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

#### 2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

### 3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by R. Claxton-Oldfield, Seconded by J. McEwen,  
That the minutes of the regular Durham Region Transit Advisory  
Committee meeting held on Tuesday May 21, 2024, be adopted.  
CARRIED

### 4. Presentations

#### A) David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, re: Rapid Transit Project

D. Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Rapid Transit Project.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT)
- Intersection Design
- Median Shelter Platform Design
- Median Shelter Design
- Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
- Pickering Project Status
- Ajax and Whitby Project Status
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit
  - Visioning and Initial Business Case Study
  - Why Simcoe Street?
- Rapid Transit Benefits
  - Ridership
  - Economic
- Transit Infrastructure Options
  - PIC#3 Options
  - Current Preferred Options
  - At-Grade Bus Rapid Transit
  - Aerial Cable Car
  - Aerial Cable Car Information
  - Existing Urban Aerial Cable Cars
  - Future Urban Aerial Cable Cars
- Simcoe Street Rapid Transit Study – Next Steps

D. Dunn responded to questions from the Committee regarding the accessibility measures being implemented during the DSBRT project; the accessibility practices being proposed for the aerial cable car option, and how it will impact the community's appearance; how the aerial cable car option manages maximum weight for safety purposes; whether the DSBRT project includes new off-street parking; whether the Simcoe Street rapid transit project owner and manager is the Region of Durham or Metrolinx; whether the Region of Durham is reviewing established models before making a final decision on which option to adopt; the number of aerial cable cars that could be used on the line; if the aerial cable car

option will connect to Toronto; and the economic differences between increasing the bus fleet and choosing the aerial cable car option.

**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) Transit Advisory Committee – Survey Summary

F. Amin asked the Committee whether they would prefer a special meeting to further define key recommendations and priority focus areas, more time to review the survey, or to use these recommendations for future meetings by adding them as agenda items.

Moved by J. McEwen, Seconded by R. Smith,  
That the practical vision and priority focus areas from the Transit Advisory Committee Survey Summary be included as items on future Transit Advisory Committee agendas.  
CARRIED

**9. Other Business**

A) Divisional Court of Ontario decision on April 12, 2022

R. Smith asked that this topic be added to the next Transit Advisory Committee (TAC) agenda for further discussion.

B. Holmes advised that the outcome of this case was specific to the eligibility decision of the applicant/individual involved and it did not impact DRT policies or processes in delivering specialized transit services. B. Holmes also advised that DRT operates and complies with the requirements of the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Integrated Transportation Standard.

B. Holmes suggested that the Committee could consider a discussion on eligibility for specialized services at the next TAC meeting.

Discussion ensued regarding challenges with the specialized service eligibility process.

B) Bus Rapid Transit Lanes

R. Smith raised concerns with regards to On Demand transit vehicles being unable to use the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) lanes designated for buses.

B. Holmes advised that the BRT lanes are for buses only and there is no current plan to revise the by-law to enable other vehicles to access BRT lanes.

**10. Date of Next Meeting**

Tuesday, November 19, 2024 at 7:00 PM

**11. Adjournment**

Moved by M. Bonk, Seconded by A. Ali,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 PM.

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M. Crawford, Chair, Transit Advisory Committee

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Sarah Dessureault, Committee Clerk