

Special Council Minutes
June 21, 2021 - 5:00 PM
Virtual Meeting/Council Chambers
Whitby Town Hall

Present: Mayor Mitchell
Councillor Drumm (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Leahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Lee (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Mulcahy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Newman (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Roy (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Shahid (Participating Virtually)
Councillor Yamada (Participating Virtually)

Also Present: M. Gaskell, Chief Administrative Officer
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town Solicitor
M. Perini, Acting Fire Chief
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Head of Operations & Fire Chief
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

1.1 There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

2. Presentations

2.1 Mathieu Goetzke, Vice President, Planning, Metrolinx, David Hopper, Lead Consultant, Parsons Corporation/IBI Group, and David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, Durham Region
Re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit

Mathieu Goetzke, Vice President, Planning, Metrolinx, David Hopper, Lead Consultant, Parsons Corporation/IBI Group, and David Dunn, Manager, Rapid Transit Office, Durham Region, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (BRT). Highlights of the presentation included:

- recognition that Metrolinx operates on the traditional territories of the Anishnabeg, the Haudenosaunee and the Wendat Peoples, and remains committed to engaging with Indigenous Peoples and Nations on the BRT project;
- a map of the project study area;
- the BRT project timeline, including public engagement sessions;
- details of the Public Information Centres held to date;
- an overview of the six traffic segments within the current three-lane BRT design option;
- previous options that Metrolinx evaluated to arrive at the proposed design, which incorporates community feedback;
- the impact the proposed BRT design will have on traffic;
- refinements to the BRT design that help minimize negative impacts on businesses and surrounding communities;
- other options considered, including a four-lane curbside design with a designated bus lane, as well as a two-lane mixed traffic design;
- current and projected traffic volume;
- walking and cycling infrastructure that will be incorporated in the BRT design;
- the number of proposed BRT stops in Toronto, Pickering, Ajax, Whitby, and Oshawa; and,
- next steps in the BRT project, including preparation of a draft Environmental Project Report and continued public consultation.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council, Mr. Goetzke, Mr. Hopper, Mr. Dunn, and Staff regarding:

- sources of funding for the BRT project, and whether construction will commence only after funding has been secured;
- whether funding will be allocated towards traffic calming measures to limit the impact on local communities;
- support for businesses that may be impacted by the BRT construction;
- the amount of funding secured to date and which Segment the funding is being allocated towards;
- factors that impact construction phases, such as funding;
- clarification regarding the proposed Segment 2 design at Celebration Square;

- whether accessible parking will be a priority in the BRT design through downtown Whitby;
- consultation with heritage property owners along the BRT corridor;
- clarification regarding next steps, including the Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP);
- measures to evaluate whether the proposed BRT design adequately incorporated community feedback;
- next steps to achieve final approval of the BRT design;
- whether traffic calming measures on local roads will be funded by Metrolinx or the Town;
- clarification regarding the sidewalk width at Celebration Square in the proposed BRT design;
- confirmation that the BRT project will not be funded by tax dollars;
- clarification regarding the proposed sidewalk width on the south side of Dundas Street through downtown;
- whether cellphone data may be used to estimate future traffic patterns;
- whether the BRT design accounts for projected population growth and development;
- how the existing architectural features in Celebration Square will be impacted by the proposed BRT design, and other options that may be considered;
- consultation between Metrolinx and the Whitby Public Library Board;
- whether studies indicate that additional traffic lanes along the proposed BRT corridor will reduce infiltration on local roads;
- whether Metrolinx has considered relocating the BRT corridor to Taunton Road to service growth in North Whitby;
- funding for the design and construction of complete streets that consider all users and abilities;
- the proposed design of Garden Street between Consumers Drive and north of Taunton Road, given it functions similar to a Type B arterial road;
- how the Greater Golden Horseshoe 2011 base year model differs from the Region of Durham traffic model;
- whether the proposed design conforms with the Region's Right-Turn Lane Guidelines;
- whether the design will address deficiencies regarding queues that exceed existing storage lengths;
- the impact of delaying traffic at intersections as a result of longer signal cycle lengths;

- clarification regarding the design and impact of the protected left turn/U-turn movement at intersections;
- solutions for addressing capacity issues on routes such as Rossland Road, Burns Street, and Highway 401;
- current and pre-pandemic ridership rates on the Pulse transit service;
- the positive impact of public transit in other towns and cities; and,
- whether population and employment density will increase along transit corridors, and how this may positively impact development, businesses, and residents.

3. Delegations

3.1 Natasha Serba, Resident

Re: Public Works (Engineering), Planning and Development Department, and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 23-21

Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 23-21

Natasha Serba appeared before Council to express her concerns with how the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design may impact traffic on Henry Street and other local roads. Ms. Serba expressed a desire for improved consultation between Metrolinx and Whitby residents. She explained the BRT design may intensify existing safety concerns on Henry Street, Mary Street, and Dunlop Street, and noted recent traffic related accidents on these local roads. Ms. Serba acknowledged the importance of expanding public transit, but requested that community safety be a priority. She encouraged Metrolinx to reconsider the four mixed-traffic lane design option.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Ms. Serba and Members of Council regarding consultation between Metrolinx and the community.

3.2 Lynn Dooly Marek, Resident

Re: Public Works (Engineering), Planning and Development Department, and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 23-21

Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 23-21

Lynn Dooly Marek appeared before Council to comment on the lack of community consultation and safety concerns regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. Ms. Dooly Marek expressed concerns with how the current design may impact traffic through downtown Whitby, and stated her support for the four mixed-traffic lane design that was previously considered. She noted recent traffic related accidents on local roads adjacent to Dundas Street.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Ms. Dooly Marek and Members of Council regarding consultation between Metrolinx and the community.

4. Items for Consideration

4.1 Public Works (Engineering), Planning and Development Department, and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 23-21 Re: Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council, Metrolinx Staff, and Town Staff regarding:

- whether a future traffic study will review the impact of the BRT project on Annes Street and Henry Street;
- pedestrian accessibility at Celebration Square, considering the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design;
- clarification regarding sidewalk widths through downtown Whitby;
- decisions the Town must make regarding the BRT project given that it is not a Town project; and,
- whether Staff, in collaboration with Metrolinx, may determine the cost to investigate traffic calming measures on local streets when reporting back on the traffic calming policy.

Discussion ensued between Members of Council regarding:

- concerns with public consultation efforts between Metrolinx, the Town, and the community concerning the BRT project;
- Council's willingness to support the BRT project, given concerns about safety and traffic infiltration on local roads;
- an overview of the public consultation efforts to date;
- the economic and environmental benefits of the proposed BRT project;
- minimizing the impact on surrounding neighbourhoods;
- Council's goal of achieving the best public transit outcome for residents and the Town;
- the importance of consulting with all stakeholders;
- feedback from residents;

- desirability of the current and previous BRT design options presented to date, and the anticipated impact on traffic; and,
- Council's role in ensuring the BRT design meets the needs of all stakeholders, and considers walkability, accessibility and traffic concerns.

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Yamada

1. That Report No. PW 23-21 be received for information.
2. That Report No. PW 23-21 be forwarded to Metrolinx, Durham Region Transit, Region of Durham, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, and City of Oshawa.

Carried later in the meeting [See following motions].

Moved By Councillor Drumm

Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the main motion be amended to include a new Item 2 and that the remaining item be renumbered accordingly.

2. That Staff specifically investigate traffic calming on local streets in Downtown Whitby when reporting back on the traffic calming policy; and,

Carried

The main motion, as amended, was then carried as follows:

Resolution # 166-21

Moved By Councillor Leahy

Seconded By Councillor Yamada

1. That Report No. PW 23-21 be received for information;
2. That Staff specifically investigate traffic calming on local streets in Downtown Whitby when reporting back on the traffic calming policy; and,
3. That Report No. PW 23-21 be forwarded to Metrolinx, Durham Region Transit, Region of Durham, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, and City of Oshawa.

Carried on a recorded vote as follows:

| | For | Against | Abstained |
|--------------------|------------|----------------|------------------|
| Councillor Drumm | x | | |
| Councillor Leahy | x | | |
| Councillor Lee | | x | |
| Councillor Mulcahy | | x | |
| Councillor Newman | x | | |
| Councillor Roy | | x | |
| Councillor Shahid | | x | |
| Councillor Yamada | x | | |
| Mayor Mitchell | x | | |
| | 5 | 4 | 0 |

5. Confirmatory By-law

5.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 167-21

Moved By Councillor Leahy
Seconded By Councillor Drumm

That leave be granted to introduce a by-law and to dispense with the reading of the by-law by the Clerk to confirm the proceedings of the Council of the Town of Whitby at its special meeting held on June 21, 2021 and the same be considered read and passed and that the Mayor and the Clerk sign the same and the Seal of the Corporation be thereto affixed.

Carried

6. Adjournment

6.1 Motion to Adjourn

Moved By Councillor Newman
Seconded By Councillor Leahy

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor