Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Meeting Agenda

Date: Wednesday, September 25, 2024
Time: Immediately following the 4:30 o'clock p.m. Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting

Location: Council Chambers, 1st Floor, Windsor City Hall

All members will have the option of participating in person in Council Chambers or electronically and will be counted towards quorum in accordance with Procedure By-law 98-2011 as amended, which allows for electronic meetings. The minutes will reflect this accordingly. Any delegations have the option to participate in person or electronically.

MEMBERS:

Ward 2 – Councillor Fabio Costante (Chairperson)

Ward 3 – Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 4 – Councillor Mark McKenzie

Ward 8 – Councillor Gary Kaschak

Ward 9 – Councillor Kieran McKenzie

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Item #	Item Description
1.	**CALL TO ORDER**
2.	**DISCLOSURE OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND THE GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**
3.	**ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES OF THE ETPS STANDING COMMITTEE SITTING AS THE TRANSIT WINDSOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS**
3.1.	Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors minutes of its meeting held July 31, 2024 **(SCM 232/2024)**
4.	**REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS**
5.	**COMMUNICATIONS**
6.	**PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS**
9.	**TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS**
11.	**NEW BUSINESS**
12.	**ADJOURNMENT**

Item No. 3.1

Committee Matters: SCM 232/2024

Subject: Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors minutes of its meeting held July 31, 2024

Environment, Transporation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Meeting

Date: Wednesday, July 31, 2024
Time: Immediately following the 4:30 o'clock p.m. Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Meeting

Members Present:

Councillors
Ward 2 - Councillor Fabio Costante (Chairperson)
Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino
Ward 8 - Councillor Gary Kaschak
Ward 9 - Councillor Kieran McKenzie

Councillors Regrets
Ward 4 - Councillor Mark McKenzie

PARTICIPATING VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Sandra Gebauer, Council Assistant

ALSO PARTICIPATING IN COUNCIL CHAMBERS ARE THE FOLLOWING FROM ADMINISTRATION:

Mark Winterton, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer (Interim)
David Simpson, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer
Tyson Cragg, Executive Director, Transit Windsor
Mark Spizzirri, Manager Performance Measurement & Business Case Development
Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chairperson calls the meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors to order at 5:36 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 SITTING AS THE TRANSIT WINDSOR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

3.1. Adoption of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors minutes of its meeting held June 26, 2024

Moved by: Councillor Gary Kaschak
Seconded by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie

THAT the minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors meeting held June 26, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 199/2024

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

9. TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS

9.1. Response to Instructional Memo TWB 1: 2023 Transit Windsor Service Performance Update - City Wide

Councillor Kieran McKenzie requests that administration provide a brief overview of the report. Mark Winterton, Commissioner, Infrastructure Services & City Engineer (Interim) appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors regarding the administrative report dated April 5, 2024, entitled “Response to Instructional Memo TWB 1: 2023 Transit Windsor Service Performance Update - City Wide” and responds that the report was approached as a mid-year master plan update that was meant to address challenges identified early in the year and the opportunities to improve service delivery. Ridership has increased 13% compared to pre-covid numbers. The introduction of the College and University programs have greatly increased student ridership which has introduced new challenges. With increased numbers, come increased complaints that are being addressed in the report. There is funding in excess of $100 Million coming forward along with an announcement from the federal government about an ongoing sustainable funding mechanism for transit initiatives. There are plans to modernize and increase the fleet, new routes, new east side terminal, expanding the west side terminal and there is also ongoing work at the transit garage.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether ridership is currently greater now than ever before in our City. Mr. Winterton responds that is correct.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the impact of student ridership and how the challenges are being addressed. Mr. Winterton responds that the University pass and College pass programs have been very successful, largely driven by international students, but benefits all students. It has put pressure on some of the routes. What was supposed to be a money maker for Transit Windsor, because of the excess usage, it has gone upside down in terms of the impact. Administration is currently in discussion with the University and the College to modify our funding model. The City did secure a rate increase for the University, but the college pass is not up for renewal until 2025, at which point they would be looking for a rate increase as well.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether the revenues come directly from the students. Mr. Winterton responds that the pass is included as part of their tuition. The institutions currently do not contribute.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether it is or should be part of the discussion that the institutions recognize that they have a role to play in addressing some of these challenges. Mr. Winterton responds that the conversations are ongoing. We have not yet concluded the negotiations, but items such as deferred capital works are very much part of the discussion.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires how the increased ridership number compares to pre-pandemic. Tyson Cragg, Executive Director Transit Windsor appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors regarding the administrative report dated April 5, 2024, entitled “Response to Instructional Memo TWB 1: 2023 Transit Windsor Service Performance Update - City Wide” and responds that all ridership numbers are up, and adds that year to date all fare categories are up compared to 2023.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the demand on the most frequently used routes. Mr. Cragg responds that the east/west corridors are among the most heavily used and they have three primary routes.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires as to how we can increase the capacity without increasing the frequency. Mr. Cragg responds that accordion busses have been considered, but there are some built environment constraints in terms of bus bays and current facilities. Once the facility upgrades are complete, the next step would be to move to an articulated bus.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires as to what the strategy to increase capacity is if the demand is already surpassing frequency. Mr. Cragg responds that there are long lead times for procurement. The 19 buses on order are 40-foot buses. We have made significant improvements, replacing half our fleet since 2022. In terms of successfully improving levels of service, it is a process, and these things take time.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the timeline of the annual reports. Mr. Winterton responds that it is tabled before this committee and referred to budget.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether this data can be included in the annual report. Mr. Winterton responds that they will do that.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about the percentage of riders that are not students. Mr. Cragg responds that student ridership contributes to 50% of all riders. This is consistent with other college towns. The other 50% is anyone who is not a student.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether students refers to high school, college and university students. Mr. Cragg indicates that it is primarily college and university students because it is through the tuition-based pass programs. We do have high school students as well which account for about 5-10%. The monthly passes are not used solely for school. It could be used for employment or leisure.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the 17-18 buses will be delivered this year. Mr. Cragg responds that they are currently in production and are expected this winter, likely January or February 2025. Mr. Winterton responds that there is about 1 year procurement time to receive the buses.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether there are enough drivers to handle the increase. Mr. Cragg responds that they are fully staffed.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the City is approaching a break-even point on our expenditures vs. the revenue from fares. Mr. Winterton responds that the transit system runs at a deficit as it is a service to the community, which is in about the 50% range. As we get more riders, the numbers will improve.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether there are any delays with the east end terminal. Mr. Winterton responds that everything is proceeding. They did encounter an environmental glitch, with the ministry requiring the City to go through an additional planning process that delayed the schedule by a few months.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the current location at Tecumseh Mall is still satisfactory in the meantime. Mr. Winterton indicates that they would like to move on to the new terminal as quickly as possible.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is an opportunity to expand upon the culture of public transit by providing an immersive experience at bus stops with a QR code or something similar that can tell a story of the history of our transit system. Mr. Winterton indicates that they do have a marketing arm. In the master plan there is an element of branding that transit has not yet fully explored. The idea of public transit being a viable transit option, not just for students, but for everyone should be marketed and branded to continue the positive vibe. The transit department will report to the economic development area, this is strategic because the role that Transit Windsor plays in the growth and success in this community is part of that messaging.

Moved by: Councillor Kieran McKenzie
Seconded by: Councillor Gary Kaschak

Decision Number: **TWB 4**
THAT the report of the Executive Director, Transit Windsor dated April 5, 2024 entitled “Response to Instructional Memo TWB 1: 2023 Transit Windsor Service Performance Update - City Wide” **BE RECEIVED** by the Environment, Transportation and Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors.
Carried.

Report Number: S 42/2024
Clerk’s File: MT/13708

11. NEW BUSINESS

None presented.

12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors is adjourned at 6:07 o'clock p.m. The next meeting of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors will be held Wednesday, September 25, 2024.
Carried.

Ward 2 – Councillor Costante (Chairperson)	Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council Services