

Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, November 23, 2011 - 4:45pm

Civic Square (City Hall) – Council Ante Room 2nd Floor

Mission Statement: ‘To provide a safe, reliable public transportation system, which meets the needs of our community, while innovatively addressing the challenges of the future.’

Minutes from Agenda Items

Present: Tom Bacolini, Ron Boyer, Richard Dilts, Jean Lefor, Giulia Forsythe, Derek Swartz, Alfred Stockwell, Dave Evans

Regrets: Pat Chiochio, Keith McClatchie, Margaret Fortin

Approval of November 23, 2011 Agenda

Agenda was moved by Tom Bacolini and seconded by Jean Lefor.

Approval of June 22, 2011 Minutes

Minutes of June 22, 2011 meeting were moved by Ron Boyer and seconded by Richard Dilts.

Notation: September meeting was cancelled due to lack of quorum.

Members were advised to call in advance if they cannot make the meeting.

Item

To Discuss

10-13 **Name Change from Handi Trans to “WellTrans” as approved by Council .**
Council approved name change to WellTrans.

09-19 **Inter Municipal Transit (Regional) Update:** An update was provided for the Regional Transit. Ridership is low but that was expected for the first period. Fare distribution has been finalized and Christmas period Hours of Service determined. Discussions taking place about policies and possible multi ride or monthly pass payment options.

09- 24 **Automatic Stop Announcement System – Update –**
Work still remaining on this item. This organization has had new ownership twice in the past year with numerous staff turnover. Transit Manager will be in contact with organization about ongoing concerns.

11-02 Meeting dates: Members confirmed that 4th Wednesday of every second month is the best time to meet. Transit Manager to send out dates for 2012 meetings.

11-06 Interlining Buses Route 1 and 8

The interlining of Routes 1 and 8 is working well and helping to lower the number of missed trips. With temporary construction on River Rd. interlining may be affected.

11-11 A-ODA Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

The A-ODA Integrated Standard has been passed by the Legislature and will come into effect on July 1, 2011. The Integrated Standard includes the former Transportation Standard and several of these standards come into effect for July 1, and then January 1, 2012.

NEW BUSINESS

Ridership Update

Ridership statistics were provided for the months of June, July, August, September, and October 2011 with comparisons to 2010. Ridership and fare box revenue is noticeably increasing.

Inter-Municipal Transit

- Brock Link (formerly Welland – St. Catharines Connection)
- Niagara on the Lake Link (NOTL)

Both the Brock Link and the NOTL Link have increased ridership over 2010. This was put in perspective as the trips were different in 2010 on the Brock Link. However it is noted that ridership on these routes is increasing.

WellTrans Statistics

Comparisons of statistics for June, July, August, September, October of 2011 were compared to the same months for 2010. Ridership is fairly steady as compared year to year.

11-12 BUSU U Pass Agreement: It was noted that an agreement was reached with Brock University Students Union (BUSU) just prior to September start of service.

11-13 Niagara College U Pass agreement: an agreement was reached with Niagara College Student Administration Council (NCSAC) prior to start of school year and a revised, improved schedule with added trips was later approved by Council.

11-14 Route 3 First Ave. is now Accessible: Route 3 First Avenue has been accessible since September. This now provides an accessible bus to Niagara College as well as Seasons retirement Home, Elmview, Birchwood and the Wellness Complex. This means an accessible

low floor bus will be guaranteed on this route. As well, all stops have been made accessible which means stops will have access to the road with a paved path.

11-15 Detours Construction:

- 1. Niagara St. and West Main – Construction in this area is delaying buses as bridge is limited to one lane and traffic backs up both on bridge and Niagara St. southbound.**
- 2. River Rd. – construction on River Rd. will force Transit to abandon River Rd. due to road closure. # 8 Woodlawn will use Niagara St to Woodlawn to Wal Mart to seaway Mall to College and return via Woodlawn and Niagara St.
Route # 1 Broadway will service River Rd. to Bruce St. during construction period at approximately 5 after and 25 to the hour.**

11-16 Blue Bird Buses: Two reports are going to Council about the Blue Bird buses. The first report is to repair the structure of 3 of the buses. The second report is for the early replacement of these buses. Issues relate to poor performance, poor quality for parts, costly replacement parts and unreliability for service.

Other Items:

11-17 Christmas – New Years Transit Schedule. Transit will operate in accordance with the schedule below.

- **Dec. 24 Christmas Eve. Last trips from terminal are 6:15 pm**
- **Dec. 25 Sunday, Christmas day - no service**
- **Dec. 26 Boxing day – no service**
- **Dec. 27 Lieu of Christmas – no service**
- **Dec. 31 New Years Eve. – Last trips from terminal are 6:15 pm**
- **Sunday Jan. 1, 2012 New Years Day – no service**
- **Monday Jan. 2, 2012 lieu of New Years day – no service**

11-18 Buses Turning Sign: Concern raised that buses were in a vulnerable position when turning left out of Terminal onto Dorothy/Hellems. Request was made for a sign to warn motorists.

11-19 Harmonized Sales Tax and Transit Passes: The Transit Manager made the Committee aware of a potential concern because of a Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) ruling with Cornwall Transit. CRA has made a definition that “public” refers only to a member of the public and not to an agency or commission or school board. This would mean that the U-Pass may be subject to HST charges and higher costs for Student Associations. As well, Agents that purchase passes and tickets from Transit may have to be charged HST but as they sell these passes to the public they would not be able to recoup these costs. Transit is working with the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) and Ontario Public Transportation Association (OPTA) to resolve this issue.

Motion was passed to support the Transit Associations in raising awareness and reversing this decision.

Motion Passed: That the Welland Transit Advisory Committee recommends that City Council support the Transit Initiative to raise awareness and the need for change on this issue.

Motion moved by Ron Boyer and seconded by Tom Bacolini. Motion passed full support.

Next Meeting Date: time and date of 2012 meetings to be determined. Members confirmed that the 4th Wednesday of every second month at 4:45 pm was the best time for the TAC meeting.