Present: Councillors B. McHattie (Chair), B. Bratina, P. Bruckler, and T. Whitehead
D. Bender, K. L. De la Cruz, H. Donison, M. Duncan, L. Heywood, D. McLean, P. Shaker, B. Simons R. Smithson, and K. Wiens

Absent with regrets: Councillor M. Ferguson, illness
T. Nolan, (Vice Chair), J. Dawson, alternate
R. Letourneau, illness
L. McMillan
A. Pazaratz, work commitment
D. Rodrigues, vacation

Also present: J. Dahms, A. McLaughlin, M. Selkirk, and C. Slinn - Transit Division
M. L. Tanner, Capital Planning and Implementation Division
P. Homerski, Public Works
T. Hewitson and M. Zegarac, Budgets and Finance Division
I. Bedioui, Clerk’s Office

THE PROVINCIAL GAS TAX TRANSIT MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-006 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. **Bike Racks on City buses**

   That staff be directed to install bike racks on City buses in phases and the first phase be implemented in 2007 with the installation of the maximum number of bike racks that would not impede the storage of buses in the garage, and subsequent phases be implemented as more space becomes available when accommodation issues for Transit are addressed.

PWIE-October 16, 2006
FOR INFORMATION:

(a) Declarations of Interest
None declared.

(b) Minutes
The Minutes of the June 7, 2006 Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee were approved.

(c) Information Only Items
(i) Information Items
The Chair advised the Committee members that Items 4.1 to 4.2 which were distributed at the meeting were for their information.

(ii) Services Request Inventory
The Committee directed that the following service requests be referred to staff to be added to the Services Request Inventory for future consideration:
1. Dr. Born respecting Sunday and Holiday Service in Ancaster
2. Daryl Bender respecting regular transit service along Highway 6 north of Highway 403.

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS
(i) Visioning Session (verbal update) (Mary Lou Tanner) (Item 5.1a)

Mary Lou Tanner, Manager of Strategic Environmental Planning, addressed Committee and provided a verbal overview of the background and the current status of the development of the City’s Transportation Master Plan and Water/Waste Water Master Plan. She indicated that they are currently in the public consultation stage and public meetings have been scheduled on September 25, 2006. The documents will be available on that date including the Bus Rapid Transit Plan.

Staff need to finalize the Master Plans by mid October and she suggested that November would be a good time for her to meet with the Steering Committee and present the plans for information.
(e) Discussion Items

(i) Financial Sustainability Plan for TMPSC (Item 6.1)

A copy of the above mentioned document was circulated. Andy McLaughlin explained that this was a Terms of Reference for a proposal to have I.B.I. prepare a report for Council’s consideration. He asked for the Steering Committee’s input.

The comments provided were as follows:

- Outline the availability of Federal and Provincial funding
- Highlight special funding – draw on the York and Toronto experience
- Tax levy and area rating should be included as these can be a means to improve service in other areas such as the suburbs
- The current area rating formula should be reviewed
- “ridership” should be used as a measure of sustainability
- the “output” should be ridership (page 2)

Staff were directed to amend the document, based on the Steering Committee’s input and to bring it back to the Steering Committee for consideration.

(ii) 2007 Transit Service Enhancements (Item 6.2)

The Committee considered the report and questioned the process used in selecting the proposed service enhancements.

The Steering Committee also discussed the following:

- why weren’t other funding sources considered?
- will spending the gas tax money by adding miles of service affect the area rating formula?
- gas tax funds should pay a percentage of the cost and not the total cost of the enhanced service
- there are three funding sources – the fares, the resulting change in area rating, and the gas tax
- gas tax money should be used to leverage as many service enhancements as possible
- the focus should be to provide better service in areas where the residents are less fortunate
- when services are provided to shopping centres, the shopping centres should contribute to the costs

The Committee requested that staff review the report with the Chair based on the input received and directed staff as follows:
That the draft 2007 Transit Service Enhancements report be amended to indicate that the proposed Beeline enhancements provide expanded service during the day.

That staff provide financing options, utilizing gas tax revenues and other available revenue streams to achieve identified service enhancements.

(iii) Communications & Marketing of the New Trolley and Articulated Buses Launch (Item 6.3)

Cindy Slinn and Mark Selkirk advised the Steering Committee that staff were considering a colour scheme for the new hybrid buses and the trolleys. They are proposing to deviate from the existing yellow and blue colour scheme. They asked that two members of the Steering Committee assist staff in selecting the colours.

On a motion Brendan Simons and Paul Shaker were appointed to assist HSR staff in choosing the colour scheme for the new hybrid buses and trolleys.

The Chair advised the Steering Committee of a proposal from the BIA’s to print brochures at a cost of $2,500.00 to promote a partnership between the BIA’s and HSR. After a short discussion, the Steering Committee decided to postpone its decision until its October meeting of whether gas tax funds should be used to cover the cost of this proposal.

(iv) Proposed CUTA Resolution – Federal Investment in Public Transit (Item 6.4)

The Chair advised that he addressed this issue by presenting a motion to CUTA of which he is a member.

(v) Request from the Hamilton Cycling Committee for bike racks on City buses. (Item 6.5)

The Committee discussed the issue of bike racks on City buses. Staff noted that due to the existing storage restrictions, this proposal has been put on hold. Staff’s priority is to ensure that all buses are stored in the garage and this would not be possible if bike racks were installed on the buses.
The Steering Committee noted that only those buses that travel up and down the escarpment would require the bike racks and approved a motion as outlined in Item 1 of these Minutes.

Staff advised that dispatching the buses to ensure that those with bike racks would be on the cross-escarpment routes on a consistent basis would be a problem.

(vi) Correspondence – Request from Hamilton Health Sciences for a Bus Pass Pilot. (Item 6.6)

A copy of the correspondence was distributed for the Steering Committee’s information.

(vii) Length of Term for Committee Members (Item 6.7)

The Legislative Assistant explained that the term of office for the Steering Committee members was the same as Council and they will need to be reappointed through the selection process once the new Council has been established after the elections.

(viii) Provincial Gas Tax Commitments to Date (Andy McLaughlin) (Item 6.8)

A copy of the Provincial Gas Tax (Transit) Reserve (1122204) was distributed for the information of the Steering Committee.

The Committee requested that Council be advised that it does not agree that inflation should be calculated into the Gas Tax Funds Account.

(ix) Federal Gas Tax Status (Item 6.9)

A hand-out entitled One Time Federal Capital Grants Summary was distributed for the Committee’s information.

(x) Transit Signal Priority – Correspondence from Derek Noonan Request for Presentation to TMPSC (Item 6.10)

The Steering Committee considered the delegation request from Derek Noonan, Technical Sales Representative for Innovative Traffic Solutions Inc. and decided to decline Mr. Noonan’s request due to time constraints. The Steering Committee suggested that staff view it and report back if they feel it has merits.

(f) New Business

(i) Proposal for improved bus service in the Keith Neighbourhood (Item 7.1)

Brenda Johnson from Environment Hamilton provided the Steering Committee with a preliminary report on the results of the survey conducted in the Keith Neighbourhood (Wentworth North). She provided a hand out.
Based on the results, Environment Hamilton is proposing a new bus route that would start at Stinson and Wentworth, follow Stinson to Victoria, go down Victoria to Ferrie through the neighbourhood to Wentworth and up Wentworth to Stinson. Brenda Johnson indicated that a more complete report will follow.

The Committee directed that the proposal from Environment Hamilton for a new bus route in the Keith Neighbourhood be referred to staff to be added to the Service Request Inventory.

Don McLean indicated that he has an interest in this proposal as he is with Environment Hamilton, but he does not have a conflict. He asked that staff report back on this issue.

A short discussion followed on whether it would be feasible to add a Beeline stop at Victoria Avenue.

(g) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor B. McHattie, Chair
Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee

Ida Bedioui,
Legislative Assistant
September 14, 2006