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Coming up at 5:30, it's this month's Transit Advisory Committee meeting. This is what's on the agenda for this month:



MEETING PREVIEW: Transit Advisory Committee Meeting for February...

No time for love the day after Valentine's Day because the Transit Advisory Committee has to get down to business. The agenda is deceptively light, because one of the items will require TAC t...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/02/09/meeting-preview-transit-advisory-committee-meeti...>

We're waiting for quorum so the meeting can begin. The meeting moved to an all online format because of the weather today.

We've got quorum! Chair Carey calls the meeting to order.

No Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof.

Minutes of the previous meeting approved.

First item up is Redesigning Advisory Committees of Council - Phase 2. You may recall that the clerks' office already went through this at least once this month at Heritage Guelph.

Deputy Clerk Dylan McMahon leads the presentation. To recap: Council approved phase 1 of the project and the new framework last November. The first to two outreach sessions are being done now so that staff can get feedback about how the ACOCs see their role in new framework.

McMahon says that through this work, there will be a reduction of ACOCs, about 7-10 versus 14 right now. Doesn't mean the engagement or the work will decrease, some committees only meet every other month.

Current list of ACOCs. Note that TAC isn't among the statutory committees, and McMahon notes that this gives them a lot of latitude.

Current City of Guelph Advisory Committees

1. Accessibility Advisory Committee*
2. Committee of Adjustment*
3. Guelph Economic Development Advisory Committee
4. Guelph Museums Advisory Committee*
5. Heritage Guelph
6. Municipal Property and Building Commemorative Naming Committee
7. Natural Heritage Advisory Committee
8. Planning Advisory Committee*
9. Property Standards Committee*
10. Public Art Advisory Committee
11. Tourism Advisory Committee
12. Transit Advisory Committee
13. Waste Resource Innovation Centre Public Liaison Advisory Committee
14. Water Conservation and Efficiency Public Advisory Committee

* statutory committee required by provincial legislation or regulation

Also to recap, the next phase after this will be a meeting of chairs and vice-chairs in the summer about some of the information they've collected and the conclusions being reached. Then the clerks will be coming back for more feedback in the fall. No decisions made so far.

ACOC Governance Framework Commitments:

- ACOCs are an important form of community engagement.
- ACOCs should help shape the City's strategic goals.
- ACOCs should adopt a deliberative approach.
- ACOCs should contribute lived and professional expertise.

(cont'd)

- ACOCs should include members with diverse identities and perspectives.
- There should be clear communication between ACOCs and City Council.
- ACOCs should be adequately resourced.

First: What goals does TAC contribute to in the Strategic Plan, and what goals *could* it contribute to?

Future Guelph Strategic Plan Themes	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives	Q1: Which strategic goals does your ACOC currently contribute to?
Foundations	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be an employer of choice 2. Advocate for our City 3. Lead with accountability 4. Maintain the City's healthy financial position 	
City Building	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Improve housing supply 2. Grow and care for our community spaces and places 3. Make it easier to get around 	Q2: Which goals could it potentially contribute to?
Environment	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Be a leader in climate action 2. Empower the community to help create a sustainable city 	
People and Economy	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Grow Guelph's economy 2. Make downtown a vibrant place for everyone 3. Support community well-being 	

Member Rebello says City Building is obvious, making it easier to get around. Also sustainability under environment. Carey concurs with the that, also notes that it ties to housing

Member Srinder says he thinks TAC ticks all the boxes, people and economy covers mobility service and the affordable pass. McMahon asks if growing Guelph's economy is tied to making it easier to get around, or is it its own things?

Carey notes close relationship with Transit, which is something that other ACOCs might not have with City departments. She notes that council has approved plans, but what GT lacks is the funding to realise their plans.

McMahon asks if the problem is less advice and more about getting support. Carey says that's fair. GM Gerus says everyone tied with city building has a cost, and transit is tied to all aspects of city building.

McMahon asks if it makes sense to expand the mandate to other aspects of transportation beyond transit. Sridhar notes that the committee can also contribute to sustainability questions around parking and traffic, transit can be a remedy to those things.

McMahon asks if there's a specific change that might help TAC be more effect in those areas. Sridhar says that there's a lot work happening in TAC contributing to the development of transit policy and there's good collaboration.

Carey says again that a lot of the work to make transit a successful service is already in place, but the lack of funding is an issue and she's worried more cuts are coming. Wonders if there's a communications issue. Some people don't know that EV buses can run in winter.

McMahon says that makes sense. Carey also notes that transit's job is never done, the service needs constant care and management to find solutions and improvements, but it's within the confines of the limited budget.

Member Edwards, who represents the Poverty Task Force, says that she thinks the primary role is people and economy, especially representing people who can't afford personal vehicles. Good transit does not limit people by income.

Next, same questions, but with the Community Plan:

Community Plan Themes	Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives	Q1: Which strategic goals does your ACOC currently contribute to? Q2: Which goals could it potentially contribute to?
We are home	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Have housing that works for us• Keep Guelph a safe City• Love our neighbourhoods and keep them strong• Keep our big, small city vibe	
We protect the environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Protect and sustain what we have• Reclaim what might otherwise be wasted• Go further than any other city• Prepare for the future• Steward our resources	
We create value	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Be a global innovation leader• Support collaboration and tell our Guelph story better• Leverage our unique character• Foster inclusive prosperity• Harness our discovery engines	
We are community	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• We understand community• Build and sustain strong, meaningful and reciprocal relationships• Make truth and reconciliation a reality in Guelph• Work within and across systems to eliminate discrimination and barriers• Respect, pace and the 'fierce urgency of now'• Create and hold safe, inclusive spaces• Stories and information belong to the people who share them• Use intentional and shared language and understanding	

Community Plan Themes		Future Guelph Strategic Plan Theme Objectives	Q1: Which strategic goals does your ACOC currently contribute to?
We feel well		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Give children and youth a great start • Foster good mental health • Ensure that everyone feels they belong here • Create a nourished community • Build health infrastructure for the future 	Q2: Which goals could it potentially contribute to?
We play and explore		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Play everywhere • Grow talent • Explore and make sense of who we are together • Invest and innovate 	
We move around freely		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Facilitate easy movement within our city • Facilitate active transportation, and connection to nature, via natural trails • Embrace future-ready infrastructure • Connect regionally 	

Carey notes the "We move freely" provision. She says that she sees transit as a means to an end, easy movement is about living in neighbourhood of choice and being able to get to work. Transit is a means to an end.

Carey also notes "housing that works for us" because for some people, housing only works with transit. Affordable housing intersects with good transit.

McMahon invites members of the committee to reach out to him any time if they have more feedback, and then covers next steps again (see above). Council is expected to approve changes by the end of the year.

Next, TAC Members' Feedback. There's no feedback.

Next: General Transit Update, including Electric Buses. Gerus begins saying that not much has changed. Everyone's busy taking care of their business. Renovations at Watson Road for the AVL control centre are winding down and will be completed later this month or early next.

Gerus: Getting good feedback about new shelters in GCS. Digital sign project continues, plus transit app upgrades. Scheduling? Working on changes for May in terms of signage, and looking at mobility and on-demand service upgrades.

Courtney McDonald, Manager of Transit Business Service, says that GT will be launching an Instagram in the next couple of weeks. Later this year, there will be a revamp of the GT website in conjunction with the City site revamp. Sept: Sunday on-demand city-wide will start.

Michael Van Kooy, who oversees EV buses, says all four EVs are on the road right now on all different routes. Testing for topography and weather is continuing. Next 7 buses will start coming in with a few weeks, and another order for 8 buses has been submitted for next year.

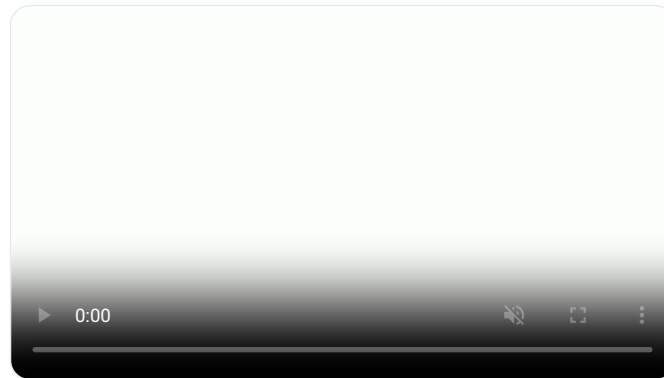
Van Kooy says the EVs are driving very well in the winter time and everyone loves them. Gerus adds that new training for new operators has begun to make sure there's a full compliment. Want to maintain those numbers and they're seeing success.

Edwards asks about an experience on the EV, the screen was active but the location was 2 hours behind. One time glitch? Van Kooy says with computers there are connectivity issues sometimes, and the infotainment screens have shown glitches they're working on.

Carey says she saw a convo on FB about bus wraps, and they did note that it was a subject that came up at a TAC meeting.

Harper says she's proud of the work of committee and how it's so smoothly run and well-organised. She's honoured to be a part of it.

On that positive note, this meeting is over.



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