



Coalition for a
Liveable
Sudbury

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December 15, 2011

Community Delegation request for the Operations Committee, from Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, in regards to transit

The Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury would like to request to present to the Operations Committee on the topic of transit. We understand that the first meeting of the Operations Committee is scheduled for Monday, January 9, 2012. We are available on that date, and look forward to being confirmed on the agenda. Naomi Grant will be presenting.

Transit is an important topic for the members of Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury. We have hosted a number of discussions on transportation, and transit specifically, to hear from transit riders. We have also done considerable research, in support of the Sustainable Mobility Plan, and for our own material. Active discussions on transit continue in our meetings, and in the community.

We look forward to the opportunity to share what we have heard from transit riders, and what recommendations have come forward. In addition, we would welcome the opportunity to hear from the Transit Committee on what is in the works for improvements in service, actions to increase ridership, and implementing the transit recommendations in the Sustainable Mobility Plan.

Continued improvements to transit that is inclusive of the priorities identified by transit riders is consistent with the Healthy Community Strategy, directly relating to the pillars of human health and wellbeing, civic engagement and social capital, and environmental sustainability. It contributes directly to Goal 2 of the Healthy Community Strategic Plan: “advocate the implementation of the Sustainable Mobility Plan.” In addition, it speaks to the transportation section of EarthCare Sudbury’s Local Action Plan, specifically the objective to “increase ridership by capita” and the associated City of Greater Sudbury action to “further enhance the convenience, reliability and appeal of using the transit system.” Of course, it also contributes to the mandate of Sudbury Transit to provide public transportation services that contribute to the social and ecological health of our community by removing geographic barriers to employment and social services opportunities and by reducing the environmental and infrastructure costs of transportation. The recommendations we will present are also pertinent to the Auditor General’s report entitled “2010 Audit Of Greater Sudbury Transit Services -Conventional Transit” which includes recommendations for growing ridership and reviewing routes and services. More generally, our Community Delegation is relevant to the Official Plan sections on transportation and public transportation.

The Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury has held a number of discussions on transit for transit users, had a strong working group contributing to the Sustainable Mobility Plan which researched and discussed transit, and hosted an unconference of local active groups working on active

transportation. Emerging from these informed discussions and research, a number of clear priorities were identified:

1. Review the current system and implement best practices - the focus being making routes and schedules more efficient for riders.
2. Mobility Hubs – creating transit hubs in town centres and regional centres, with transit routes that would allow rapid travel among hubs, and local routes from each hub. A mobility hub is a wider concept than just transit. It is a higher density mixed use area that supports good transit service, and also other transportation modes (cycling infrastructure; park and ride...), consistent with Transit Oriented Development.
3. Detailed wayfinding scheme - schedules and maps at each stop, in busses, and in terminals; route maps that use street maps as a base so that they are easily relatable to actual destinations; on-line maps and services. In addition clear information on policies such as daycare passes, stroller policies, and rack-and-roll should be easily accessible.
4. Make the fare system more accessible and flexible (e.g. family fares; day and weekend passes; free fares for certain times and/or rider groups)
5. Create and implement an action plan to increase ridership - as well as making routes and schedules more convenient, this includes things like E-passes (agreements between businesses and the municipality to offer employees transit passes at a rate lower than their monthly parking fee); educational partnerships (e.g. partnerships with schools for students to have easier access to transit, and become comfortable navigating on transit), events such as a transit scavenger hunt, etc.

Two additional recurring topics were feeling safe in the transit centre downtown, and accessibility to transit stops which includes things like snow removal, as well as pedestrian access (e.g. safe pedestrian crossings, sidewalks).

The actions we hope to see are:

1. That the Operations Committee and Sudbury Transit work together with the Sustainable Mobility Panel to implement the above priorities.
2. That transit users that rely on transit as their principal form of transportation be included in decisions made on transit improvements. We recommend requesting representatives from a newly formed citizen's group advocating for transit users be included in the Operations Committee when decisions pertinent to transit are being made. Issues brought forward by this group should be given due regard and timely action.
3. That plans to increase ridership and improve service be made publicly available, with annual progress reports and updates.
4. That the members of the Operations Committee, and indeed all members of Council and managers in the Transportation Services Department, take a bus challenge: that is that they use public transit to meet their typical transportation needs for at least one day, and preferably 1 week or longer.

Regards,
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