Committee of the Whole
REPORT 08-033

9:30 a.m.
November 14, 2008
Webster Rooms
Hamilton Convention Centre

Present:
Mayor F. Eisenberger
Councillors B. Bratina, B. Clark, C. Collins, S. Duvall,
L. Ferguson, T. Jackson, M. McCarthy, B. McHattie,
D. Mitchell, B. Morelli, M. Pearson, S. Merulla, R.
Pasuta, R. Powers, T. Whitehead

Also Present:
J. Rinaldo, Acting City Manager
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
J.A. Priel, General Manager, Community Services
M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator, COW

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRESENTS REPORT 08-033 AND RESPECTFULLY RECOMMENDS:

1. Employer Commuter Pass Program (PW08133) (8.1)
   (a) That the General Manager, Public Works be authorized and directed to expand the Employer Commuter Pass Program for City of Hamilton employees to include full-time contract employees and interns on work terms greater than or equal to one year;
   (b) That the General Manager, Public Works be authorized and directed to expand the Employer Commuter Pass Program for City of Hamilton employees to include 50% reimbursement of Burlington Transit and GO Transit passes for eligible employees who live outside of the City of Hamilton;
   (c) That the General Manager, Public Works be authorized and directed to offer a pilot Employer Commuter Pass Program to other employers within the City of Hamilton as outlined in this report, funded on a one-time basis to a maximum of $40,000 from Ontario
Committee of the Whole 2 Report 08-033

Committee of the Whole

Provincial Gas Tax Reserve, and to report back within nine months on the uptake and financial impacts of the pilot program.

(d) That the General Manager, Public Works be authorized and directed to increase promotion of the Employer Commuter Pass Program.

2. Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program – Six Month Program Evaluation Results (ECS08051) (City Wide) (8.2)

(a) That the Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program Six Month Evaluation Report attached as Appendix A to Report ECS08051, be received.

(b) That the quarterly reports for the Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program covering March 1, 2008 to June 30, 2008, attached as Appendix B to Report ECS08051 and July 1, 2008, to September 30, 2008, attached as Appendix C to Report ECS08051, be received.

(c) That the Affordable Transit Pass Program be extended from April 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009.

(d) That funds remaining from the $500,000 allocated to the Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program from the Social Services Initiatives Reserve be used to extend the program from April 1, 2009, until December 31, 2009.

(e) That the subsidy level of the 2009 Affordable Transit Pass Program monthly pass continue to be 50% of the adult monthly pass rate as approved by Council.

(f) That, if additional administrative support is required during the remainder of the pilot project (one full-time contract position, each for a total of up to $112,600), the Community Services Department (Special Supports Section) and/or the Public Works Department (Transit Division) be directed to report back to Committee of the Whole with reasons needed for increasing the staff complement prior to any action taken.

(g) That the issue of affordable transit be directed to the Hamilton Roundtable for Poverty Reduction for further response.

(h) That staff be directed to report back to Emergency and Community Services in January on the options, costs and impacts of expanding the Affordable Transit Pass Pilot Program to include the ODSP and Ontario Works recipients.

Council – November 26, 2008
3. **2009 Transit Operating Budget**

That the issue respecting the 2009 Transit Operating budget be forwarded to City Council for disposition:

“(a) That Council receive the 2009 Transit Division Operating Budget and refer it to City-wide budget deliberations that represents a 0.5% or $213,140 year-over-year increase and an overall 5.6% or $2,313,140 increase inclusive of funding for the transfer of HSR Pension to OMERS as detailed in the Financial section of this report, that includes a fare increase, service level enhancements and an aggressive expenditure mitigation plan as follows:

(i) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to implement a Transit fare increase effective January 1, 2009, as described in Table 1 of this report and inclusive of increases across all fare types, such that an increase of 5% in the average HSR fare, or $0.10 per trip across major fare types, is achieved;

(ii) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized to direct DARTS to implement a $0.10 increase in the price of its ticket fare, effective January 1, 2009;

(iii) Introduction of Phase II and Phase III HSR Route #44 Rymal Road extension to operate between the Ancaster Industrial Park and the Eastgate transit terminal, via Garner Road, Rymal Road and Centennial Parkway during Weekday peak periods, requiring an increase in the Transit approved complement of three (3) Bus Operators from 402.5 to 405.5, at a gross annual operating cost of $503,000, of which $475,000 is to be fully funded from the remaining Provincial Gas Tax;

(iv) Increase DARTS service duration on weekends and statutory holidays to align more closely with HSR service duration at a cost of $59,000;

(v) Introduction of an HSR Summer Youth Pass to allow unlimited HSR trips for all elementary/secondary students aged 19 years and under from Canada Day to Labour Day, offering a 50% discount from the regular cost of $126.00 (2008), with the discount to be fully offset with the additional new ridership that is generated;

(vi) Introduction of a Golden Age Pass to provide free HSR trips for those 80 years of age or older at a projected annual revenue loss of $41,000, with offset funding from the 2009 recommended fare increase;
(vii) Mitigation measures that include restructuring of the 10-year transit fleet capital plan and a corporate diesel fuel rate of $1.13 per litre.

(b) That Council direct staff to include consideration of the following Transit service enhancements in the 2010 budget submission, taking into consideration the outcome of the HSR operational review, as follows:

- Harmonization of DARTS fare structure with HSR fare structure;
- Additional annual DARTS service hours to address latent demand;
- Additional HSR Route 5C West Hamilton trips to Meadowlands;
- Increase in the Taxi Scrip Program coupon purchase cap and subsidy;
- Extension of Waterfront Shuttle to provide increased route coverage;
- Fare-optional transit service on Smog days;
- Expansion of transit service to special events programs;
- Additional HSR service coverage to Dundas;
- Expansion of B Line service duration;
- Extension of Route #2 Barton east of Grays Road;
- Realignment of HSR Routes 11 Parkdale and Route 43 Stone Church.”

FOR THE INFORMATION OF COUNCIL:

(a) **CHANGES TO THE AGENDA**

The Clerk circulated a revised Agenda.

That the agenda was adopted as amended.

(b) **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None

(c) **ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

None

(d) **DELEGATION REQUESTS**

The following delegation requests were approved.
5.1 Request to address Committee by Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee

5.2 Request to address Committee by Lynn Aquin, Campaign for Adequate Welfare

5.3 Request to address Committee by Cori Aquin

5.4 Request to address Committee by Rosemarie Chapman

5.5 Request to address Committee by Peter Hutton

5.6 Request to address Committee by Don McLean

5.7 Request to address Committee by Tom Cooper

(e) **STAFF PRESENTATIONS**

(i) **Master Plans Overview (Item 6.1)**

Jill Stephen provided an overview of the Master Plan.

Highlighted in the presentation were the following:
1. Existing Policies and Plans
2. Strategic Directions
3. Accomplishments to Date
4. Future Plans

The presentation was received.

(ii) **Presentation on the 2009 Transit Operating Budget (PW08128) (Item 6.2)**

Don Hull provided an overview of the 2009 transit Operating Budget

Highlights
1. Review of Recommendations
2. 2008 Accomplishments
3. 2009 Objectives/Initiatives
4. Executive Summary
   (a) annual incremental implementation of Master Plans
   (b) new investment in public transit
   (c) recommended fare increase
   (d) Expenditure Mitigation Plan
   (e) Transit Operational Review
(f) Hamilton Street Railway Bus Advertising Contract Renewal 2009-2014
(g) Recommended Fare Increase
(h) Service Requests as Recommended by the Transit Steering Committee
(i) 2009 Recommended Service Enhancements
(j) Route 20 A-Line Phase I
(k) Route 44 Rymal Phase II
(l) Benchmarking

The presentation was received.

(iii) Rapid Transit Update (Item 6.3)

Jill Stephen provided an overview of the Rapid Transit Update.

Highlights included:
- Hamilton Transportation Master Plan Recommendations
- Metrolinx and MoveOntario 2020
- Work to Date
- Current status
- Next steps

The presentation was received.

(f) PUBLIC DELEGATIONS

5.1 Sally Palmer, Social Action Committee

Presentation submitted – see attached (Appendix A)
Requested that council vote against increase
and Approve the Transit subsidy for social assistance recipients

5.2 Lynn Aquin, Campaign for Adequate Welfare

Impressed with work of city staff on various issues
Requested council not approve the transit fare increase
Council has a duty to most vulnerable citizens
Haven’t recovered from last increase
Lower fares means increased ridership
Additional monies could be used for other necessities
Cannot afford another transit increase

Council – November 26, 2008
5.3 Cori Aquin

Presentation submitted – see attached (Appendix B)
Requested that fares not be increased
Takes bus to school
Cost is a great hardship for the family
Few times a month cannot attend school because of no bus tickets

5.4 Rosemarie Chapman

Presentation submitted – see attached (Appendix C)

Ms. Chapman addressed the following in her presentation:
- deficiencies of affordable bus program
- daughter does not qualify for affordable bus pass
- bus pass program should be expanded because rules are too limit for those working poor

5.5 Peter Hutton

Presentation submitted – see attached (Appendix D)

Mr. Hutton addressed the following in his presentation:
- Affordable Transit Pass
- Transit and People Solely on OW/ODSP
- Service Enhancements
- Further subsidies
- Priorities

5.6 Don McLean

Mr. McLean addressed the following in his presentation:
- conference last week by the province
- committed to in their presentations of the importance in improving transit
- get the sense that there is no vision in Hamilton for improving transit
- don’t see our transit as useful and part of the vision and direction of our community
- where are we going, direction we are heading
- other progressive communities – transit and improved services are critical to economic development and the community as a whole
5.7 Tom Cooper, Poverty Round Table

Mr. Cooper addressed the following in his presentation:
- complement previous speakers
- 89,000 people remain below the low income cutoff
- poverty round table is interested in working with the city
- important that the city provide those supports so they can continue to work
- ability to pay for public transit – Hamilton remains near the bottom of the list for residents ability to pay for transit
- Encourage council to expand the affordable transit pass to include ODSP and Ontario Works recipients who work part time

Mayor Eisenberger thanked all the delegations for their presentations and the presentations were formally received.

(g) Employer Commuter Pass Program (PW08133) (8.1)

Councillor Clark opposed to subsection (b) of the recommendation

(h) 2009 Transit Operating Budget (PW08128) (Item 8.3)

The following motions were DEFEATED:

Motion #1

(a) That there be a 0% fare increase in 2009

(b) That the $1.3 million be referred to the overall budget process.

DEFEATED on Standing Recorded Vote as follows:

Yeas: Whitehead, Merulla, McHattie, Collins, Duvall, Clark
Total: 6

Nays: Powers, Pearson, Mitchell, Jackson, Ferguson, Eisenberger
Total: 6

Absent: Pasuta, McCarthy, Morelli, Bratina
Total: 4

A motion moved by Merulla and Seconded by McHattie to put the question was DEFEATED.
A motion moved by Duvall and Seconded by Clark to put the question was CARRIED.

Councillors Ferguson and Whitehead Opposed to putting the question.

Motion #2

That subsection (a) of the Report (PW08128) respecting 2009 Transit Operating Budget be amended by deleting the word “receive” and inserting the word “approve” in the first line

And

Deleting the words “and refer it to City-wide budget deliberations” to now read as follows:

(a) That Council approve the 2009 Transit Division Operating Budget which represents a 0.5% or $213,140 year-over-year increase and an overall 5.6% or $2,313,140 increase inclusive of funding for the transfer of HSR Pension to OMERS as detailed in the Financial section of this report, that includes a fare increase, service level enhancements and an aggressive expenditure mitigation plan as follows:

(i) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized and directed to implement a Transit fare increase effective January 1, 2009, as described in Table 1 of this report and inclusive of increases across all fare types, such that an increase of 5% in the average HSR fare, or $0.10 per trip across major fare types, is achieved;

(ii) That the General Manager of Public Works be authorized to direct DARTS to implement a $0.10 increase in the price of its ticket fare, effective January 1, 2009;

(iii) Introduction of Phase II and Phase III HSR Route #44 Rymal Road extension to operate between the Ancaster Industrial Park and the Eastgate transit terminal, via Garner Road, Rymal Road and Centennial Parkway during Weekday peak periods, requiring an increase in the Transit approved complement of three (3) Bus Operators from 402.5 to 405.5, at a gross annual operating cost of $503,000, of which $475,000 is to be fully funded from the remaining Provincial Gas Tax;
(iv) Increase DARTS service duration on weekends and statutory holidays to align more closely with HSR service duration at a cost of $59,000;

(v) Introduction of an HSR Summer Youth Pass to allow unlimited HSR trips for all elementary/secondary students aged 19 years and under from Canada Day to Labour Day, offering a 50% discount from the regular cost of $126.00 (2008), with the discount to be fully offset with the additional new ridership that is generated;

(vi) Introduction of a Golden Age Pass to provide free HSR trips for those 80 years of age or older at a projected annual revenue loss of $41,000, with offset funding from the 2009 recommended fare increase;

(vii) Mitigation measures that include restructuring of the 10-year transit fleet capital plan and a corporate diesel fuel rate of $1.13 per litre.

(b) That Council direct staff to include consideration of the following Transit service enhancements in the 2010 budget submission, taking into consideration the outcome of the HSR operational review, as follows:

- Harmonization of DARTS fare structure with HSR fare structure;
- Additional annual DARTS service hours to address latent demand;
- Additional HSR Route 5C West Hamilton trips to Meadowlands;
- Increase in the Taxi Scrip Program coupon purchase cap and subsidy;
- Extension of Waterfront Shuttle to provide increased route coverage;
- Fare-optional transit service on Smog days;
- Expansion of transit service to special events programs;
- Additional HSR service coverage to Dundas;
- Expansion of B Line service duration;
- Extension of Route #2 Barton east of Grays Road;
- Realignment of HSR Routes 11 Parkdale and Route 43 Stone Church.

Motion as amended was DEFENDED on a Standing Recorded Vote as follows:

YEAS: Powers, Pearson, Mitchell, Jackson, Ferguson
Total: 5

Nays: Merulla, Whitehead, McHattie, Duvall, Collins, Clark, Eisenberger
Total: 7

Council – November 26, 2008
Absent: Pasuta, McCarthy, Morelli, Bratina
Total: 4

Motion #3

That subsection (a) (i) be amended from .5% to 2.5% and 10 cents per trip to 5 cents per trip

DEFEATED on a Standing Recorded Vote as follows:

YEAS: Powers, Jackson, Eisenberger
Total: 3

Nays: Pearson, Mitchell, Merulla, Whitehead, McHattie, Ferguson, Duvall, Collins, Clark
Total: 9

Absent: Pasuta, McCarthy, Morelli, Bratina
Total: 4

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Mayor F. Eisenberger

M. Gallagher, Co-ordinator
Committee of the Whole
November 14, 2008