

# Transit Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

**January 13, 2010**

**Attendance:** Tom Bacolini, Ruth Coxon, Deanna Villella, Mark Dzugan, Richard Dilts, Keith McClatchie, Ron Boyer, Jean Lefor, Dave Evans, Alfred Stockwell

**Regrets:** Margaret Fortin

## **Business from the Meeting**

Nov. 4, 2009 Minutes approved

Jan, 2010 Agenda approved

### **Item**

### **Discussion**

**09-15 Route 5 Lincoln-Wellington – Lincoln St. Plaza:** This item will remain on the Agenda until July when buses will stop entering the Plaza about the end of June.

**09-19 Draft Inter Municipal Transit Update:** Committee was notified that Welland will no longer act as sponsor for the application process for the Green Municipal Funds for a “regional transit initiative”.

**09-22 Holiday/Special Event Proposal:** the Transit Manager has requested a list of City Events that are planned for the upcoming year so Transit could make a proposal for transit for special events.

**09-23 Automatic Stop Announcement System:** Transit Manager made Committee aware that Council approved Transit’s recommendation to enter into an agreement with Grey Island for the Automated Stop Announcement System. This system also includes the “NextBus”

system which will allow passengers to view a realistic arrival time of the bus at their specific bus stop.

**09-29 Construction and Detours:** Construction on Woodlawn and Thorold Rd. continue to cause traffic congestion and delays for Transit. Presently the #3 First St. bus is detouring on the return trip to the Terminal it will be following Prince Charles to West Main to Division St to Hellems and into the Terminal. The Lincoln St. and King St. areas will be missed while this detour is in effect. Passengers are requested to use Route # 1 for service in this area. this detour is expected to last until the construction is finished.

## **New Business**

### **10-01 Ridership Update:**

**10-01.1 November and December 2009** ridership numbers were presented at the meeting. November ridership was 69,433 which represents an increase of 8.87% or 5,658 more trips more than November 2008 statistics. December ridership was 61,150, an increase of 14.49% or 7,740 more than December 2008 totals. These numbers include all totals including both Pt. Colborne buses, Pelham and the Welland-St. Catharines Connection statistics.

**10-01.2 Conventional Yearly 2008 vs. 2009 Passenger Statistics:** The Annual Ridership totals from 2008 were 633,413 passenger trips as compared to 2009's annual total which was 688,168 passenger trips. The 2009 statistics represent an increase of 54,755 trips or an 8.64% increase over 2008 statistics. These numbers include all totals including both Pt. Colborne buses, Pelham and the Welland-St. Catharines Connection statistics.

**10-01.3 Conventional In Town 2008 vs 2009 statistics** The total In Town ridership total for 2008 was 526,655 while the In Town ridership total for 2009 was 565,743. This number represents an increase of 39,088 passenger trips or a 7.42% increase over 2008 numbers. Thwese numbers represent the ridership on the In Town services and do not include any numbers from the Welland – St. Catharines Connection, Pt. Colborne or the Pelham buses.

**10-01.4 Handi Trans comparison 2008 – 2009:** Handi-Trans ridership numbers were compared from January to October. The totals show a

decline of about 560 passengers during this time frame. Welland Transit continues to excel in rides per hour as compared to other Transit organizations across the country.

## **Inter Municipal Transit**

### **10-01.5 Welland –St. Catharines Connection Totals 2008 vs. 2009**

The Welland – St. Catharines Connection ridership totals for November showed significant increases of 987 and 1856 for November and December of 2009, respectively. The annual ridership total for 2008 was 93,120 while the 2009 annual ridership was 98,267. this represents an increase of 5,147 passenger trips or a 5.53% increase.

**10-01.6 Pt. Colborne Link:** Ridership numbers decreased on this run in November from 730 in 2008 to 694 in 2009. The numbers for December increased from 492 in December 2008 to 573 in December of 2009.

**10-01.7 Pt. Colborne Community:** for November 2009 the ridership numbers increased from 1,007 to 2,143 in November of 2009. The December totals increased from 1079 in 2008 to 2,533 in December of 2009.

Pt. Colborne contracts these services and is quite pleased with the ridership numbers on these routes. There is the possibility of expansion to a Saturday service for the Community Bus Route.

**10-02 Pass and Transfer Advertising:** the Committee viewed the new Monthly Passes and Transfers with the advertising on the back.

### **10-03 Bus Purchases**

**10-03.1 2009:** Transit is expecting delivery of one large low floor bus through the Joint Procurement Initiative in March of 2009 and one small low floor bus in February of 2010.

**10-03.2 2010:** For the 2010 year Transit will be ordering one large low floor bus, one small low floor bus and two Specialized Transit buses for the Handi-Trans.

**10-04 CUTA Campaigns:** The Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) to which Welland Transit belongs is running two campaigns to promote public transit in each community. The first campaign is the “Retire Your Ride” campaign wherein the federal government through Environment Canada and the Clean Air alliance will refund persons

retiring their older vehicle with either cash or refunds towards transit passes.

The second campaign is an initiative to obtain a permanent dedicated transit infrastructure investment program from the federal government. This would bring the federal government in as partners with the Province and the local municipality and allow transit to plan ahead to ensure reliable and affordable transit services and reduce the financial impact on cities and towns.

**10-05 Accessibility Issues:** Transit, much as the rest of the City has completed customer service training for all required employees. This regulation is required under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (A-ODA).

**Bus Shelters - Smart Centre – Wal Mart.** Transit has completed an agreement with Smart Centres that will allow two bus shelters for passengers to be erected at this location. This item is for information purposes as this item is being dealt with at the Accessibility Committee to which the Transit Manager belongs.

**Discount fares for Seniors on Handi-Trans** as compared to Conventional Transit. There is a difference in fares and this will be corrected once the Accessibility Standard for Transportation is legislated. This item, as well, is for information purposes as this item is being dealt with at the Accessibility Committee to which the Transit Manager belongs.

**10-06 Summer Bus Promo:** Discussion took place regarding the Summer Bus Promotion for Students and whether Transit would be offering this promotion again this year. Although sales were not as high as expected it was felt that with earlier promotion this venture would be more successful.

**10-07 Transit Terminal Update:** It was confirmed that the RFP for Operating and Maintaining the Welland Transit Terminal received three bids and they will be reviewed and evaluated.