

Present: Mayor Mitchell (Participating Virtually)
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. Beale, Commissioner of Public Works
S. Klein, Director of Strategic Initiatives
W. Mar, Commissioner of Legal and Enforcement Services/Town Solicitor
J. Romano, Commissioner of Community Services
R. Saunders, Commissioner of Planning and Development
D. Speed, Fire Chief
F. Wong, Commissioner of Financial Services/Treasurer
H. Ellis, Executive Advisor to the Mayor
C. Harris, Town Clerk
K. Narraway, Deputy Clerk
K. Douglas, Legislative Specialist (Recording Secretary)

Regrets: None noted

1. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

- 1.1 Councillor Mulcahy declared a pecuniary interest under the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act regarding Item 4.1, Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21, Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update, specifically related to advertising in The Brooklin Town Crier, as Councillor Mulcahy owns this newspaper. Councillor Mulcahy did not take part in the discussion or voting on this matter.

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 – Preliminary Design Update

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 – Preliminary Design Update. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the benefits of improving bus transit in Durham Region, including the creation of jobs and reducing green house gas emissions;
- a map of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) study area;
- the need for transit infrastructure to support population growth along the corridor;
- the primary city centres that will be serviced by the proposed BRT;
- the benefit to cost ratio calculated in the 2018 Initial Business Case;
- an overview of the BRT project schedule that began in 2008;
- the volume of existing and future transit ridership;
- community consultations to date, including three Public Information Centres between June 2019 and November 2020, with the next meeting scheduled for May 20, 2021;
- an overview of the previous BRT design for Whitby that was presented in winter 2021;
- an overview of the changes incorporated into the current BRT design for Whitby, including segment locations where left-turns and U-turns are permitted;
- the safety benefits of centre-median lanes, including improved pedestrian/transit user experience, safety for cyclists, and reduced number and severity of collisions;
- the proposed design for Segments 1a, Ajax Border to Raglan Road, and 1b, Raglan Road to Cochrane Street/Annes Street, including the number of eastbound and westbound lanes;
- the proposed design for Segment 2, Cochrane Street to Byron Street South, which includes a stop near the Whitby Central Library/Celebration Square;
- previous design options considered for Segment 3, Bryon Street South to Brock Street;
- the refined BRT design for Segment 3, which maintains continuous eastbound and westbound general traffic lanes,

- minimizes neighbourhood infiltration, improves access to businesses, and maintains the character of downtown Whitby;
- the number of eastbound and westbound traffic and bus lanes incorporated into the Segment 3 refined BRT design, with dedicated eastbound bus and general traffic lanes, and a single westbound lane that will be shared between both busses and traffic;
- other options considered when designing the refined layout of Segment 3;
- relocating the Dundas Street parking spaces between Bryon Street South and Brock Street to accommodate the proposed BRT design;
- how the current BRT design mitigates traffic impacts by reducing infiltration onto local roads compared to the Transit Mall Option;
- the proposed design for Segments 4 and 5, Brock Street to Oshawa border; and,
- next steps in the BRT project, including a mail-out to Whitby residents, a Public Meeting in May 2021, and commencement of the Transit Project Assessment Process (TRAP).

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

- future consultation plans between Metrolinx and the community;
- data concerning collisions involving U-turns;
- data concerning traffic infiltration onto local roads at proposed U-turn intersections;
- whether the Segment 3 BRT design may be expanded 100 metres to include an additional street block;
- recipients of the Metrolinx mail-out, and the date it will be sent;
- whether Metrolinx will coordinate with the Town's Corporate Communications Department regarding communications strategies;
- justification for the Transit Mall Option that was previously being considered;
- the rationale behind only widening the North pedestrian sidewalks on Dundas Street in the proposed Segment 3 BRT design;
- whether Metrolinx will offer additional financial commitments to support businesses affected by the removal of Dundas Street parking spaces;
- the environmental and financial factors that will be considered during the May 2021 Public Meeting;
- whether Metrolinx may grant Town Staff more time to analyze the current and future BRT design options; and,

- whether the proposed Segment 3 design may be reconfigured to allow equal sidewalk expansion on both the North and South side of Dundas Street.

2.2 Suzanne Beale, Commissioner of Public Works

Re: Overview of Staff Report PW 12-21, Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Suzanne Beale, Commissioner of Public Works, appeared before Council and provided an overview of Staff Report PW 12-21, Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update. Ms. Beale noted the three segments of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design identified in the Staff Report. She advised that the Staff Report outlined proposed design elements such as the movement of people, traffic analysis of the surrounding residential neighbourhoods, maintenance needs, and servicing requirements. Ms. Beale further advised that various design alternatives and support measures between Staff and Metrolinx were considered in the Staff Report.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Ms. Beale regarding:

- whether the Staff Report supports a symmetrical Segment 3 design, allowing equal sidewalk expansion on both the North and South side of Dundas Street; and,
- whether the Town and Metrolinx may reach a collaborative recommendation following public consultation.

3. Delegations

3.1 Robert Baker, Resident

Re: Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21 Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 12-21

Robert Baker appeared before Council to express his concerns with the transparency and accountability surrounding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project in Whitby. Mr. Baker expressed a desire for improved consultation between Council, Metrolinx, and the community, and acknowledged recent community engagement efforts regarding the BRT project.

A brief question and answer period ensued between Members of Council and Mr. Baker regarding the refined BRT design proposal.

- 3.2** Niki Lundquist, Resident
Re: Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department
and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21
Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 12-21

Niki Lundquist appeared before Council to comment on the community input and transparency concerning the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project to date. Ms. Lundquist commented on discussions held during previous Council meetings. She expressed a desire for broader community consultation, transparency, and a BRT design plan that addresses the needs of all stakeholders.

- 3.3** Susan Shahmurat and Greg Baker, Durham Condominium Corporation
84, 110 Mary Street West
Re: Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department
and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21
Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 12-21

Susan Shahmurat and Greg Baker, representing Durham Condominium Corporation 84, 110 Mary Street West, appeared before Council to express their concerns with how the proposed Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design may impact traffic on Mary Street and other local roads. Ms. Shahmurat suggested the design be modified to prohibit right-hand turns onto Ash Street, Perry Street, and Hickory Street. She presented an alternative Segment 3 design option that would include four mixed-traffic lanes, with no designated bus lanes.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council, Mr. Hopper, and Ms. Shahmurat regarding the viability of a four mixed-traffic lane design that would also restrict right-hand turns through downtown Whitby.

- 3.4** Meghan MacPherson and Derek Morine, Old Whitby Neighbourhood
Association (OWNA)
Re: Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department
and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21
Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 12-21

Meghan MacPherson and Derek Morine, representing Old Whitby Neighbourhood Association (OWNA), appeared before Council to comment on the lack of community consultation and safety concerns regarding the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Project. Ms. MacPherson expressed concerns with the previous Transit Mall Option, which would divert traffic onto surrounding local roads. She acknowledged the importance of public transit, and requested that the Town establish a clear plan for the future of downtown Whitby that considers the needs of the community.

A question and answer period ensued between Members of Council, Mr. Hopper, and Ms. MacPherson regarding:

- whether a pedestrian mall may be established elsewhere in the Town of Whitby;
- design elements of the proposed bus shelters;
- whether traffic lanes will remain open during construction of the BRT Project; and,
- signage directing traffic away from local roads surrounding downtown Whitby.

- 3.5** Lynn Dooly Marek, Resident
Re: Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21 Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

Refer to Item 4.1, PW 12-21

Lynn Dooly Marek appeared before Council to comment on the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) design. Ms. Dooly Marek expressed her safety concerns with diverting traffic away from Dundas Street onto adjacent local roads.

- 3.6** Question and Answer Period with Metrolinx Staff based on questions submitted by the public

Residents watching the meeting on the livestream were advised that questions regarding the BRT proposal could be submitted to clerk@whitby.ca and would be presented to Metrolinx, Staff or Council for answers.

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

- the impact of COVID-19 on public transit ridership;

- alternative BRT design options, such as considering Rossland Road as an alternative transit corridor location, and adding North-South express buses to service GO Train riders;
- whether the existing easement at the rear of 120 Dundas Street West will be impacted by the proposed BRT design;
- the use of real-time traffic counts on roads surrounding downtown Whitby;
- safety strategies to assist motorists with navigating the single-traffic Eastbound lane versus the mixed-traffic Westbound lane in the proposed Segment 3 BRT design;
- plans to minimize traffic congestion and promote a safe, walkable and pedestrian friendly Downtown;
- whether Metrolinx may reconsider a four mixed-traffic lane design on Dundas Street between Bryon Street South and Brock Street;
- whether an asymmetrical three-lane traffic design has been implemented in other communities;
- whether Metrolinx may consider a symmetrical design that widens sidewalks on both the North and South side of Dundas Street in the Segment 3 BRT design;
- the anticipated construction timeline for the BRT project;
- whether the BRT project includes plans to replace buses with Light Rail Transit in the future;
- consultation efforts with the community to date;
- whether the Heritage Whitby Advisory Committee and local churches have been consulted on this matter;
- clarification regarding the justification for a pedestrian mall;
- how the proposed U-turn intersections may impact pedestrian safety;
- whether the BRT design includes designated bike lanes;
- clarification regarding the proposed design between Raglan Road and Cochrane Street;
- compensation for businesses affected by the BRT project construction through potential road closures, utility cut-offs, and impacting business deliveries; and,
- whether business deliveries will be prohibited on Dundas Street as part of the Segment 3 BRT design.

4. Items for Consideration

4.1 Public Works Department, Planning and Development Department and Office of the Chief Administrative Officer Joint Report, PW 12-21
Re: Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit Project Update

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

- the rationale behind diverting traffic from Dundas Street onto Rossland Road;
- whether the refined BRT design was first considered at the time the Transit Mall Option was presented to Council;
- whether the timeline for completing the environmental assessment is flexible;
- whether the Minister has final approval authority over the Metrolinx BRT Project; and,
- when Metrolinx will receive funding, and whether the project will be funded by the province and/or municipal property tax dollars.

Discussion ensued between Members of Council regarding:

- whether Metrolinx should be requested to assess and present to the public the alternative BRT design options as presented in the Staff Report;
- the impact of COVID-19 on planning and consultation efforts concerning the Metrolinx BRT Project;
- the importance of consultation between Metrolinx, Staff, residents, businesses, and other stakeholders to ensure the BRT Project services the needs of the community;
- supporting local businesses affected by the Metrolinx BRT Project;
- the various design options that may be considered and discussed during future public consultation sessions;
- the need for a transit solution that services businesses, residents, and the broader community; and,
- whether Metrolinx has time to assess the alternative BRT design options as presented in the Staff Report.

Moved By Councillor Drumm

Seconded By Councillor Roy

1. That Report PW 12-21, regarding the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, be received as information.
2. That Metrolinx continue to engage with the community and receive public feedback on the BRT proposal and incorporate Town of Whitby Council's motion regarding public consultation as part of the BRT consultative efforts.
3. That staff continue to meet with Metrolinx and Region of Durham officials to discuss the alternatives and comments received to date and report back to Council following the next public consultative session.
4. That Report PW 12-21 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 motion]

Moved By Councillor Roy
Seconded By Councillor Mulcahy

That the main motion be amended by inserting the following as Item 2 and that the remaining items be renumbered accordingly:

2. That Metrolinx be requested to assess Option #1 as presented with the 4 lanes in downtown Whitby;

Lost 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	
	4	5	0

The main motion, save and except items related to proposed advertising in the Brooklin Town Crier, was then considered.

Resolution # 84-21

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded By Councillor Roy

1. That Report PW 12-21, regarding the Metrolinx Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) project, be received as information.
2. That Metrolinx continue to engage with the community and receive public feedback on the BRT proposal and incorporate Town of Whitby Council's motion regarding public consultation as part of the BRT consultative efforts, save and except proposed advertising in the Brooklin Town Crier.

3. That staff continue to meet with Metrolinx and Region of Durham officials to discuss the alternatives and comments received to date and report back to Council following the next public consultative session.
4. That Report PW 12-21 be forwarded to Metrolinx, Durham Region Transit, Region of Durham, City of Pickering, Town of Ajax, and City of Oshawa.

Carried unanimously 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		
	9	0	0

Having previously declared a conflict of interest, Councillor Mulcahy did not take part in the discussion or vote on matters pertaining to proposed advertising in the Brooklin Town Crier.

Resolution # 85-21

Moved By Councillor Drumm
Seconded By Councillor Roy

That Staff provide for advertising to facilitate public consultation through the Brooklin Town Crier as deemed appropriate.

Carried

Resolution # 86-21

Moved By Councillor Shahid
Seconded By Councillor Newman

That Metrolinx be requested to assess and present to the public the alternative Option 1 as presented in Section 4.3 of this report as part of the proposed BRT through Downtown Whitby.

Carried unanimously on a recorded vote as follows:

	For	Against	Abstained
Councillor Shahid	x		
Councillor Drumm	x		
Councillor Leahy	x		
Councillor Lee	x		
Councillor Mulcahy	x		
Councillor Newman	x		
Councillor Roy	x		
Councillor Yamada	x		
Mayor Mitchell	x		
	9	0	0

5. Confirmatory By-law

5.1 Confirmatory By-law

Resolution # 87-21

Moved By Councillor Leahy
Seconded By Councillor Yamada

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 April 22, 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 9:15 p.m.

Christopher Harris, Town Clerk

Don Mitchell, Mayor