

TRANSIT WINDSOR WORKING GROUP

Meeting held March 26, 2025

A meeting of the Transit Windsor Working Group is held this day commencing at 9:00 o'clock a.m. in Room 140, 350 City Hall Square West, there being present the following members:

Bernard Drouillard
Trevor Ramieri
Katie Stokes

Regrets received from:

Jaykumar Patel
Iain Sutcliffe

Also present are the following resource personnel:

Jelena Payne, Commissioner Economic Development
Stephan Habrun Acting Executive Director, Transit Windsor
Karen Kadour, Committee Coordinator

1. Call to Order

The Chair calls the meeting to order at 9:02 o'clock a.m. and the Transit Windsor Working Group considers the Agenda being Schedule A attached hereto, matters which are dealt with as follows:

2. Acting Chair

It is generally agreed that Stephan Habrun will preside as Chair for the meeting.

3. Declaration of Conflict

None disclosed.

4. Minutes

Moved by Trevor Ramieri, seconded by Bernard Drouillard,
That the minutes of the Transit Windsor Working Group of its meeting held March 20, 2024 **BE ADOPTED** as presented.

Carried.

The Chair invites Jelena Payne, Commissioner Economic Development and the members of the Working Group to introduce themselves.

5. Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (CIP)

5(a) Terminals Update

The Chair advises that the tender for both the east and west end terminals will potentially go out in May 2025. The west end terminal tentative completion date is the end of 2025. The east end terminal will tentatively be completed in June 2026.

5(b) Renovations to the Transit Garage

The Chair reports that this project will expand the garage storage capacity; extend the maintenance facility; replace aging equipment and adds that the design process is close to completion.

5(c) Concrete Pads/Shelters

The Chair indicates Transit Windsor is looking to ensure that the majority of the bus stops are accessible with accessible landing pads.

5(d) New Buses

The Chair advises they have received most of their 18 new hybrid buses. He adds that it takes approximately 18 to 24 months to order a bus. The amenities on the new buses includes a new blue floor, new plastic covered seats which are easier to clean, and USB chargers located on the stanchions and spread throughout the bus. He remarks it takes 6 to 8 weeks for the buses to be considered road worthy for transit, as installation of the following is required - GPS systems, cameras, passenger counters, onboard announcement system, and fare box.

6. Agreements

6(a) U-Pass Agreement

The Chair reports that in September 2024, a new 5-year U-Pass Agreement went into effect. The U-Pass is an 8-month pass.

6(b) Saints Pass

Recently, an agreement through a referendum with St. Clair College approved a new 3-year agreement and will go into effect in September 2025. The Chair states that the Saints Pass is a 12 month pass and adds that the ridership of the Saints students greatly exceeds the university students.

7. 2025 Service Plan

The 2025 Service Plan includes 15,000 service hours being introduced into the city service with that, 9 buses that were used exclusively at peak times daily with 4 school extras will be redeployed into the system. He provides an overview of the service improvements and information relating to several of the routes (which will be renamed).

7(a) School Extras

The Chair reports that the school extra buses have been eliminated in order to provide the 2025 Service Plan. The following comments are provided:

- For the last 30 plus years, Transit Windsor has been offering these school extra buses.
- Have not received any funding from the 2 French Boards and the 2 English Boards which has been capital expensive.
- Passenger counting was done (where the students got on and off the bus) over several days during the semester to determine the ridership counts.
- The City of London has not offered school extras for years.
- Jelena Payne reports that a Communication Plan will be provided for students, principals and families in May, June and August 2025.
- There are 2 problematic areas in the city – Holy Names and Massey High Schools as geographically, there is no easy way to get to those schools.
- Information will be provided on the City's website to direct parents on how to get to their respective schools. If there are questions on bussing, parents should call the school board as they are responsible. It is not within the city's purview.
- Discussion ensues regarding upcoming construction at Devonshire Mall over the next year and the possible effects on the bus service.

8. Tunnel Bus Elimination

The Chair advises that the elimination of the tunnel bus was approved as part of the City's 2025 budget which was upheld by the Mayor's veto. Jelena Payne remarks that the Environment, Transportation & Public Safety Committee at its meeting today will consider a report recommending that the tunnel bus daily service end on August 30, 2025, and are also recommending that the special events buses end on December 20, 2025.

In response to a question asked by Katie Stokes regarding if the tunnel bus daily service does not end on August 30, 2025, what would be the latest that it could possibly go, the Chair responds November 2025.

9. Twin Oaks/Route 250

The Chair reports that the Route 250 has been on hold as they are waiting for the completion of the parking lot. This route will service basically the industrial parks along Rhodes Drive north and south service and will go to Twin Oaks. This route will be one hour service and will connect the terminal points - Devonshire Mall and Tecumseh Mall. The plan is to implement this route as part of the 2025 service plan.

10. 2025 Meeting Schedule

It is generally agreed that the proposed five meetings be held on a Wednesday to accommodate all members of the Working Group. Suggested dates and times will be circulated to the Working Group.

11. Other Business

The Chair suggests creating more "How To Videos" that would educate the public about transit etiquette; how to ride the bus, service animals, how to put a bicycle on the bike rack, how to load a wheelchair and how to use the APPS. He proposes that a catalogue of videos be created and available for the public on the City of Windsor's website.

Moved by Bernard Drouillard, seconded by Trevor Ramieri,

That the updates provided by Stephan Habrun, Chair regarding the following **BE RECEIVED:**

- Investing in the Canada Infrastructure Program (CIP) – Terminals, Transit garage renovations, Concrete pads/shelters, New buses
- Agreements – U-Pass and Saints Pass
- 2025 Service Plan – School Extras
- Tunnel Bus Elimination
- Twin Oaks/Route 250
- 2025 Meeting Schedule

Carried.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next meeting will be held at the call of the Chair.

13. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting is adjourned at 10:58 o'clock a.m.