

Moving Transit Forward

Special Council Meeting

March 24, 2022

Agenda

Triple Majority



A review of the successful achievement of the criteria for triple-majority approval in February 2022

Transit Commission Steering Committee



How the Region will guide the transition through the Transit Commission Steering Committee (TCSC)

Priority Areas of Focus



Upcoming milestones including the creation of the Municipal Services Board and negotiation of transfer agreements

Transitional Board Member Nominations



Local Area Municipalities (LAMs) will be asked to nominate their elected official(s) for the transitional Commission Board

Next Steps



What comes next as the Commission prepares for the assumption of operations on Jan. 1, 2023.

Triple-Majority

The criteria for triple-majority approval has been achieved, with both Regional Council and a strong majority of local councils supporting consolidation.

**Regional Council
Approval**

November 25, 2021
PW 55-2022



**LAM Council
Approvals**

December 2021 - February 2022
Consent to By-law No. 2021-96

The triple-majority proposal further included a series of core financial, service, and Board composition strategies. It is on the basis of these strategies that the new Commission will be established, reflecting the strong support received through triple-majority.

Transit Commission Steering Committee

- To guide this transition, the Region has established the **Transit Commission Steering Committee (TCSC)**.
- Chaired by Commissioner of Public Works.
- Active participation from LAM transit GMs, supported by LAM CAOs and legal counsel:
 - Asset Transfer;
 - Assignment of Applicable Contracts;
 - Harmonization of policies and procedures; and
 - Human Resources and Labour Relations.

Progress to Date

- KPMG retained to develop a recommended approach to shared services between the Region and Commission.
- *Niagara Transit Commission* has been identified as an interim name as the MSB is established – in advance of future approval of public-facing name by Board and Council.
- Outreach to other transit Commissions to gather best practices and successful policies - Ottawa, London, Edmonton, and Durham.
- Initial meetings to advance the Municipal Transfer Agreement(s).
- Commencement of ATU engagement.

Priority Areas of Focus

Establishment of Municipal Services Board

- Creating the Niagara Transit Commission will require the establishment of a new Municipal Services Board of the Region.
- Accomplished via enacting a By-law as part of **a future report to Regional Council anticipated for May 5, 2022**, that will include formalizing aspects of the relationship between the Region and the Commission.
- Work is underway to consider best practices in establishing financial/reporting relationship between Commission and Region; and addressing legislative and policy requirements.

Municipal Transfer Agreement(s)

- MTA will govern how current municipal transit personnel, assets and contracts will transfer from the LAMS to the Region and/or Commission.
- Staff have initiated negotiations in accordance with the terms outlined in Report PW 55-2021; specifically the principles outlined in Appendix 3.
- **A future report to Regional Council** on the finalized MTA(s) will be brought to Regional Council for approval upon the successful conclusion of negotiations.

Transitional Board Member Nominations

In anticipation of establishment of Commission as a MSB (May 5, 2022), LAMs will be asked to forward their nomination(s) for their elected official(s) for the transitional Niagara Transit Commission Board.

- Requested no later than April 29, 2022.
- Elected officials – Local or Regional Councillors.
- Regional Council approval of nominations.
- Term will end on January 31, 2023; subsequent round of nominations to follow.
- Nominations in keeping with 15-member elected board composition approved in PW 55-2021:
 - (3) St. Catharines
 - (2) Niagara Falls
 - (1) All Other Municipalities
- Public Advisory Committee to be established *after* 2022 Municipal Election.

Conclusion of Linking Niagara Transit Committee

Role and Mandate

- The LNTC was established in 2017, to:
 - develop and advance a recommended consolidated governance model for Niagara; and
 - in the interim, harmonize the operations and policies of the existing transit systems.
- Given successful achievement of this mandate and appointment of Commission Board imminent, it is appropriate for the LNTC to be dissolved forthwith

Highlights

- ✓ Standardized on-bus customer service policies across all four large transit systems
- ✓ Specialized Transit in Niagara Study
- ✓ Real-time bus tracking via Transit App
- ✓ Consolidated all after-hours customer service
- ✓ Implemented a Universal Support Person Pass
- ✓ Annual U-Pass Agreements with Niagara College and Brock University
- ✓ Niagara Transit Governance Study and triple-majority approval of recommended Governance strategies.

Next Steps

With only nine months to full transition and ensure a successful hand off to the new Commission on January 1, 2023, accelerated and necessary work in support of the new Commission is well underway.



Thank You