



CITY OF WINDSOR MINUTES 10/29/2025

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

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025

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

Members Present:

Councillors

Ward 3 - Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Ward 8 - Councillor Gary Kaschak

Ward 9 - Councillor Kieran McKenzie (Chairperson)

Councillor 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:

Jelena Payne, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer / Commissioner, Economic Development

James Chacko, Acting Executive Director, Transit Windsor

Mark Spizzirri, Manager, Performance Measurement & Business Case Development

Anna Ciacelli, Deputy City Clerk

Minutes

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Page 2 of 6

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 4:31 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 September 24, 2025

Moved by: Councillor Gary Kaschak
Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

THAT the minutes of the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors meeting held September 24, 2025 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.
Carried.

Report Number: SCM 299/2025

4. REQUEST FOR DEFERRALS, REFERRALS OR WITHDRAWALS

None requested.

5. COMMUNICATIONS

None presented.

6. PRESENTATIONS AND DELEGATIONS

None presented.

Minutes

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Page 3 of 6

9. TRANSIT BOARD ITEMS

9.1. 2025 Transit Windsor Second Quarter Service Report - City Wide

James Chacko, Acting Executive Director, Transit Windsor

James Chacko, Acting 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 September 18, 2025, entitled "2025 Transit Windsor Second Quarter Service Report - City Wide" and provides an overview of the ridership numbers year to date, indicating that there is an overall reduction in ridership due to having fewer international students, but an increase in adult and youth ridership. Overall, there is a 13% reduction in ridership vs 2024.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is data from the college and university regarding reductions in registration. Mr. Chacko responds that St. Clair College reports that there is a 23% decrease in overall student population. There has been an uptick in domestic students, which has helped to offset the reduction in international students.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether administration is expecting further ridership reductions as we progress through the winter. Mr. Chacko responds that until 3rd and 4th quarter data is reviewed, we won't have accurate projections for 2026. Meetings with the student associations regarding the C-pass and U-pass agreements suggest that the overall numbers of students is plateauing.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the St. Clair College strike affected ridership. Mr. Chacko responds that the Transit Windsor stops were diverted to Cabana Rd as the busses did not cross the picket line. Overall ridership did not fluctuate a great deal from the previous year.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires about rider by-pass numbers and if they are elevated during high school peak periods. Mr. Chacko responds that during afternoon rush hour, typically between 2:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. from schools and shiftwork there may be some by-passing. There has been a slight decrease from 0.72% to 0.65% overall.

Jelena Payne, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, Commissioner, Economic Development appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors regarding the administrative report dated September 18, 2025, entitled "2025 Transit Windsor Second Quarter Service Report - City Wide" and adds that the addition of the 20,000 extra hours has reduced frequency times across the entire system. Wait times have improved.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the Gas Tax calculation can be appealed to request the shortfall of funding. Mr. Chacko responds that the finance team have been working to ensure that

Minutes

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Page 4 of 6

we are receiving adequate per rider share of funding. There is no update for how the calculations will be completed going forward. Projections have been very conservative based on worst-case scenario funding.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether there is a ballpark figure for free ridership for voters in the by-election. Mr. Chacko responds that free ridership was minimal and did not impact operations.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether there is an opportunity for advocacy related to the reduction of the Gas Tax. Mark Spizzirri, Manager Performance Measurement and Business Case Development appears before the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors regarding the administrative report dated September 18, 2025, entitled "2025 Transit Windsor Second Quarter Service Report - City Wide" and responds that in terms of ridership, if the formula had been maintained consistently, we would have likely generated a greater revenue from the Gas Tax; because the previous year's formula was used, that was deemed to be the shortfall for us.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks that if there is a fare box malfunction, if that ride is counted.

James Chacko responds that if there are fare box issues, the drivers are instructed to ensure that payment is received. Then details are provided back to the supervisor. All buses are expected to have APC installed which will take about a 6-week period that will track boarding and exiting passengers in the event that there is a discrepancy at the fare box.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks if there are issues with transfer passengers being counted. Mr. Chacko responds that with the fare box system currently utilized (APC), that would indicate numbers of passengers that board and exit the buses but would not indicate if they were a transfer.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the on-time data. With ridership numbers being down, that should improve timeliness. Ms. Payne responds that there are several factors that affect timeliness including construction and detours. In the next round of statistics, we will probably see that as a significant contributor.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires whether the increase in adult and youth ridership is trending towards local residents. Mr. Chacko responds that from 2024 to 2025 that the trend has been positive upward movement.

Councillor Kieran McKenzie asks if there is any insight for senior ridership remaining stagnant. Mr. Chacko responds that speculation can be made that seniors are living in developments in closer proximity to amenities where they are walking and a bus is not needed. Demographics in our community also change and can be tracked.

Minutes

Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Standing Committee Sitting as the Transit Windsor Board of Directors Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Page 5 of 6

Councillor Kieran McKenzie inquires about the dip in tunnel bus ridership and whether it was the result of people moving away from using the service as it is winding down. Mr. Chacko responds that the tunnel bus service will be ending and people may be transitioning to other options. There was also a reduction of special events ridership that may be related to tariffs, financial uncertainty, and Canadian residents expressing concerns with wanting to spend money in the United States.

Councillor Renaldo Agostino inquires whether there is any data from the Linq bus regarding border crossing. Mr. Chacko responds that they see the Linq buses continuing to operate so they assume that they are generating revenue. Our special events bus is continuing to be used and fills up.

Councillor Gary Kaschak inquires whether the City negotiated an agreement with Linq regarding the use of the downtown terminal and potential revenues coming to the city. Mr. Chacko responds that there is no agreement with Linq. We continue to have agreements with Flex Bus and Active Trailways and continue to look at opportunities to expand those relationships.

Moved by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Seconded by: Councillor Gary Kaschak

Decision Number: **TWB 20**

THAT the report of the Acting Executive Director, Transit Windsor dated September 18, 2025 entitled "2025 Transit Windsor Second Quarter Service Report – City Wide" **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried.

Report Number: S 118/2025

Clerk's File: MT/13708

11. NEW BUSINESS

Moved by: Councillor Gary Kaschak

Seconded by: Councillor Renaldo Agostino

Decision Number: **TWB 21**

THAT administration **BE DIRECTED** to continue to advocate to senior levels of government for the gas tax funding formula to remain consistent with what it has been in years past prior to policy changes.

Carried.

Clerk's File: GM2025

Minutes

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

Wednesday, October 29, 2025

Page 6 of 6

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 4:57 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 November 26, 2025.

Carried.

Ward 9 – Councillor Kieran McKenzie
(Chairperson)

Deputy City Clerk / Supervisor of Council
Services