



CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 11/24/2021

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting

Date: Wednesday, November 24, 2021

Time: 4:30 o'clock p.m.

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 2 - Councillor Costante

Ward 4 - Councillor Holt (Chairperson)

Ward 8 - Councillor Kaschak

Ward 9 - Councillor McKenzie

Councillor Regrets

Ward 1 - Councillor Francis

Clerk's Note: Councillor Kaschak participated via video conference (Zoom), in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic participation during a declared emergency.

ALSO PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Shawna Boakes, Executive Director of Operations / Deputy City Engineer

Tyson Cragg, Executive Director of Transit Windsor

Jeff Hagan, Transportation Planning Senior Engineer

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Chris Nepszy, Commissioner of Infrastructure Services

Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson calls the meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee to order at 4:30 o'clock p.m.

2. DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF

None disclosed.

3. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ETPS STANDING COMMITTEE

3.1. Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee minutes of its meeting held October 27, 2021

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie

Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

THAT the minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee meeting held October 27, 2021 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 357/2021

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None.

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7. COMMITTEE MATTERS

7.1. Minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held September 22, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Costante
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 868**

THAT the minutes of the Windsor Licensing Commission of its meeting held September 22, 2021
BE RECEIVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 337/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

7.2. Report No. 74 of the Windsor Bicycling Committee - Support of the separated bike lane project along University Avenue in 2022

Moved by: Councillor Costante
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 869**

THAT Report No. 74 of the Windsor Bicycling Committee of its electronic poll held on October 22, 2021 indicating:

That the Windsor Bicycling Committee enthusiastically SUPPORTS the proposal to create a separated bike lane pilot project along University Avenue in 2022.

BE APPROVED.

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 350/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

7.3. Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority Regular Board Meeting Minutes - October 5, 2021

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 870**

THAT the minutes of the Essex-Windsor Solid Waste Authority (EWSWA) of its Regular Board Meeting held October 5, 2021 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 364/2021

Clerk's File: MB2021

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7.4. Minutes of the Town & Gown Committee of its meeting held September 29, 2021

Moved by: Councillor Costante
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 871**

THAT the minutes of the Town & Gown Committee of its meeting held September 29, 2021 **BE RECEIVED.**

Carried.

Report Number: SCM 365/2021
Clerk's File: MB2021

8. ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

8.1. Street Lighting Policy - City Wide

Councillor McKenzie requests clarification related to recommendation 4 (a). Shawna Boakes, Executive Director of Operations (A), appears via video conference before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "Street Lighting Policy - City Wide" and indicates that administration was following Council's direction as close as possible related to street lighting and decorative street lighting in particular, related to ongoing maintenance and costs to developers, and provided that information. Ms. Boakes provides the developers role, costs that may be incurred by the residents, the City, and the developers. Administration developed option 4 (a) with these things in mind, which requires that the developers pay for the initial cost of the infrastructure or the City would ask for cash in lieu for future upgrade/maintenance above the norm, and any funds left would be used to replace the poles when required. Administration provides more specific financial details.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the lights themselves and whether there are certain lights and standards that the developers should be adhering to. Ms. Boakes indicates that there are typically 3 different light poles and 2 different fixtures that are similar in nature and the developers get to select from those.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the lifecycle of these lights and are they being considered from an environmentally sustainable lens, and whether there is an opportunity to improve on the existing standards. Ms. Boakes responds that the fixtures are being considered through an environmentally sustainable lens and provides details related to some poles that degraded much faster and how those were eliminated from the choices available. Ms. Boakes adds details related to LED lights, which have been in place for the last 2-3 years, and adds that products are monitored when they are available and reduced wattages are being considered also.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the financial impact and whether this component is included in the Asset Management system moving forward. Ms. Boakes indicates that it is not a part of the

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system yet as a full inventory is not yet complete. Ms. Boakes anticipates that when the data collection is complete and estimates are built in, as well as consultation with planning, the next step would be including this in the Asset Management Plan.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the second part of the recommendation related to the alley lighting policy and can administration be directed to move forward with the policy as part of the Local Improvement Program (LIP) framework. Ms. Boakes indicates there is no specific operational reason why it could not become part of the framework. Ms. Boakes adds that it would be up to Council to determine funding for on-going maintenance and replacements, etc.

Councillor Costante inquires whether inflation and escalating costs are factored in. Ms. Boakes indicates that LED costs in general are decreasing and administration anticipates that technology will cost less in the future.

Councillor Costante inquires whether the process of alley lighting can be included in the LIP framework. Ms. Boakes provides the details related to the LIP process, i.e. the property owners would bear the initial cost and moving forward would be the City's responsibility, after installation the City would take over maintenance and operational costs.

Councillor Kaschak inquires about the Local Improvement petition process and the length of time it takes. Administration provides details related to the process and indicates that the more detailed the project, the longer it may take.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about the timeline for a report back to the committee. Ms. Boakes indicates that she anticipates a report would be ready in February.

Councillor Holt inquires about the difference between the general street lighting policy and the LIP fundamental differences. Ms. Boakes provides the details and indicates that the Local Improvement policy would require updates if changes are made to include street lighting.

Councillor Holt inquires about the LIP being driven by residents and whether it would preclude Council from recommending the installation of alley lights. Ms. Boakes indicates that through the LIP a petition process is still required. Should Council wish to take on a specific project's funding source would have to be provided at Council's direction.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Kaschak

Decision Number: **ETPS 872**

THAT the Street Lighting Policy based on Option 4 (a) of the report, attached as Appendix 1 of this report, **BE ADOPTED**; and,

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THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to incorporate the current Alleyway Lighting Policy into the general Street Lighting Policy and **REPORT BACK** to Council with a proposed by-law amendment for Council's consideration; and further,

THAT Council **APPROVE** the establishment of a new reserve fund for enhanced street lighting.
Carried.

Report Number: S 118/2021
Clerk's File: SL/14255

9. TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS

9.1. Transit Windsor and University of Windsor U-Pass Amendments – City Wide

Councillor McKenzie indicates that this program is a critically important program and commends Mr. Cragg and his team for keeping the program and discussion going during these challenging times.

Moved by: Councillor Kaschak
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 873**

THAT the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign the attached addenda to the U-Pass Agreement, along with any future amendments to the current agreement, with the UWSA, GSS, and OPUS, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, in financial content to the City Treasurer, and in technical content to the Commissioner, Infrastructure Services, and the Executive Director of Transit Windsor.

Carried.

Report Number: S 143/2021
Clerk's File: MT2021

9.2. Transit Windsor 2022 Operating Budget - City Wide

Councillor Costante inquires about the 418X transit route, and in accordance with the Transit Master plan, will the start date be this year. Tyson Cragg, Executive Director of Transit Windsor, appears via video conference before the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "Transit Windsor 2022 Operating Budget - City Wide" and indicates that there will be a capital requirement to that route of 6 busses and producing a schedule will take some time. Mr. Cragg indicates that September 2022 would be a more feasible start time for this route.

Councillor Costante inquires about ridership and the rates pre-Covid compared to current rates. Mr. Cragg indicates that during the lockdown ridership was at 15%. The latest ridership data shows that

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the rate is up to 52% of pre-pandemic ridership. Mr. Cragg adds that the University and College indicate a projection of increased physical presence on campus and increased enrollment in Fall/Winter would likely indicate that ridership will continue to increase.

Councillor Costante inquires about the financial model for the 418X route. Mr. Cragg provides the details of the initial approximate capital investment of \$4.2 million, which will include ICIP funding and a contribution from the City, which is part of the not recommended budget due to other pressures. Mr. Cragg provides details related to the annual operations costing.

Councillor Costante inquires about direct access to the Lancer centre through a transit route related to the 418X route. Mr. Cragg indicates that modifications would be required to the 1C or 2 routes. Mr. Cragg adds that without the modifications to the other routes, adding the 418X route only may lead to some negative impacts on other routes.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about ridership and future growth. Mr. Cragg indicates that they are very optimistic for 2022 and will return 50-60% driven by students, and perhaps a full recovery for 2023.

Councillor McKenzie inquires about skip stop and express routes and the status of the 518X route. Mr. Cragg indicates that the 518X route has been operating for 2 ½ months and seems to be very promising, with strong ridership, 1500-1800 people, weekday and weekend.

Councillor Kaschak inquires about the tunnel bus. Mr. Cragg indicates that the tunnel bus had a small commuter base, which made up the primary ridership, and they have a cost effective model in place for these riders, although the pandemic halted that travel due to border restrictions as a result of COVID-19. Mr. Cragg explains about the single ridership revenue and the proposed increase to cover costs.

Councillor McKenzie stresses the importance of the 418X route and the importance of deploying the master plan and proceeding with enhancements to other lines on the route hinges on the 418X first. Mr. Cragg indicates that based on the Transit Master Plan, the 418X would by-pass the downtown area and changes to the 1C and 2 Routes cannot happen until the 418X route begins.

Councillor Holt expresses concern with the transit budget being included in the 2022 proposed budget documents prior to the Transit Board discussing it. Chris Nepszy, Commissioner of Infrastructure Services, appears before the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee regarding the administrative report "Transit Windsor 2022 Operating Budget - City Wide" and indicates moving forward this will not be the case.

Councillor Holt inquires as to the impacts if the committee made changes. Mr. Nepszy indicates that changes during budget deliberations usually happen and details related to exact dollar amounts would be determined during the budget deliberation process, as there will still be an opportunity for changes.

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Moved by: Councillor Costante
Seconded by: Councillor McKenzie

Decision Number: **ETPS 874**

THAT the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee, sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors, **RECOMMEND** Transit Windsor's 2022 Operating Budget reflective of a Property Tax Levy Contribution of \$16,338,336 which is \$751,892 (or 4.82%) greater than the 2021 Property Tax Levy contribution; and,

THAT Transit Windsor's 2022 Operating Budget **BE REFERRED** to City Council for consideration as part of the City's 2022 Operating Budget deliberations; and,

THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back during the 2022 budget deliberation process, regarding possible transit access to the University of Windsor Lancer Centre within the existing route framework without impacting current routes, and without impacting the tax levy and existing level of service; and,

THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to report back during the 2022 budget deliberation process, regarding options to include the Transit Windsor Bus Route 418X, beginning in September 2022, without impacting the tax levy (by utilizing capital funds + ICIP); and further,

THAT Administration **BE DIRECTED** to work with the University of Windsor to collaborate on either direct transit access to the Lancer Centre or Bus Route 418X for 2022.
Carried.

Report Number: S 145/2021
Clerk's File: AFB/14256

9.3. Amendment to the Transit Windsor and University of Windsor U-Pass Agreement for the Winter 2022 Semester - City Wide

The members thank administration for creatively working and keeping this agreement alive during difficult times.

Moved by: Councillor McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Costante

Decision Number: **ETPS 875**

THAT the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee, sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors, and City Council **APPROVE** Transit Administration's recommendation to change the mandatory participation rate from 75% to 50% for the existing Universal Bus Pass (U-Pass) Agreement with the University of Windsor Students' Alliance (UWSA), the Graduate Student Society (GSS) and the Organization of Part Time University Students (OPUS), for the Winter Semester from January 1st, 2022 until April 31st, 2022; and,

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THAT the Chief Administrative Officer and the City Clerk **BE AUTHORIZED** to sign the attached recommended addendum to the U-Pass Agreement, with the UWSA, GSS, and OPUS, satisfactory in form to the City Solicitor, in financial content to the City Treasurer, and in technical content to the Commissioner, Infrastructure Services, and the Executive Director of Transit Windsor.

Carried.

Report Number: S 147/2021

Clerk's File: MT2021

10. ADOPTION OF TRANSIT BOARD MINUTES

None presented.

11. QUESTION PERIOD

None registered.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee is adjourned at 6:02 o'clock p.m. The next meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee will be held December 15, 2021.

Carried.

Ward 4 – Councillor Holt
(Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk /
Supervisor of Council Services