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



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

Another committee that's getting the band back together after summer vacation is the Transit Advisory Committee. With everyone back at school, and all the school year routes back in business,...

<https://guelphpolitico.ca/2024/09/13/meeting-preview-transit-advisory-committee-meeti...>

Now that we barely have quorum, Chair Cary calls the meeting to order.

Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof. None.

Note: Deepack Sridhar has resigned from the TAC since he's moved to Cambridge. 😞

First item, Summary of the August 20, 2024 Meeting with the Transit Action Alliance of Guelph (TAAG). Laura Catalano-Bragues, Manager of Transit Network Design and Control Centre says they talked about kids-ride-free program and possible expansion, and more.

She says that conversations right now lead back to budget, and something that's free is not true free. Talked about control centre renos, expansion of parking lot, the additional seating at GCS, and the new terminal building.

There's a Canadian Pubic Transit fund that open with 3 streams, and there are billions of dollars available. They discuss possible projects for those funds, plus inter-dept comms, the fare strategy (briefly) and educating seniors about transit.

Also talked about Sunday on-demand service and logistics. Hoped to get a couple of Sundays under the belt before meeting TAAG, so it was more of a preview.

Next meeting will be in February. Catalano-Bragues says this has been a positive back-and-forth.

GM Gerus said that he's also seen some positive outcomes, good conversations about best practices. Helps Transit better understand what the community wants.

Carey notes a matter of procedure: if too many TAC members go to the same meeting it becomes an official meeting under the procedural bylaw.

Motion to approve the verbal report passes.

Next, Sunday on-demand update. Catalano-Bragues says last week, Transit broke ridership record, 200k riders in one week. Previous record was 198k in March 2024. As for Sunday on-demand, they've seen increase in morning and evening each three weeks. Room for more!

Catalano-Bragues says they're still trying to get the word out there, some areas have higher demand than others so there's tweaking.

Gerus adds that there's been good ratings on the app too.

Member Edwards asks if you're at the stop and didn't book, what happens. Catalano-Bragues says they will pick you up and roll with the punches, it's a hard process to learn the mechanics of booking a ride so they'll be looking at education opportunities.

Motion to approve the verbal report passes.

No member feedback so general update.

First, GCS terminal building is at 60% design, it's a tier #1 project so you can look it up on the City's website. No approval for construction budget yet, that will happen when design is done.

New Transit centre will be at 30% design in October, and will include a wellness area and quiet rooms, but key component is charging stations and getting that layout down.

At GCS, 4 new benches installed, a bike practice station is coming, and parking lot expansion beginning

That's the lot outside the office on Watson, 60 new spaces needed b/c service is growing. They're also adding some bus parking.

If you're wondering why there's all these changes when Transit is moving to a new building, a) that's still years away, b) they will be transitioning over a period time when they do move and c) the facility will be probably taken over by a different department.

Is there an issue with people sleeping in shelters at GCS? Transit staff says at times, there are people who have left stuff in the shelter at the west end of the platform, Gerus says it happens everyone once in a while.

Edwards says that the Poverty Elimination Task Force has a process to help unhoused people they can share with Transit staff. They can pass that along so it can be shared with transit staff.

Mobility assessment: staff had to rework the budget and pause, but they do have the data they've already gathered and are looking to take action on it. Hopefully next year they will look at a full mobility expansion plan (budget permitting).

Staff are looking at quick wins, things that they can get done fast and easy. Also looking at rebrand to "Specialized Transit" instead of mobility, which will bring it up to industry

standards.

Staff are looking at areas that are having difficulties, working out the usual Sept. kinks caused by re-introduction of serves. They're looking at where things are struggling the most and there have been issues with the Google feed for trip planning. (50 series not showing up)

Catalano-Bragues says that some of the overloading on certain routes is because people aren't seeing other options on trip planning, so with the bug for the 50 route fixed things should start sorting themselves out.

Trip planning is going to be a topic at next week's TAC fyi.

Edwards asks about accessibility survey, are they releasing the survey results? Catalano-Bragues says it was separate from HaveYourSay b/c they were targeting mobility customers, but yes.

Gerus says another training session is going to start next week, 6-10 people. There's a lot of turnover in the transit industry right now so that's an issue.

EVs. 11 buses now, average 6-8 on the street at any given time and haven't experienced mechanical problems.

There are now three types of charges installed or in the process of being installed. There are some small glitches with scheduling, but for the most part everyone's happy with electrification.

Beer Bus charter is going well and popular, the only issue is overcrowding. Otherwise, it's business as usual and they're looking forward to getting final budget approvals and construction wrapping up for the year.

What is the impact of construction? Catalano-Bragues says they know about most closures in advance, but there are things that come up on the fly, a concrete truck arrives early etc. They have a process when a detour arises suddenly, but there's impact on performance.

Catalano-Bragues says that there were (surprisingly) fewer impacts this year than last year, but the impacts have themselves been bigger, especially route #4 (down York Road).

Edwards suggests that there should be some way to let people getting on a bus know that a certain stop is out of service due to detour. Staff are going to workshop that and see if they can do it.

Motion to approve the transit update approved.

That's a wrap for this meeting!



@threadreaderapp unroll please!

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