

**Chair Diane Deans
Verbal Update
Transit Commission Meeting
Wednesday, January 16, 2013**

Hello everyone.

I'd like to start by wishing everyone a Happy New Year. I hope that you all had a restful holiday season and were able to spend time with friends and family.

I'd also like to take this opportunity to wish our Transit Commission colleague, Councillor Stephen Blais, a speedy recovery. Councillor Blais suffered a heart attack last week. We are told by his family that he is on the mend. On behalf of the Transit Commission and OC Transpo, I'd like to wish him well – we hope to see him back soon, but only when he's ready to return.

I'm happy to report that late in 2012, Saint Paul University students voted to join the Universal Transit Pass Agreement, better known as the U-Pass program. The agreement between the City of Ottawa and the Saint Paul University took effect January 1st of this year and affects over 400 full-time students. With the endorsement of the U-Pass program, Saint Paul students will now have access to the benefits enjoyed by more than 50,000 Carleton University and University of Ottawa students who receive a full-fare transit pass for \$180 per school term. This new partnership is good news for OC Transpo, the Transit Commission, and the students. We remain committed to working with local colleges, universities and other educational institutions to provide accessible and sustainable transit for our students. Hopefully some of our college students will soon join the program.

As we all know, the future of Transit service in Ottawa is exciting. Now that the Confederation line has been approved the Transit Commission will play a critical role on this transformative project. In 2013, OC Transpo staff will be bringing forward key reports that will shape how service will run during the construction phase and will outline

the fare management for the system. We will also be involved in the naming of stations and the way finding system.

As we move through 2013, the launch of the PRESTO card will be another significant milestone. At our meeting on November 21, 2012, the Transit Commission approved moving forward with the next measured phase of the PRESTO card implementation and approved expanding the use of the card with new customers. As you will hear during the PRESTO update this morning, starting this Friday, January 18, OC Transpo will begin the distribution of up to 10,000 free PRESTO cards to interested customers. Following the distribution, a full technical and customer service review will be conducted and the results will be presented to the Transit Commission in April 2013. Details regarding recommendations on the feasibility to move to full implementation of the PRESTO system will also be provided at that time.

2013 will also see OC Transpo continuing to engage our employees in our quest for service excellence and also work on other key reports such as the Equity and Inclusion Lens of the September 2011 Service changes. We will also hear about the exciting work we have been doing with our Para Transpo customers for the new vehicles and improvements to booking procedures.

I look forward to the work that has been ongoing dealing with the IT review and the feasibility study on the use of cameras for our service.

These are a just a few of the reports that we can expect to see before us this year. This ends my report.