



Transit Commission

Minutes 19

Wednesday, November 18, 2020

9:30 am

Electronic Participation

This Meeting was held through electronic participation in accordance with Section 238 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* as amended by the *COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020*.

- Notes:**
1. *Please note that these Minutes are to be considered DRAFT until confirmed by the Commission.*
 2. *Underlining indicates a new or amended recommendation approved by Commission.*
 3. *Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on 9 December 2020 in Transit Commission Report 7.*

Present:

Chair: Councillor A. Hubley
Vice-Chair: Councillor J. Cloutier
Councillors: R. Brockington, G. Gower, T. Kavanagh,
C. McKenney, J. Sudds and T. Tierney
Public Members: A. Carricato, M. Olsen, L. Williams
and S. Wright-Gilbert

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No Declarations of Interest were filed.

CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Minutes 17 – 21 October 2020

Minutes 18 – 4 November 2020 (Special Meeting)

CONFIRMED

PRESENTATIONS

1. CONFEDERATION LINE AND BUS SERVICE UPDATE

CITY WIDE

John Manconi, General Manager, Transportation Services Department (TSD), Troy Charter, Director, Transit Operations, and Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, provided an oral update and answered questions from the Commission. A copy of their slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

TSD staff undertook to provide communication materials to Members of Commission and Council to promote public transit ridership.

The Commission RECEIVED the presentation for information.

TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

TRANSIT CUSTOMER SYSTEMS AND PLANNING

2. REVISIONS TO BOUNDARY OF URBAN TRANSIT AREA FOR 2021

ACS2020-TSD-TS-0006

CITY WIDE

Referred from the Transit Commission Meeting of November 4, 2020.

Report recommendation

That, at its meeting on November 18, 2020, the Transit Commission recommend that Council approve the revisions to the boundary of the Urban Transit Area as detailed in this report, to be effective January 1, 2021, to provide for the provision of funding for transit service in expanding areas of the city, and that Council enact an implementing By-law.

Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, presented an oral overview of the report recommendation and answered questions from the Commission.

John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments.

The Commission CARRIED the report recommendation as presented.

FINANCE SERVICES DEPARTMENT

CORPORATE FINANCE

3. 2021 DRAFT OPERATING AND CAPITAL BUDGET – TRANSIT COMMISSION

ACS2020-FSD-FIN-0023

CITY WIDE

Referred from the Transit Commission Meeting of November 4, 2020.

John Manconi, General Manager, Transportation Services Department (TSD), presented an overview of the draft 2021 budget. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Mr. Manconi, as well as Wendy Stephanson, Chief Financial Officer, Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, and James Greer, Director, Transit Operations answered questions from the

Commission.

TSD staff undertook to provide:

- A pre-COVID breakdown of ridership based on level of income
- Copies of reports, such as the UITP (*Union Internationale des Transports Publics*) report, to Members of Commission and Council for information

Commissioners received the following submissions, and a copy of each is filed with the Office of the City Clerk:

- Huston Eubank email dated November 11
- Wanda Raymond email dated November 16
- Christine Santel  speaking notes received November 17
- Courage Ottawa and Ottawa Transit Riders comments dated November 2020
- Ottawa Transit Riders and coalition partners comments received November 17
- Arije El-Aina, City for All Women Initiative (CAWI), speaking notes dated November 18

The following delegates spoke before the Commission and provided comments on the draft 2021 budget: Clint Crabtree (ATU Local 279), Laura Shantz of Ottawa Transit Riders (OTR), Kari Glynes Elliott (OTR), Tyler Paziuk, John Redins, Sam Boswell (OTR), Christine Santel , Sam Hersh, Hanadi Alhamawi (CAWI), Tammy Davis (CAWI), Fatima Gimba (CAWI), Khulud Baig (CAWI), Eugenie Waters, Angela Keller-Herzog, and Raymond Leury.

The Commission considered the following motions:

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-01

Moved by Councillor C. McKenney

WHEREAS Ottawa has one of the most expensive transit passes in Canada; and

WHEREAS Ottawa has one of the most expensive single-ride fares in Canada; and

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has brought unprecedented financial hardship to many Ottawa residents, particularly those who are unemployed or working in low wage jobs; and

WHEREAS retail and other front-line workers, and other minimum wage workers are mostly reliant on public transit to get to work;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that transit fares be frozen until the pandemic is declared over and the state of emergency is lifted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that Transit Commission recommend Council direct the Mayor write to the Government of Ontario to request financial assistance to make up the shortfall that a transit freeze would create.

The Chair ruled that Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-01 was out of order.

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-02

Moved by Commissioner M. Olsen

WHEREAS the COVID-19 pandemic has caused untold hardship for thousands of people across the City of Ottawa, in all wards; and,

WHEREAS this has meant that some people have not been able to receive medical treatment they needed, whether for COVID-19 or other illnesses or conditions, but especially for those related to mental health and addictions; and,

WHEREAS the City and OC Transpo have chosen to generate revenue by ticketing people who do not wear masks where they are supposed to; and,

WHEREAS revenues collected could alleviate the inability of people affected to have access to needed medical services;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that all revenues collected by the City and OC Transpo with respect to people not wearing masks be diverted or channelled to help the City's health-care system provide services on mental health and addictions that may otherwise not have a source of funding.

Following discussions, the motion was withdrawn by the mover.

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-03

Moved by Councillor C. McKenney

WHEREAS Ottawa has one of the most expensive transit passes in Canada; and

WHEREAS Ottawa has one of the most expensive single-ride fares in Canada; and

WHEREAS the average processing time for an EquiPass is six weeks; and

WHEREAS the requirement to provide proof of annual income is a barrier to applying to the EquiPass; and

WHEREAS some Canadian municipalities have moved from a single-price low income pass to a sliding scale fare;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff examine options for sliding scale fares and passes; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff examine options for eliminating the means test when applying for any low income or special pass; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that staff report to Transit Commission on their findings including how other cities are managing these issues.

The Motion was LOST, on a division of 5 'Yeas' to 6 'Nays', as follows:

YEAS (5): Commissioners: R. Brockington, G. Gower, T. Kavanagh, C. McKenney and S. Wright-Gilbert,

NAYS (6): Commissioners: A. Carricato, M. Olsen, J. Sudds, T. Tierney, Vice-Chair J. Cloutier and Chair A. Hubley

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-04

Moved by Councillor R. Brockington

WHEREAS the Family DayPass for OC Transpo is only available on Saturdays, Sundays and statutory holidays, allowing a family group to ride

all day on a single DayPass for \$10.75; and

WHEREAS a family can be made up of as many as six people, with a maximum of two aged 13 or older; and

WHEREAS providing additional opportunities for families to ride public transit promotes future ridership; and

WHEREAS it would be beneficial to families to have the Family DayPass also available during March Break, the months of July and August, and the two-week school board over the Christmas week and New Year's holiday period;

WHEREAS providing additional opportunities for families to ride public transit during peak tourist seasons will create an economic boost for Ottawa businesses; and

WHEREAS staff has not yet been able to fully quantify the financial impacts of this change, which could potentially be revenue positive, neutral or negative to the City, but anticipate that any one-time administrative costs and/ or modest revenue impact (if any) can be accommodated through the existing proposed Transit Services operating budget and/or Transit Reserve Fund.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT OC Transpo implement the Family DayPass during the March Break as scheduled in 2021 by the four school boards in Ottawa, beginning on the Saturday through to, and including, the following Sunday; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OC Transpo implement the Family DayPass from July 1 to September 6, 2021; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OC Transpo implement the Family DayPass from the first Saturday of the primary and secondary school Christmas week through the period ending on the Sunday before school classes begin, as scheduled in 2021-22 by the four school boards in Ottawa; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT OC Transpo implement the Family DayPass on Family Day 2021; and

THEREFORE BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT staff report back in the

proposed 2022 budget with any estimated changes to ridership and fare revenue that were recorded in 2021, so that Council can make a decision on whether to make this a regular change to the OC Transpo fare table.

CARRIED

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-05

Moved by Councillor T. Kavanagh

WHEREAS public transit is a core service in the City of Ottawa, and

WHEREAS transit is considered an essential service in our city transportation infrastructure and therefore operations were not reduced during the COVID-19 pandemic, and

WHEREAS it is expected that pandemic-related measures implemented since the beginning of the year will remain in effect for an extended period, and

WHEREAS residents in lower income brackets need reliable and affordable transportation, particularly during the pandemic, and

WHEREAS essential workers who provide critical services across the City need reliable transit service to get to their employment which can be hospitals, Long Term Care facilities and grocery stores, and

WHEREAS public transit is essential as an alternative to private vehicles in reaching our City of Ottawa's Transportation Master Plan and our greenhouse gas reduction targets,

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Transit Commission recommend that Council request the Mayor to write to the Prime Minister as well as the Federal Minister of Finance and Minister of Infrastructure to request that federal funding for transit includes operational costs along with capital investments, to ensure a healthy city and healthy economy.

CARRIED

Motion No. 2020 TTC 19-06

Moved by Vice-Chair J. Cloutier

That the Transit Commission recommend that Council, sitting as Committee of the Whole, approve the Transit Commission 2021 Draft Operating and Capital Budget, as follows:

- 1. Transit Services as follows:**
 - a. User fees (pages 4-6);**
 - b. Operating Resource Requirement (page 3);**
- 2. Transit Commission Capital Budget (pages 7, individual projects listed on pages 15-33).**

The Motion was severed and the Commission voted on recommendation 1, which was CARRIED on a division of 8 'Yeas' to 3 'Nays', as follows:

YEAS (8): Commissioners: R. Brockington, A. Carricato, G. Gower, M. Olsen, J. Sudds, T. Tierney, Vice-Chair J. Cloutier and Chair A. Hubley

NAYS (3): Commissioners: T. Kavanagh, C. McKenney and S. Wright-Gilbert

The Commission then voted on recommendation 2, which was CARRIED, on a division of 9 'Yeas' to 2 'Nays', as follows:

YEAS (9): Commissioners: R. Brockington, A. Carricato, G. Gower, T. Kavanagh, M. Olsen, J. Sudds, T. Tierney, Vice-Chair J. Cloutier and Chair A. Hubley

NAYS (2): Commissioners: C. McKenney and S. Wright-Gilbert

OFFICE OF THE CITY CLERK

COUNCIL AND COMMITTEE SERVICES

4. STATUS UPDATE – TRANSIT COMMISSION INQUIRIES AND MOTIONS FOR THE PERIOD ENDING OCTOBER 30, 2020

Report recommendation

That the Transit Commission receive this report for information.

RECEIVED

MOTIONS OF WHICH NOTICE HAS BEEN PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

COUNCILLOR A. HUBLEY

5. MOTION TO GIVE DIRECTION – TRANSIT FARE WORKING GROUP AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES DEPARTMENT REPORT

ACS2020-OCC-TRA-0007

CITY WIDE

Report recommendations

That the Transit Commission:

- 1. Direct Transportation Services Department staff to analyze and prepare an evaluation of possible ways to further reduce financial barriers which reduce the ability to travel for those who need it the most and can afford it the least, based on a review of solutions adopted in other cities across Canada and around the world;**
- 2. Establish a working group made up of the Chair of Transit Commission, Commissioner McKenney, Commissioner Carricato and the General Manager, Transportation Services, Manager and Strategic Advisor to the General Manager, Chief Financial Officer, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, Director, Employment and Social Services, or their designates to engage in discussions on this matter; and,**

- 3. Direct that Transportation Services Department staff report back to the Transit Commission as part of the next update of the City's Long-Range Financial Plan for Transit, including with any recommendations arising from the working group.**

Chair Hubley provided an overview of the report recommendations and responded to questions from the Commission.

Commissioners received an email from Wanda Raymond dated November 16 with comments, a copy of which is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Kirstin Pulles (Free Transit Ottawa), and John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments.

The Commission CARRIED the report recommendations as presented.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Commission Coordinator

Chair