



## Transit Commission

### Minutes

**Meeting #:** 7  
**Date:** Thursday, September 14, 2023  
**Time:** 9:30 am  
**Location:** Champlain Room, 110 Laurier Avenue West, and by electronic participation

**Present:** Chair Glen Gower, Vice-Chair Cathy Curry, Councillor Riley Brockington, Councillor Marty Carr, Councillor David Hill, Councillor Jeff Leiper, Councillor Wilson Lo, Councillor Shawn Menard, Councillor Tim Tierney

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1. Notices and meeting information for meeting participants and the public  
  
Notices and meeting information are attached to the agenda and minutes, including: availability of simultaneous interpretation and accessibility accommodations; *in camera* meeting procedures; information items not subject to discussion; personal information disclaimer for correspondents and public speakers; notices regarding minutes; and hybrid participation details.  
  
Accessible formats and communication supports are available, upon request.  
  
Except where otherwise indicated, reports requiring Council consideration will be presented to Council on September 27, 2023 in Transit Commission Report 7.  
  
The deadline to register by phone to speak, or submit written comments or visual presentations is 4 pm on September 13, 2023, and the deadline to register to by email speak is 8:30 am on September 14, 2023.
2. Declarations of Interest  
  
No Declarations of Interest were filed.

## 3. Confirmation of Minutes

3.1 TTC Minutes 6 – June 29, 2023**Carried**

## 4. Responses to Inquiries

4.1 Fraud and Waste Hotline complaints alleging Highway Traffic Act and standard operating procedures non-compliance by OC Transpo operators

## 5. Presentations

5.1 OC Transpo Update – Rail, Bus, and Para Transpo

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, Troy Charter, Director, Transit Service Delivery and Rail Operations, Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, James Greer, Director, Transit Bus Operations and Maintenance, Paul Treboutat, Chief Safety Officer, and Chad Maahs, Manager, Bus and Para Transit Operations, provided a verbal update and answered questions from the Commission. A copy of their slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Lisa Bishop-Spencer, Director, Strategic Communications and External Relations, and Isabelle Jasmin, Deputy City Treasurer, Corporate Finance, also answered questions from Commission.

Commission received a letter from Mr. Jan Lam dated September 11, and a copy is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Kyle Humphrey and John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments on the presentation.

TSD staff undertook to provide information of the costs for a no-charge introductory period for Lines 2 and 4 at launch, as well as for Line 1 for that period.

Commission provided the following direction to staff:

**Direction to staff** (Councillor S. Menard)

The recent shutdown of the light rail system has had a significant impact on transit riders across the city.

Cities throughout North America and across the world—including Calgary; Boston, MA; Athens, GA; Tampa, FL; Tallinn, Estonia; Hasselt, Belgium;

Akureyri, Iceland; Catania, Italy—as well as the state of Connecticut and the country of Luxembourg, have employed free transit as a policy tool to enhance public transit.

Transit Commission directs Transit Services staff to review associated cost and revenue impacts of providing six months of free transit for high-volume routes on congested major arteries—specifically Bank Street, Hazeldean Road, St. Joseph Boulevard, Montreal Road and Carling Avenue—as compensation for the recent shutdown of Light Rail Transit.

6. Finance and Corporate Services Department

6.1 2023 Transit Operating and Capital Budget Q2 Status Report

File No. ACS-2023-FCS-FSP-0013 – City-Wide

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, and Isabelle Jasmin, Deputy City Treasurer, Corporate Finance, answered questions from the Commission.

Finance staff undertook to list RTG/RTM payments as a separate line item in the 2024 budget and 2024 financial reporting.

John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments. There was no correspondence on this item.

**Report Recommendation(s)**

**That the Transit Commission receive the 2023 Q2 Status Report for information.**

**Received**

7. Transit Services Department

7.1 On-Demand Transit Service – Demonstration Pilot Project and Analysis of Future Expansion

File No. ACS2023-TSD-TCSP-0015 – City-wide

Matthew Wolstenholme, Manager, Service Planning, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Commission. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, and Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning also answered questions from Commission.

John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments. There was no correspondence on this item.

### **Report Recommendation**

**That the Transit Commission receive this report for information.**

**Received**

## 7.2 Capital Adjustment for the Purchase of Additional Minibuses

File No. ACS2023-TSD-TCSP-0016 – City-wide

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, and Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, answered questions from the Commission.

John Redins spoke before the Commission and provided comments. There was no correspondence on this item.

### **Report Recommendation(s)**

**That Transit Commission recommend that Council approve:**

1. **A reduction of \$16.7 million in approved capital authority from the Zero Emission Bus (ZEB) Program capital account 911101, be reallocated for the purchase of new minibuses and for account 911101 to be replenished as part of the 2024 Budget approval process;**
2. **The creation of a new capital account dedicated to the purchase of 51 growth and replacement minibuses, to be used for Para Transpo and on-demand services, funded by the reallocation of \$16.7 million from capital account 911101, as noted above.**

**Carried**

## 7.3 Potential Subscription-type Discount for Hybrid Workers

File No. ACS2023-TSD-TCSP-0017 – City-wide

Raouia Howarth, Manager, Transit Technology and Innovation, presented an overview of the report and answered questions from the Commission. A copy of the slide presentation is filed with the Office of the City Clerk.

Renée Amilcar, General Manager, Transit Services Department, and Pat Scrimgeour, Director, Transit Customer Systems and Planning, also answered questions from the Commission.

Commission received no public submissions on this item.

**Report Recommendation(s)**

**That Transit Commission receive this report for information.**

**Received**

8. Office of the City Clerk

8.1 Status Update – Transit Commission Inquiries and Motions for the period ending September 1, 2023

File Number: ACS2023-OCC-CCS-0106 – Citywide

**Report Recommendation(s)**

**That the Transit Commission receive this report for information.**

**Received**

9. In Camera Items

There were no *in camera* items.

10. Notices of Motions (For Consideration at Subsequent Meeting)

There were no Notices of Motion.

11. Inquiries

11.1 TC-2023-05 – Dedicated service for secondary schools

Submitted by Councillor W. Lo:

It's no secret that the school bus driver shortage, exacerbated by the pandemic, is challenging for the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA) and le Consortium de transport scolaire d'Ottawa (CTSO). The nature of driving school buses means the pool of potential employees is small in comparison to other fields of work.

Consequently, it appears OSTA and le CTSO have been increasingly relying on OC Transpo. Every school trip, including trips on regular routes and the 600-series, falls within peak periods, when the demands on OC Transpo's resources are at its highest.

OC Transpo places its highest priority on school trips, which sometimes causes the redeployment of resources on regular service, including during trips in progress, to provide service for school trips, creating a negative impact on regular service customers.

1. In addition to OC Transpo, how many medium to large transit authorities in Ontario provide similar school trip services, including routes like the 600-series?
2. Including 600-series school routes, how many school trips does OC Transpo operate on a typical school day?
3. Including 600-series school routes, what percentage of resources does OC Transpo dedicate to school trips on a typical school day (i.e., number of vehicles on school trips versus total deployed)?
4. Describe OC Transpo's contractual obligations to operate school trips, including 600-series routes? Excluding weekends, does OC Transpo operate these services on days schools are not open during the school year?
5. Do OSTA or le CTSO compensate OC Transpo for school trip services, including routes like the 600-series? If so, how much did OC Transpo receive for the 2022-23 school year, and how much is it projected to receive for the 2023-24 school year? Does this make school trip services, including routes like the 600-series, revenue neutral?
6. If the two student transportation authorities compensate OC Transpo, then one can consider it a charter service. OC Transpo's charter policy states that no charters may take place during weekday peak periods, including those organised by Council or the City of Ottawa. How does operating school routes on behalf of OSTA and le CTSO differ from buses chartered during peak periods?
7. Describe the process for OC Transpo to approve, create, and operate a new school trip or 600-series school route? Has OC Transpo recently rejected a request from OSTA or le CTSO?

8. Does OC Transpo incur any extra costs relating to overtime or additional resources for days where students go home early?
9. What is the cancellation policy for school trips, including 600-series school routes?
10. In the event a school trip cancellation, including instances of cancellations of one of multiple departures on the same route, what happens?
11. In the 2022-2023 school year, what was the number of regular service trips cancelled and/or delayed to cover school trips, including 600-series school routes?

12. Other Business

There was no other business.

13. Adjournment

Next Meeting: October 12, 2023

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 pm.

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Committee Coordinator

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Chair