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The Regional Municipality of Durham

Durham Region Transit Executive Committee Minutes

Wednesday, September 3, 2025

A regular meeting of the Durham Region Transit Executive Committee was held on Wednesday, September 3, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 1:30 PM

In the absence of Chair Crawford, Vice-Chair Garrod assumed the Chair.

1. Roll Call

Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

* indicates individuals who participated electronically.

Members

Present: Commissioner Garrod, Vice-Chair
Commissioner Anderson
Commissioner Brenner*
Commissioner Jubb*
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Also

Present: Commissioner Leahy

Members

Absent: Commissioner Crawford, Chair
Commissioner Carter

Staff Present: E. Baxter-Trahair*, S. Ciani, D. S. Dessureault, W. Holmes, K. Hornburg, R. Inacio, C. Norris, N. Lysaght, A. Mak, M. Morris, A. Naeem*, A. Pezzetti, J. Rosebush and K. Smith

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Regional Chair Henry made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 7.2, Report #2025-DRT-14: Consideration of Free Transit Fares for Canadian Armed Forces Members. He indicated that his daughter and son-in-law are active full-time members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Commissioner Garrod made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 7.2, Report #2025-DRT-14: Consideration of Free Transit Fares for Canadian Armed Forces Members. He indicated that his son-in-law is an active full-time member of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Commissioner Jubb made a declaration of interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act with respect to Item 7.2, Report #2025-DRT-14: Consideration of Free Transit Fares for Canadian Armed Forces Members. He indicated that he is a veteran.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Motion #29

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
That the minutes of the regular Transit Executive Committee meeting held on Wednesday, June 4, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

4. Presentations

4.1 Bill Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit Re: General Manager's Verbal Update

B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit (DRT) provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the General Manager's Verbal Update.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- General Manager's Information Highlights
- Updates & Highlights
 - September 2nd Service Change
 - Route Productivity
 - Presto Operating Agreement negotiations
 - Canada Public Transit Fund update
 - Summer Engagement Activities
- Transit Fares for Canadian Armed Forces members and veterans

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Correspondence

There were no communications to consider.

7. Reports

7.1 General Manager's Report – September 2025 (2025-DRT-13)

Report #2025-DRT-13 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether individuals experience any challenges when booking On Demand transit services for

recurring trip purposes such as dialysis, and whether the purpose of the trip takes priority.

Staff clarified that based on the TEC decisions in May 2025, new On Demand subscription trips will be available starting October 2025 when the related On Demand processes are planned to be implemented.

Motion #30

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
That Report #2025-DRT-13 of the General Manager, Durham Region
Transit, be received for information.

Carried

7.2 Consideration of Free Transit Fares for Canadian Armed Forces Members
(2025-DRT-14)

Report #2025-DRT-14 from B. Holmes, General Manager, Durham Region Transit, was received.

Staff clarified that for 2025 DRT can accommodate free transit fares for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) personnel on the designated dates within the existing fare marketing budget and will ensure the lost revenue is considered as part of the annual budget process for 2026 and future years.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee regarding the definition of CAF personnel and their current use of DRT; whether the free fares would apply to On Demand; the possibility of a pilot project to assess the impact and cost of providing free transit fares to CAF personnel; whether DRT had consulted other transit providers currently offering this type of service; and the timeline for when program statistics would be available.

B. Holmes clarified that the applicable dates for the free fares would be consistent with the annual Legion poppy campaign, from the last Friday of October through November 11, and that veterans may wear their medals or show the applicable government identification. Revisions to the dates and proof of veteran status requirements, will be reflected in the applicable DRT fare policy and budget documentation.

Motion #31

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Anderson,
That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Durham Region Transit implement free fares for Canadian Armed Forces (CAF) members during Remembrance Week annually; and
- B) That free fare during Remembrance Week annually, apply to current CAF members in uniform and veterans wearing their medals.

Carried on the following Recorded Vote:

Yes: Commissioner Anderson

Commissioner Brenner
Commissioner Mulcahy
Commissioner Wotten

No: None

Members

Absent: Commissioner Crawford
Commissioner Carter

Declaration

of Interest: Commissioner Garrod
Commissioner Jubb
Regional Chair Henry

8. Advisory Committee Resolutions

There were no advisory committee resolutions to be considered.

9. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

10. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

11. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Region Transit Executive Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday, October 8, 2025 at 1:30 PM in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

12. Adjournment

Motion #32

Moved by Commissioner Wotten, Seconded by Commissioner Mulcahy,
That the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 2:13 PM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Garrod
Vice-Chair

S. Dessureault
Committee Clerk