

THE SEVENTH MEETING OF THE TRANSIT COMMITTEE OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY

Committee Room C-12
Tom Davis Square

Friday, October 31, 2008
Commencement: 10:03 a.m.

Councillor Ted Callaghan, Presiding

Councillors

Councillor Berthiaume, Dupuis(D 11:20)

Councillor Landry-Altman

Staff

D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development;
R. Sauvé, Director of Transit; R. Gauthier, Manager of Transit
Operations; L. Church, Transit Services Administrator;
F. Deminon, Administrative Assistant to the Director of Transit;
D. Dumontelle, Manager of Financial Support and Budgeting;
E. Stankiewicz, Manager of Financial Planning and Policy;
L. Oldridge, Deputy City Clerk; L. Collin, Planning Committee
Secretary

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None Declared

Order of Agenda

The Committee agreed to deal with Items #3, (Pioneer Manor
Service request) and Item #7, (Petition to Change Routes 141 &
142), at this time.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Item #3. Pioneer Manor Service Request

The Director of Transit explained the changes being made to
Transit Route #7, North End to provide service to the Family
Health Team Office at the back of Pioneer Manor. The changes
to the route include removing service to St. George Street and
adding service along Notre Dame Avenue to Pioneer Manor,
around the back of Pioneer Manor and returning south on Notre
Dame Avenue to King Street. There are no changes to the timing
of the route; it will continue to be thirty (30) minutes.

Councillor Landry-Altman, Ward Councillor, objected to the
removal of service to St. George Street. She requested that a
different route, such as #14, Kathleen Route be considered and
information regarding ridership numbers from residents on St.
George Street be prepared.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY (cont'd)

Item #3. Pioneer
Manor Service
Request (cont'd)

The Director of Transit explained Route #14 was considered but it would consist of left turns entering and exiting Pioneer Manor. Route #14 is extremely time challenged and they are able to alter this route from Notre Dame Avenue during peak hours to make transfers to other buses at the Transit Centre.

The Committee agreed that Transit Route #7, North End, be changed to accommodate the Pioneer Manor Service Request.

BUDGET OPTIONS REVIEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

Item #7 Petition to
Change Routes 141
and 142

The Director of Transit indicated a petition signed by 39 area residents regarding changing bus routes 141 and 142 was received to extend service to the New Sudbury Shopping Centre and to increase the frequency of the route. This change would remove service from other areas. Service is currently provided to the mall by transfers, and increased service would cost approximately \$150,000 annually.

The Committee agreed to maintain the current Routes 141 and 142.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY

Item #2. Prete
Street Service
Request

A map of the current Route #182 Ramsey View/Algonquin was distributed at the meeting.

The Manager of Transit explained there was a request submitted regarding changing route #182, Ramsey View/ Algonquin to service Connaught Avenue. To determine if an area requires service it must be outside the minimum of 400 metre squared area from any part of an existing route. As Connaught Avenue is within the existing route it would not fit the criteria. As the route would have to be extended to access Connaught Avenue, it is not feasible at the present time.

The Committee agreed to maintain the current route for Route 182.

Item #4. Transit
Services Space
Analysis

The Director of Transit explained a Transit Services Space Analysis has been completed by Perry & Perry Associates. The report has been prepared to define the current space needs and to act as a guide in proceeding with a new Transit Service building.

FOR INFORMATION ONLY (cont'd)

Item #4. Transit Services Space Analysis cont'd

The Finance Staff stated that funds are currently available from the Provincial and Federal gas taxes. The federal gas tax is a permanent source of funding which could be directed to fund green initiatives, such as a LEED building. The provincial gas tax is announced annually so there is some risk to obtaining funding. A budget plan will be required regarding capital needs and other funding sources.

The Director of Transit stated the garage is presently at capacity. Should hybrid or articulated buses be purchased there is not enough room to park buses inside overnight. Buses are being left outside which causes problems especially during the colder months. They will also be unable to service these buses due to lack of resources.

It is estimated that \$26 million will be required to construct the new building. The Committee directed staff to prepare a financial plan for the cost of the new transit garage for review by the end of January, 2009.

Item #5. U-Pass Revenue Finalization

The General Manager of Growth and Development advised the Committee that the final contract negotiated with the students of Laurentian University was not revenue neutral. The final agreement is equal to approximately fifty percent recovery. A \$400,000 gap in revenue still exists and staff would like to fund the recovery through the Provincial Gas Tax over a four year period. This option would take pressure off the budget.

The Committee agreed to forward this budget option to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Item #6. Ridership Growth Update

The Director of Transit stated there is a surplus of approximately \$650,000 in the Ridership growth account. These funds were allocated for specific projects aimed at ridership growth, including the Intervalley Service. This initiative was introduced in the Valley due to population size and geographic area. Ridership on the Intervalley Route has remained low.

The Director of Transit stated he will prepare the ridership numbers for the Intervalley Route.

BUDGET OPTIONS REVIEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION
(DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Item #8. Transcab Service on Regional Road 15 The Committee agreed that a budget option for Transcab Services on Regional Road 15 be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Item #9. Lively Gap In Service The Director of Transit informed there is currently a four hour gap in service to Lively from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m, Monday to Friday. A request was submitted to have an additional trip added to close the gap.

The Committee agreed that a budget option for additional Lively Route be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Item #10. Transcab Service on Radar Road The Director of Transit informed that Transcab service to Radar Base connecting to the Valley bus at Cote Avenue is currently being provided on a trial basis.

The Committee agreed that a budget option to continue service along Radar Road be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Item #11. Youth Pass The Director of Transit reviewed the two options available for implementing a summer Youth Pass.

The first option consists of providing 2000 transit 5 ride cards to be distributed to youth aged 12 to 22. These would be distributed through all branches of the Greater Sudbury Public Libraries and other City of Greater Sudbury Youth Organizations.

The second option consists of offering a low-cost Summer Youth Transit Passes to all youth aged 12 – 22. The cost of these passes would be \$30 and they would be valid for the months of July and August.

The Committee agreed that both budget options would be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

BUDGET OPTIONS REVIEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)
(DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Item #12. Service
Level Increase –
Garson Route

The Director of Transit informed that a request has been received to increase service to Garson to every hour. Currently service is provided every two hours, which is the same level of service provided to Coniston. Providing service every hour would require an increase of 6 hours per day, and an addition to the fleet.

The Committee requested further information regarding ridership numbers on this route.

The Committee agreed that a budget option to increase Garson service to every hour be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

Item #13. Express
Service

The Director of Transit informed discussions were held with Transit Operators to determine where pressures on the transit system exist. Overcrowding and late runs are common on the routes from Downtown to New Sudbury. To relieve the pressure between Downtown and New Sudbury, two buses would be required to service Lasalle Boulevard and Notre Dame Avenue to the New Sudbury Shopping Centre. This run would operate for three hours in the morning and three hours in the afternoon.

The Committee agreed that a budget option to add Express Service be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration..

Item #14. Park &
Ride

The Director of Transit informed the Park & Ride service would include 3 inbound trips in the morning and 3 outbound trips in the afternoon. The Park & Ride Program will provide express service from the Hanmer Mall to the Transit Terminal.

This option is not possible without an expansion or replacement of the transit garage.

The Committee agreed that a budget option to add the Park & Ride Program be presented to the Finance Committee for consideration.

BUDGET OPTIONS REVIEW ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION (cont'd)
(DRAFT BUDGET OPTIONS CIRCULATED UNDER SEPARATE COVER)

Item #15.
Elimination of
the \$2.00
Surcharge on
Transit Fares
for Transcabs

The Director of Transit informed in 2007 and 2008 the elimination of the \$2.00 fee for Transcab users was approved and funded through the Provincial Gas Tax revenues.

Recommendation #2008-07:

Callaghan – Berthiaume: That the Committee approve the continuation of funding the \$2.00 Transcab fee in 2009 from the unused portion of the ridership growth strategy envelope for a total of a \$75,000 contribution; and

That the Committee develop, in 2009, a permanent strategy for the elimination of the \$2.00 Transcab fee and provide funding for other expanded transcab services previously approved.

CARRIED

NEW BUSINESS

Ontario Human
Rights Commission

Letter dated October 16, 2008 received from the Ontario Human Rights Commission regarding Stop Announcements was distributed at the meeting.

The Director of Transit informed two cost estimates have been received regarding automated stop announcements. Staff will review the estimates and report back to the committee..

ADJOURNMENT

Recommendation #2008-08:

Berthiaume – Callaghan: THAT we do now adjourn.
Time: 12:02 p.m.

Lisa Oldridge, Deputy City Clerk

Councillor Callaghan, Chair