

**THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF NIAGARA
LINKING NIAGARA TRANSIT COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

LNTC 3-2020

Wednesday, October 21, 2020

Council Chamber / Video Conference

**Niagara Region Headquarters, Campbell West
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold, ON**

Committee Members Present in the Council Chamber: M. Siscoe (Municipal Councillor - St. Catharines) (Committee Chair), M. Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office

Committee Members Present via Video Conference: Campion (Mayor - Welland), Redekop (Mayor - Fort Erie), Sendzik (Mayor - St. Catharines), Fertich (Regional Councillor), C. Dabrowski (Municipal Councillor - Niagara Falls), G. Miller (Municipal Councillor - St. Catharines), L. Van Vliet (Municipal Councillor - Welland) (Committee Vice-Chair), S. Chemnitz, Chief Administrative Officer (City of St. Catharines), K. Todd, Chief Administrative Officer (City of Niagara Falls), R. Tripp, Acting Chief Administrative Officer (Niagara Region), S. Zorbas, Interim Chief Administrative Officer (City of Welland)

Absent/Regrets: Ip (Regional Councillor)

Staff Present in the Council Chamber: H. Chamberlain, Deputy Treasurer/Director, Financial Management & Planning, S. Fraser, Transportation Lead, S. Guglielmi, Technology Support Analyst, A.-M. Norio, Regional Clerk, H. Talbot, Financial & Special Projects Consultant, B. Zvaniga, Interim Commissioner, Public Works

Staff Present via Video Conference: C. Lam, Program Financial Analyst, R. Salewytch, Transit Service Planning Coordinator, L. Tracey, Project Coordinator, GO Implementation, M. Trennum, Deputy Regional Clerk

Others Present via Video Conference: C. Briggs, St. Catharines Transit Commission, G. Morrison, St. Catharines Transit, T. Price, Niagara College, R. Rehan, Brock University Student Union, D. Stuart, Niagara Falls Transit.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair M. Siscoe called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.

2. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

3. **PRESENTATIONS**

3.1 **Niagara Transit Governance Study - Final Report**

Matt Robinson, Director, GO Implementation Office, provided introductory remarks respecting the Niagara Transit Governance Study.

Brendan McIlhone, Optimus SBR, Yuval Grinspun, & Eric Gillespie, Left Turn, Right Turn, provided information respecting the Niagara Transit Governance Study - Final Report. Topics of the presentation included:

- Project Overview
- The Case for Integration
- Current State and Leading Practices
- Forecasting the Future
- Model Options, Analysis
- Recommendation: Full Commission Model
- Commission Composition
- Transitioning to the Commission
- Funding Model

Heather Talbot, Financial and Special Projects Consultant, and Scott Fraser, Transportation Lead, Niagara Region, provided information respecting the Niagara Transit Governance Study - Final Report: Funding Model & Next Steps. Topics of the presentation included:

- Financial Strategy
- Transition to Regional Levy
- Asset Transfer
- Summary
- Recommendations and Next Steps

Councillor Information Request(s):

Provide information respecting the net taxpayer redistribution from the local area municipal levies to the regional levy. Councillor Redekop.

4. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

5. **ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION**

5.1 **LNTC-C 4-2020**

Niagara Transit Governance Study

Moved by Councillor Campion

Seconded by Councillor Fertich

That Report LNTC-C 4-2020, dated October 21, 2020, respecting Niagara Transit Governance Study, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Linking Niagara Transit Committee **SUPPORTS** the Full Commission as the recommended governance model for the consolidation of Niagara's public transit system;
2. That Report LNTC-C 4-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Clerks of Niagara's twelve (12) local area municipalities and that they **BE REQUESTED** to have the Council's of the twelve (12) local area municipalities consider the resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020, advising the Regional Clerk of any municipal feedback, no later than March 31, 2021; and
3. That Council **DIRECT** staff to undertake an assessment of the proposed resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020 and **REPORT BACK** to the Public Works Committee, no later than March 31, 2021, evaluating the expected impacts to Niagara Region Transit, Niagara Specialized Transit, Niagara Region Transit OnDemand, and the Regional tax levy from the proposed resolution.

The following friendly **amendment** was accepted by the Committee Chair, and the mover and seconder of the motion:

2. That Report LNTC-C 4-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Clerks of Niagara's twelve (12) local area municipalities and that they **BE REQUESTED** to have the Council's of the twelve (12) local area municipalities consider the resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020, advising the Regional Clerk of any municipal feedback, no later than ~~March 31, 2021~~ **February 28, 2021**; and
3. That Council **DIRECT** staff to undertake an assessment of the proposed resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020 and **REPORT BACK** to the Public Works Committee, no later than ~~March 31, 2021~~ **February 28, 2021**, evaluating the expected impacts to Niagara Region Transit, Niagara Specialized Transit, Niagara Region Transit OnDemand, and the Regional tax levy from the proposed resolution.

The Committee Chair called the vote on the motion, as amended, as follows:

That Report LNTC-C 4-2020, dated October 21, 2020, respecting Niagara Transit Governance Study, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Linking Niagara Transit Committee **SUPPORTS** the Full Commission as the recommended governance model for the consolidation of Niagara's public transit system;
2. That Report LNTC-C 4-2020 **BE FORWARDED** to the Clerks of Niagara's twelve (12) local area municipalities and that they **BE REQUESTED** to have the Council's of the twelve (12) local area municipalities consider the resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020, advising the Regional Clerk of any municipal feedback, no later than February 28, 2021; and
3. That Council **DIRECT** staff to undertake an assessment of the proposed resolution outlined in Appendix 1 to Report LNTC-C 4-2020 and **REPORT BACK** to the Public Works Committee, no later than February 28, 2021, evaluating the expected impacts to Niagara Region Transit, Niagara Specialized Transit, Niagara Region Transit OnDemand, and the Regional tax levy from the proposed resolution.

Carried

5.2 LNTC-C 5-2020

2021 Linking Niagara Transit Committee meeting schedule

Moved by G. Miller

Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Correspondence Item, LNTC-C 5-2020, being a memorandum from A.-M., Norio, Regional Clerk, dated October 21, 2020, respecting 2021 Linking Niagara Transit Committee meeting schedule, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendation **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Linking Niagara Transit Committee meetings **BE HELD** on Wednesdays at 2:00 p.m. on the following dates in 2021:

February 3, February 24, March 31, April 28, June 2, June 30, July 28, September 1, September 29, October 27, and November 24.

Carried

6. CONSENT ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

6.1 LNTC 2-2020

Linking Niagara Transit Committee Minutes - March 4, 2020

Moved by Councillor Sendzik

Seconded by Councillor Campion

That Report LNTC 2-2020, being the minutes of the Linking Niagara Transit Committee meeting held on March 4, 2020, **BE RECEIVED** for information.

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

There were no items of other business.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, November 25, 2020 at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Mat Siscoe
Committee Chair

Matthew Trennum
Deputy Regional Clerk

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk