

December 13, 2023

Regional Chair Bradley and Council
Regional Municipality of Niagara Region
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way
Thorold, ON L2V 4T7

RE: 2024 Revised Proposed Operating and Capital Budget Submission and Requisition - Niagara Transit Commission

Dear Regional Chair Bradley and Council,

As further requested by Regional Council, the Niagara Transit Commission reviewed its 2024 Proposed Operating & Capital Budget Submission and Requisition at its meeting held on December 12, 2023. At that meeting, the Commission passed the following motion:

That Report NTC 25-2023, dated December 12, 2023, respecting Niagara Transit Commission Proposed 2024 Budget Considerations, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the following program changes to the Board approved 2024 operating budget (Report NTC 17-2023):
 - a) Maintain PGT Operating Revenues of \$1.6 million, increasing budgeted revenues by \$300,000.
 - b) Maintain transfer to capital reserves of \$2.16 million, reducing operating budget by \$146,666.
 - c) Reduction of Legal Claims operating budget by \$100,000.
 - d) Delay in local route replacing WEGO City (route 116/216), reducing operating costs by \$300,000.
 - e) Reduce the budget for 2024 Specialty Services Transit Request for Proposal by \$150,000; and

f) Implement a local fare increase of \$0.25 effective May 1, 2024.

As a result of these program changes, the Commission subsequently approved the following motion:

1. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 gross operating budget submission of \$82,246,767 and Special Levy of \$58,121,710 for an increase of \$3,068,760 or 5.57%, which net of assessment growth for 2024 reflects an overall 2024 budget increase of 3.91%;
2. That the Special Levy of \$58,121,710 **BE APPORTIONED** between the local municipalities as determined in accordance with the methodology approved in PW 55-2021 and based on final 2023 current value assessment; and
3. That the revised 2024 gross operating budget for Niagara Transit Commission Budget **BE REFERRED** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) meeting on December 14, 2023, for approval and subsequent calculation of the Special Levy tax rates for each municipality following Regional Council tax policy decisions.

As Regional Council may recall, the previous approved motion of the Board from October 24, 2023, was the following:

That Report NTC 17-2023, dated October 24, 2023, respecting 2024 Proposed Operating & Capital Budget Submission and Requisition – Niagara Transit Commission, **BE RECEIVED** and the following recommendations **BE APPROVED**:

1. That the Niagara Transit Commission (NTC) Board **APPROVE** the proposed 2024 gross operating budget submission of \$83,234,433 and net base Special Levy of \$59,348,376 for a net increase of \$4,295,426 or 7.8%;
2. That the net Special Levy of \$59,348,376 **BE APPORTIONED** between the local municipalities as per Appendix 2 of Report NTC 17-2023, determined in accordance with the methodology approved in PW 55-2021 and based on final 2023 current value assessment;
3. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the addition of 10.11 permanent Full-time Equivalents (FTE) as per Appendix 4 of Report NTC 17-2023, totaling \$953,609 gross included in the Special Levy;
4. That the NTC Board **APPROVE** the proposed NTC 2024 gross capital budget of \$23,018,750 as presented in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;

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5. That financing in the amount of \$5,507,900 gross and \$1,650,000 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** upon approval of the 2024 Capital Budget and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects as summarized in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;
 6. That financing in the amount of \$17,510,850 gross and \$445,276 net of the 2024 capital budget **BE INITIATED** and **BE ALLOCATED** to the projects upon approval confirmation of Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) funding as summarized in Table 4 of Report NTC 17-2023;
 7. That this report **BE FORWARDED** to the Budget Review Committee of the Whole (BRCOTW) meeting on November 9, 2023, for approval and subsequent calculation of the Special Levy tax rates for each municipality following Regional Council tax policy decisions; and
 8. That a copy of this Report **BE CIRCULATED** to the Local Area Municipalities.

Please find attached to this letter Report NTC 25-2023, which provides information regarding the Revised 2024 Proposed Budget Considerations. I would ask that this information be placed on the agenda for the Regional Budget Review Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for Thursday, December 14, 2023.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mat Siscoe', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Mat Siscoe,
Board Chair, Niagara Transit Commission