

Location: Committee Room C-12,
Tom Davies Square

Commencement: 4:01 PM

Adjournment: 5:07 PM

Minutes

**For the 1st Transit Committee Meeting held
Monday, February 14, 2011**

CURTISS LAW, DEPUTY CITY CLERK, IN THE CHAIR

Councillors

Councillor Barbeau, Berthiaume, Cimino, Kilgour

Councillor Craig

Staff

B. Lautenbach, General Manager of Growth & Development; R. Sauvé, Director of Transit Services; D. Martel, Manager of Transit Fleet and Facilities; R. Gauthier, Manager of Transit Operations; L. Church, Transit Services Administrator; L. Hayes, Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer; A. Lukeziec, Tangible Capital Assets; C. Law, Deputy City Clerk; L. Collin, Planning Committee Secretary

Declaration of Pecuniary
Interest and the General
Nature Thereof

None Declared.

Media

Northern Life, EastLink

Appointment of
Committee Chair and
Vice-Chair

Nominations were held for the position of Chair of the Transit Committee.

Nominator

Nominee

Councillor Berthiaume

Councillor Barbeau

Nominations were closed by Councillor Cimino.

Nominations were held for the position of Vice-Chair of the Transit Committee.

Nominator

Nominee

Councillor Berthiaume

Councillor Cimino

Nominations were closed by Councillor Barbeau.

The following recommendations were presented:

2011-01 Berthiaume - Cimino: That Councillor Barbeau be appointed Chair of the Transit Committee for the term ending November 30, 2011 or until his successor is appointed, whichever occurs later.

CARRIED

2011-02 Berthiaume - Barbeau: That Councillor Cimino be appointed Vice-Chair of the Transit Committee for the term ending November 30, 2011 or until his successor is appointed, whichever occurs later.

COUNCILLOR BARBEAU, IN THE CHAIR

Presentations

- 1 . The Director of Transit gave a verbal update on Transit Programs and Projects including Real Time Information, 100% Accessibility, the New Garage and Maintenance work and the Class "A" Fleet.

Real Time Information The Director of Transit stated a significant amount of work has taken place over the past couple of years in order to get Transit to this point. With the Automatic Vehicle Location (AVL) system calling out stops as required by the Human Rights Commission, Transit is now able to launch the Real Time Information Program to the public. They are currently working on the physical side of placing 1,600 numbers on the bus stop signs and performing accuracy testing. The transit terminal has been remodelled with an expectation that there will be departure boards showing real time arrival and departures, similar to those in airports. This will change the way people in our City travel and give everyone the comfort and security of knowing when their bus will arrive at their stop. There is no extra cost to the City or the end users who have access to the internet. The purchase of the AVL system has a three year delivery time which means there will be ample time to work out all the bugs before the final seven buses arrive. One of the major challenges was the passenger counts; the program had initially worked well but there was a glitch and it stopped working for a few months. It has been repaired and is now working.

U-Pass In response to a question, the Director of Transit stated the U-Pass contract is being renegotiated and will include a user fee increase.

100% Accessibility The Director of Transit stated with the delivery of seven low floor buses in the next few months, Greater Sudbury Transit will have a fleet that is 100% accessible. At that point an advertising campaign will be launched to promote our accessible system in an effort to move people from the Handi Transit system to the conventional bus system. Staff has planned open houses at the medical clinics and malls for people to try the buses. Transportation will be coordinated with the Handi Transit provider and possibly have one of their staff work with Transit to dispatch either a handi transit bus or use the conventional bus service. Staff will also meet with the Handi Transit service provider on a regular schedule to ensure there are no outstanding Handi Transit complaints. The conventional bus system will be promoted as being more convenient and user friendly with the addition of the real time information. The ultimate goal will be to reduce the pressure and cost on the Handi Transit service and move people to the conventional bus system.

The Director of Transit stated the challenges will be to get people to try the conventional system. There are some riders that use the system daily and they are considering a spokesperson, who currently uses transit. He also informed the Committee that there are now 25 buses with bike racks and they are standard on the new buses.

Councillor Berthaiume requested ridership numbers of Onaping, Levack, and Dowling Trans Cab be reviewed to see if a dedicated route is possible.

The Director of Transit stated Requests for Proposals (RFP) have been tendered for Trans Cab services. Service providers can bid on one service area or all and the costs are not to be higher than if transit provided the service with a regular bus route. Consideration will be given to the cab companies that are in the specific areas.

The Manager of Transit Operations stated the RFP for the Trans Cab service is a three year contract with the possibility of a two year extension. The contract also includes a right by the City to cancel with a 90 day notice.

Councillor Craig requested an extension of Handi Transit to the outlying areas of Wahnapiatae.

The Director of Transit stated there is a policy to provide service outside the approved area. This can be done with a service charge, however, it is a challenge to get all areas that are beyond the service area as it takes the Handi Transit buses out of service for that time period.

New Garage

In 2011, Transit is looking to complete the Request for Proposal (RFP) process for the new Transit Garage and is currently completing the design stage. Once the renovations of the new Transit Garage are completed there will be an improvement in the way the City repairs and maintains its fleet. It will also allow for the possibility of new technology such as articulated buses. It will give Transit and Fleet the opportunity to merge some functions and duties to ensure synergies, such as a stock room.

Maintenance Work and Class "A" Fleet

The Director of Transit recognized Denis Martel, Manager of Transit Fleet and Facilities, and his staff of mechanics for the incredible work they do keeping the fleet on the road. Since amalgamation, Transit has introduced over 50 new initiatives and maintenance staff has responded by producing more work with less people. Since 1988, Transit has almost doubled the number of kilometres reaching approximately 5,000,000 km per year and has more than doubled the coverage area. The manpower went from 8 mechanics and one coordinator to 8 mechanics and no coordinator. The Ministry of Transportation audited the fleet and found one deficiency a year ago and dropped Transit to a level "C" Class Fleet. The Ministry returned six months later and doubled the amount of buses in the audit. There were no deficiencies found and following the next audit the Ministry of Transportation returned the fleet to Class "A" standards.

Review of September 23, 2010 Budget Options

The Director of Transit reviewed Transit Committee Recommendation #2010-07 regarding budget options that were approved by the Committee on September 23, 2010.

Councillor Barbeau, on behalf of Councillor Kilgour, requested that late night Trans Cab Service to Skead be included as a budget option.

The Director of Transit informed that it is included with the Budget Option to provide more connections to Wahnapiatae and Skead.

Correspondence for Information Only

- 2 . Report dated February 11, 2011 was received from the Chief Financial Officer / Treasurer regarding the Long Term Capital Financial Plan of Transit Services.

The Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer reviewed the Long Term Financial Plan. She stated the long term financial plan is based on the assumption the Provincial Gas Tax will be available to fund Transit Services.

The General Manager of Growth and Development stated the new fleet and transit garage will have synergies and the City will be able to perform services in house. New measures have been introduced to monitor the life cycle and cost of the fleet. He believes there will be an opportunity to share the full fleet within the departments of the City.

The Chief Financial Officer/City Treasurer stated the Federal Gas Tax is used to fund environmental initiatives and has become a permanent source of funding, however, the Provincial Gas Tax is more restrictive and is to be used for Transit Services only.

ADJOURNMENT

2011-03 Cimino - Berthiaume : That we do now adjourn.
Time: 5:07 p.m.

CARRIED

CURTISS LAW, DEPUTY CITY CLERK

COUNCILLOR BARBEAU, CHAIR