
MEMORANDUM

LNTC-C 2-2021

Subject: Niagara Transit Governance - Governance Steering Committee Update

Date: April 28, 2021

To: Linking Niagara Transit Committee

From: Scott Fraser, Transportation Lead, GO Implementation Office

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide the Linking Niagara Transit Committee (LNTC) with an update on the Governance Steering Committee's (GSC) work plan and to present an updated summary of Phase 1 Consultation on the governance and financial models, now that all local area municipalities (LAMs) have provided their feedback formally.

Governance Steering Committee

The GSC, comprised of all 13 Chief Administrative Officers, has been established as an expansion of the Transit Governance CAO Working Group, with a mandate to consider and reflect the feedback received from the LAMs through Phase 1 consultation. A series of GSC workshops has been developed to discuss and address the three major themes identified: the financial strategy, the development of a detailed service strategy, and board composition/governance. The workshop series will also address plans for future stakeholder engagement, communications, and the ultimate timing of the initiation of the triple-majority approval process.

- Workshop #1 – was held on April 13, 2021 and achieved two primary objectives: confirming the scope and required resourcing for the development of a service strategy, including the use of an external consultant to support the work, and introducing the key principles and assumptions being used to develop revised financial models.
- Workshop #2 – was held on April 23, 2021 and examined alternative funding strategies. Reflecting feedback received from LAMs, the discussion explored options for both General Levies and Special Levies. GSC members were asked

to identify preferred approaches and models, working towards a narrower list of options for further study.

The workshop series will continue through April and May 2021, with the following proposed timelines and primary discussion topics:

- Workshop #3 – April 30, 2021 – Governance and Board Composition
- Workshop #4 – Mid-May 2021 – Financial Strategy
- Workshop #5 – Late-May 2021 – Service Strategy Review / Governance and Board Composition / Stakeholder Engagement and Next Steps

At the direction of the GSC, updates on the aforementioned governance themes will be brought forward to future LNTC meetings as more work is undertaken to address the issues raised during the Phase 1 consultation, including a path forward for future engagement and feedback from Committee.

Phase 1 Consultation – Local Area Municipalities

LNTC-C 1-2021 - Niagara Transit Governance – Detailed Phase 1 Consultation Summary presented an overview of the formal feedback received from LAMs on the recommended governance and financial models.

At the time of reporting, formal feedback had not been received from the City of Welland pending completion of a local staff report requested following the project team's presentation on February 9, 2021. On April 13, 2021, City of Welland Council adopted local staff recommendations from that report (Welland Council - TRANS-2021-01).

Appendix 1 - Niagara Transit Governance – Final Phase 1 Consultation Summary has been updated accordingly to include this feedback, which will be considered by the GSC in parallel with the input from received all LAMs through Phase 1 consultation.

Respectfully submitted and signed by

Scott Fraser, P.Eng.
Transportation Lead | GO Implementation Office

Appendix 1 Niagara Transit Governance – Final Phase 1 Consultation
Summary