

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

Transit Garage
1800 Frobisher Street
Sudbury, Ontario

Wednesday, May 3, 2006
Commencement: 9:02 a.m.

Chair

ERIC LABELLE, CLERK DESIGNATE, IN THE CHAIR

Councillors

Councillor Berthiaume; Callaghan; Dupuis

Staff

D. Nadorozny, General Manager of Growth & Development;
R. Sauve, Director of Transit Services; R. Gauthier, Supervisor of
Transit; D. Martel, Mechanical Foreperson; A. Taylor,
Communications Officer; E. Labelle, Clerk Designate; CJ Caporale,
Council Secretary

Declarations of
Pecuniary Interest

None declared.

Item 2
Appointment of
Chair & Vice-Chair

The following resolution was presented:

2006-01 Dupuis-Berthiaume: THAT Councillor Ted Callaghan be
appointed as Chair of the Transit Committee for the term ending
November 30, 2006.

CARRIED

The following resolution was presented:

2006-02 Berthiaume-Dupuis: THAT Councillor Ron Dupuis be
appointed as Vice-Chair of the Transit Committee for the term
ending November 30, 2006.

CARRIED

COUNCILLOR TED CALLAGHAN, IN THE CHAIR

Welcoming Remarks

Councillor Callaghan welcomed everyone present and briefly
outlined the reasons for a Transit Committee. He indicated that
because of the issues surrounding the Ridership Growth Strategy,
the possibility of Smart Cards, the Federal, Provincial, and municipal
funding being implemented, and the agenda for transit changing all
the time, what we are doing in Sudbury should be recognized at the
national level.

He also advised that this Committee will be dealing with the six
recommendations resulting from the Ridership Growth Strategy and
not the details of the operations of transit.

Item 3
Site Visit of the Transit
Garage & Terminal

Mr. Sauve provided a tour of the Transit garage at Frobisher Street providing an overview of the vault where all fare boxes are emptied and counted, the in-house body shop which provides body work on all City buses and other City vehicles, saving the City approximately \$90,000 per rebuild, the parts warehouse, bays, etc.

A site visit of the Transit Terminal downtown Sudbury was conducted outlining the maintenance required such as painting, removal of walls, general cleaning, lighting in the public washrooms, pressure washing of the walkways, etc. Mr. Sauve indicated that in conjunction with Tim Horton's, the LCBO, and the City, additional security will be hired in the near future.

Presentation to
Council

Councillor Callaghan requested that an overview of Transit including photos of the buses being rebuilt, the terminal, the garage, etc. be implemented into a PowerPoint presentation for Council's review.

Item 4
Review Mandate

The following mandate and six recommendations were reviewed:

"THAT a Transit Committee comprised of three Councillors be established to oversee the benefits and improvements the implementation of the recommendations of the Ridership Growth Strategy and Asset Management Plan will achieve;

AND THAT this Committee be comprised of Councillors:

Claude Berthiaume
Ted Callaghan
Ron Dupuis."

1. Capital: ensure that there are buses in order to respond to increased ridership generated by new initiatives; the safety and comfort of passengers is recognized as a ridership growth initiative, therefore, qualifying for funding; moving towards 100% accessibility.

Mr. Sauve indicated that in order to move forward the City must maintain the existing fleet and buildings. He advised that the current Ontario Transit Vehicle Program (OTVP) covers one-third of the capital cost of rebuilds and replacement buses, whereas the new funding program will only fund new acquisitions. Mr. Sauve indicated that he had been asked to sit as a member of either Ontario Community Transportation Association (OCTA) and Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) to provide and receive information regarding new funding.

Item 4
Review Mandate
(continued)

Mr. Sauve indicated that Sudbury will be receiving less funding than Toronto or Ottawa but this will have less of an impact because all repairs are done in-house. He advised that the province may be providing a fixed cost which may change the Capital plan in the next few years. The province will be reviewing current expenditures, capital, and gas tax in order to establish an amount of funding. He also stated that the Provincial Gas Tax is to be used for Transit only, whereas the Federal Gas Tax is being used for other projects such as road construction.

Mr. Sauve stated that staff is currently reviewing other programs to increase ridership such as Rapid Transit, which is a service with limited stops.

He advised that the NOVA buses have been ordered and will be delivered in twenty-one weeks. Two suburban buses have also been ordered which will be used for the outlying areas. He also advised that the average cost for a new bus is approximately \$450,000, and a price of \$372,000 to \$380,000 for the suburban and conventional buses, was negotiated by staff.

Mr. Sauve stated that a new federal funding announcement is to be made providing Transit with \$1.8 million to be used in a two year period. Finance has advised that sources of funding with the most restrictions be utilized in priority.

Presentation to
Council

Councillor Callaghan requested that four items be included in the presentation to Council: the cost of new buses, the rebuild of buses, provincial and federal funding, and the financial plan.

Item 4
Review Mandate
(continued)

2. U-Pass: through a referendum, Laurentian University students have voted in favour of a Universal Pass (U-Pass); the City must enter into an agreement with the student associations and the University and will be brought back to Council for approval; if an agreement can be reached, the program could start as soon as September 2006.

Mr. Sauve advised that Laurentian University has agreed to the use of a Universal Pass (U-Pass). He stated that the one issue that has developed is how to implement an "Opt-Out System". After the initial one year trial period with Laurentian University, other educational institutions may become part of the program. Each pass would cost between \$20 and \$25 with a possible increase in the future.

3. Improvements to the Transit Terminal: part of the Ridership Growth Strategy identifies the need to provide a safe and clean environment for passengers, which was raised by Council at an earlier date; increased maintenance staff will be on site and added security will be implemented.

Mr. Sauve advised that two contractors have been hired for janitorial and security services. In order to increase ridership, the comfort and security of passengers must be improved. He advised that renovations inside the Terminal have commenced, along with clean-up of graffiti, litter, walkways, etc.

Councillor Callaghan stated that the odour and lighting in the public washrooms are an issue and suggested that this be dealt with.

It was noted that the Terminal currently has twenty-nine security cameras which assists the Greater Sudbury Police Service in deterring criminal action.

4. Automatic Vehicle Location: this will allow supervisors to track schedule and route adherence; will provide real-time information which is a great tool for a transit system; staff will be able to provide information on traffic delays, detours, next bus, etc.

Mr. Sauve advised that the Vendor of Record is Grey Island and is currently being used by Public Works. The AVL system will provide real-time information on the entire fleet. It will track the buses on their routes, where they are, travelling speed, route completion timing, and etc.

The AVL system can also be linked to the fare boxes which monitor ridership and provides staff with data to determine if a route is required. The Transit Terminal will be able to install boards to indicate bus location and arrival time. The AVL system has the ability to control traffic lights which can prevent schedule delays. The system can also be linked to the Web for citizens to obtain schedules, routes and times.

Mr. Sauve indicated that installation of the AVL system has commenced and hopes to be completed by June 1, 2006. The initial cost is approximately \$80,000 with an annual cost of approximately \$40,000 for airtime and regular maintenance.

He advised that the first phase is to have the equipment and airtime up and running for staff purposes only. He indicated that the second phase will be establishing the fare collection system and ensuring that it is compatible with the AVL system in order to monitor passengers.

Item 4
Review Mandate
(continued)

Mr. Sauve advised that he is currently working on an RFP for the purchase of the fare boxes and it has been noted in the RFP that the vendor is to meet with Grey Island and ensure that the software is compatible with the AVL system.

Presentation to
Council

Councillor Callaghan requested that the presentation include the first and second phase of the AVL system, identify future plans as well as a timeline.

Item 4
Review Mandate
(continued)

5. Fare Collection System: Council has approved a new fare collection system and Smart Card Technology which will be phased in over a two year period.

Mr. Martel indicated that the current fare box system is outdated and parts are not available. Mr. Sauve advised that Cubic has indicated they could build a fare box at a cost of \$20,000 per box. Expansion of the fleet is not an option if the fare boxes are not changed. He stated that a new system would allow for flexibility in providing different passes such as day passes, weekend passes, etc., increasing ridership and eliminating transfer fraud.

Mr. Sauve indicated that the Province's funding formula is 70% population based and 30% ridership based. He stated that they are trying to convince the province to provide more funding based on the fact that ridership has increased even though the population has not.

He indicated that he would like to phase-in the fare collection system, which will cost approximately \$1.7 million to implement, before introducing the smart card technology. Mr. Nadorozny indicated that this was approved by Council as a Capital item two years ago. Mr. Sauve advised that he will present an RFP to Council in June 2006.

Presentation to
Council

Councillor Callaghan requested that information on the smart card technology be provided in the presentation as well as the advantages of new fare boxes which are: scalability, Windows based technology, provision of more accurate data, ability to provide a better fare structure, easier tracking of travel time, elimination of transfer fraud, and compatibility with the AVL system.

Item 4
Review Mandate
(continued)

6. Service Standards: it is recommended that Council approve service standards as presented by Entra Consultants which will be used as a guideline when recommending service changes; this would allow staff the opportunity to collect available data before making route changes; staff will return with route strategies once the impacts of the new initiatives are known.

Mr. Sauve advised that in order to provide certain standards to areas, staff must look at cheapest way to provide the service and how that service will be provided.

Item 5
Report to Council

Report dated 2006-04-03 from the General Manager of Growth & Development regarding Ridership Growth Strategy and Asset Management Plan Recommendations was received for information only.

Item 7
Other Business

A discussion regarding the Fleet Management System (FMS) ensued and it was established that the current system is outdated. Mr. Sauve indicated that Transit could be linked to Public Works' FMS or move towards their own system. Councillor Callaghan requested that Mr. Sauve meet with the General Manager of Infrastructure & Emergency Services to discuss the foregoing matter.

Councillor Callaghan requested that staff inquire as to what other communities are doing for signage at bus stops and how they advise customers of bus routes, times, delays, etc.

Councillor Dupuis requested that staff look at providing bus service to other communities such as St. Charles, what the cost would be and if it would be viable.

Presentation to Council

It was requested that Transit regulations set out by the province be noted in the presentation to Council.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, May 24, 2006 at 9:00 a.m., at the Transit Garage, 1800 Frobisher Street, Sudbury.

The agenda will include Service Standards, communication campaign for Transit, and an outline of the upcoming presentation to Council.

Adjournment

2006-3 Dupuis-Berthiaume: THAT this meeting does now adjourn.
Time: 1:15 p.m.

CARRIED

Councillor Ted Callaghan, Chair

Eric Labelle, Clerk Designate