



REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission
Thursday, December 15, 2022 11:00 AM
In-Person at 25 Messenger Drive and via Webex

In attendance:

Paul Walsh	Chairperson
Ian Froude	Vice Chairperson/City Councillor
Lynn Zurel	Commissioner
Tolulope Akerele	Commissioner
Kirsten Morry	Commissioner
Kevin Breen	City Manager
Ron Ellsworth	Commissioner/City Councillor
Judy Powell	General Manager
Donna Power	Administrative Assistant

Regrets:

Maggie Burton	Commissioner/City Councillor
Derek Coffey	Deputy City Manager, Finance & Administration

I. PROCEDURAL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11:03 AM.

II. AGENDA

MOTION: To approve the agenda as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Morry; seconded by Commissioner Ellsworth. Motion Carried.

III. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the November 24, 2022 regular meeting as presented.

Moved by Commissioner Zurel; seconded by Commissioner Akerele. Motion Carried.

IV. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Stop Announcements – alternative supports

Commissioner Zurel inquired about the status of the plan to introduce redesigned schedules and website content. The General Manager responded that the changes are being made and the new schedules will be released with the next batch printing.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. General Manager's Report

Status of ICIP Funding Applications: Commissioner Zurel inquired if it is normal for applications to be outstanding since May 2022. The General Manager replied that funding decisions during phase 2 of the ICIP program seem to be much slower than during phase 1.

Delivery – Eighteen (18) New Paratransit buses for GoBus: The General Manager noted that 4 - 6 of the new fleet of buses will arrive next week, with the remaining coming early January.

2. Executive Summary Report

Commissioner Zurel asked if there is any insight so far into the reported high number of no-shows for GoBus. The General Manager noted that the Manager, Accessible Transit Services is continuing to work on education around no-show timelines.

Commissioner Akerele requested more information about the CUTA mentorship program. The General Manager shared that this is a new initiative meant to connect seasoned professionals in the transit industry with people who are either new to the industry or new to a particular segment of the industry.

Commissioner Zurel asked if there is a policy that dictates spending amounts which must be brought to the Commission for approval, as opposed to being approved by management. The General Manager commented that there is a policy with a defined limit, though it is old and should be reviewed.

Vice Chair Froude highlighted the significant growth in ridership again this month. The General Manager noted increases from various sources, such as the low-income pass program, newcomers, fuel costs, inflation, and taxi limitations. Vice Chair Froude also highlighted some positive feedback that has been received regarding GoBus hours of operation on New Year's Eve. Commissioner Ellsworth noted that the 2am close time is specific to it being a Saturday, rather than because it is New Years Eve. He also noted this is something the Commission should revisit in the coming year.

3. Pension Committee Meeting

The General Manager informed that a meeting of the Pension Committee will be set for early January to discuss some topics which will need the Commission's attention at the January 2023 meeting.

4. Travel - CUTA

Vice Chair Froude commented that, in the spring, he will be Chairing CUTA's Transit Board Members Committee, which is a committee of municipal decision-makers who come together to exchange ideas and best practices on public transit. To aid with travel planning, Vice Chair Froude is seeking approval in advance to attend CUTA's Spring and Fall conferences.

Commissioner Akerele noted that during this year's request for expressions of interest, she indicated her interest in attending in 2023.

MOTION: To approve Vice Chair Froude's attendance at the Spring and Fall CUTA Conferences, 2023.

The General Manager noted that the usual call for expressions of interest from Commission members to attend CUTA conferences will still proceed closer to the date of the conferences.

Moved by K. Breen; seconded by Commissioner Morry. Motion carried unanimously.

VI. OTHER

Commissioner Morry acknowledged that this is the final meeting of her term on the Commission, along with Chair Walsh, and wished to express thanks to the Commission for the experience. Chair Walsh expressed the same, noting the progress that has been made during their terms and confidence that this progress will continue.

Commissioner Zurel and the General Manager both expressed their thanks and appreciation to Chair Walsh and Commissioner Morry for their support over the past five years.

The next meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission will take place on January 26, 2023.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Business concluded at approximately 11:23 AM.

MOTION: To adjourn the December 15, 2022 regular business meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission.

Moved by K. Breen. Meeting adjourned.