

**THE FIRST MEETING OF THE TRANSIT COMMITTEE
OF THE CITY OF GREATER SUDBURY**

**C-42, Mayor's Office
Tom Davies Square**

**Tuesday, June 5, 2007
Commencement: 9:10 a.m.**

Chair

ANGIE HACHÉ, CITY CLERK, IN THE CHAIR

Councillors

Councillors Berthiaume; Dupuis

Staff

D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development; R. Sauve, Director of Transit Services; D. Martel, Mechanical Foreperson; R. Gauthier, Supervisor of Transit; G. Lamothe, Manager of Communications & French Language Services; A. Taylor, Communications Officer; G. Kindrat, Acting AA to the Director of Transit; A. Haché, City Clerk; CJ Caporale, Council Secretary

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Item 2
Appointment of
Chair & Vice-Chair

The following resolution was presented:

2007-01 Dupuis-Berthiaume: THAT Councillor **Ted Callaghan** be appointed as Chair of the Transit Committee for the term ending November 30, 2010.

CARRIED

The following resolution was presented:

2007-02 Berthiaume-Dupuis: THAT Councillor **Ron Dupuis** be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transit Committee for the term ending November 30, 2008.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR RON DUPUIS, IN THE CHAIR

Opening Remarks

Councillor Dupuis advised that he will be attending the Annual CUTA (Canadian Urban Transit Association) Conference in Halifax, Nova Scotia on June 9-13, 2007.

Item 3
Overview of Financial
Position, Reserves &
Capital Plan

The Transit Capital Plan was distributed at the meeting.

Mr. Sauve indicated that the multi-year capital plan includes the replacement and rebuild of Transit buses. He reviewed the Capital Plan and stated that the Annual Capital Expenditure for 2007, less the Ontario Bus Replacement Program (OBRP) Grant, is approximately \$3.9 million, and the total balance of combined reserves (Equipment and Provincial and Federal Gas Tax Reserves) for 2007 is approximately \$4.9 million. In order to receive additional funding,

Item 3
Overview of Financial
Position, Reserves &
Capital Plan
(continued)

Transit is required to spend 2% more per year and staff is reviewing the possible expansion of the fleet and the Transit garage.

Mr. Nadorozny stated that the initial capital will increase every year with a minimal amount being spent and safely withdrawn from other reserves.

Mr. Sauve indicated that \$2 million will come from a federal commitment to Transit, and the first payment of \$925,668 was issued three years ago through the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO). The province has distributed \$3.25 million to the various municipalities in gas tax funding.

The following recommendation was presented:

2007-3 Dupuis-Berthiaume: THAT \$2,151,673 from the Federal Public Transit Capital Trust Fund be allocated to the Transit Capital Reserve.

CARRIED

Mr. Sauve stated that Transit is recommending the purchase of a new wheelchair accessible bus. This bus will be viewed by Members of Council on June 6, 2007 who are attending the Priorities Committee meeting in Blezard Valley. This bus will be used for City events and for charter services between hotels and various events. Mr. Sauve reviewed methods of financing the purchase of the wheelchair accessible bus.

Mr. Sauve advised that the province has awarded a contract to New Flyer Industries Canada for the purchase of new transit buses. He indicated that for the past several years, the City has purchased buses from Nova Bus, A Division of Prevost Car Inc. because of their construction (stainless steel frame), competitive price, performance, life span, and no requirement for a rebuild cycle.

Mr. Nadorozny indicated that the report to Council will suggest a multi-year agreement with Nova and the reasons why.

Mr. Sauve stated that they will be purchasing bicycle racks as a pilot project for a route in the Spring 2008 at a price of \$2,000 to \$3,000 per rack. The Transit garage and the Terminal will not accommodate the racks because of lack of space (an additional 3' is required between parked buses), therefore, the rider will have to disembark and remove their bicycle one stop before the terminal. He indicated that they will be required to review the expansion of the garage and additional space at the Terminal.

Councillor Dupuis suggested that Transit staff meet with the Bicycle Advisory Panel to discuss the above issues.

Item 4
Federal & Provincial
Funding

Mr. Sauve advised that the OBRP replaced the Ontario Transit Vehicle Program (OTVP) which funds the replacement of transit buses. The current service provider for Handi-Transit, whose contract expires at the end of May 2008, purchases their own fleet and charges their time and capital back to the City. Transit staff is currently looking at owning the fleet which would reduce Transit's capital by 33% and increase possible funding. Mr. Sauve indicated that now is the time to negotiate with the service provider who would maintain and operate the new buses which would be purchased by the City on their behalf. He advised that he will report back to the Committee with an update.

Item 5
New Fare Box
Implementation

Mr. Sauve advised that the new fare boxes have been installed for one week and have had a few minor problems. He stated that this new system will allow for flexibility in providing different passes such as day passes, weekend passes, etc., increasing ridership and eliminating transfer fraud. The AVL system can also be linked to the fare boxes which monitor ridership and provide staff with data to determine if a route is required. He will come back to the Committee to discuss further strategies.

Item 6
2007 Budget Option
Radar Base Transit
Service

Mr. Nadorozny stated that staff is seeking direction on utilizing a maximum of \$750,000 from the Growth Ridership Fund and investing it in new strategies such as Transcab. He advised that a plan will be prepared by staff including options and costs which will be presented to the Committee.

Mr. Sauve indicated that there are several options to review:

- provide \$93,000 for a transcab service at the Radar Base
- provide \$245,000 to \$250,000 for an intra-community program in Valley East as a pilot project for two years
- increase the Sunday service
- increase buses for handi-transit to respond to the increase number of ridership and demand
- provide additional service hours - responding to 24 hour shifts at local call centres
- increase staffing levels for transit - current part-time non-union position increased to 35 hours from 20 hours per week or create a full-time non-union position for an additional \$30,000 to \$35,000 per year which would not be funded through the Growth Ridership Fund

The following motion is to be included in a draft report to be presented at the next Transit Committee meeting:

“THAT we support fifteen (15) additional hours plus benefits for an existing non-union position at Transit.”

Item 6
2007 Budget Option
Radar Base Transit
Service
(continued)

An additional financing option for the new transit garage, which is to be ear-marked for 2015 so it can be constructed earlier, will be included in the report.

Councillor Dupuis also suggested that staff start exploring locations for people to park their vehicles, board a bus and go to work.

Item 8
Petitions - Mont Adam
and Wanup

Mr. Sauve indicated that they are currently providing service to the area as there are two bus routes within 400 metres of Mont Adam.

He advised that a budget option of \$125,000 per year would be required to establish a 20 km link from Wanup to the Coniston route.

Item 7
Constellation City
Report
Recommendation #6

Recommendation #6, Constellation City Report, reads as follows:

“That the City of Greater Sudbury undertake a full review of transit services and explore the potential for expanded intra-community transit, expansion of handi-transit and an end to two-tier fares. Full-year pilot projects should be undertaken to evaluate this potential, starting as soon as possible. Further, the City should establish an ongoing transit advisory group, using riders from across the entire community.”

Mr. Sauve advised that the Ridership Growth Strategy allowed for the full review of transit services, expansion of handi-transit, and an end to the two-tier fares.

Councillor Dupuis suggested that public meetings be held in each ward. Mr. Sauve indicated that they would bring the buses to each ward and submit information regarding available services, bus routes, programs, etc. This endeavour has been successful in the past.

Item 9
Ridership Growth
Strategy - Next Steps

Mr. Sauve advised that they will bring forward the options as discussed and look at utilizing \$750,000 per year to implement new strategies.

Councillor Berthiaume requested that staff review the implementation of express routes from outlying areas to the downtown core.

Mr. Sauve indicated that they will be expanding the bus routes in Gatchell, Copper Cliff, Madison and Second Avenue to accessible.

Councillors Dupuis and Berthiaume suggested that an update be provided to the residents, further marketing of Transit, develop a new communication plan and logo, install signs on the buses, and develop a new marketing strategy to encourage public participation.

Item 11
Next Meeting

Next meeting to be scheduled for the end of June 2007 or first week of July 2007.

Adjournment

2007-4 Dupuis-Berthiaume: THAT this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 11:07 a.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Ron Dupuis, Vice-Chair

Angie Haché, City Clerk

