PROVINCIAL GAS TAX TRANSIT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE

REPORT 06-003

Wednesday, April 5, 2006
4:00 p.m.
Council Chambers
Hamilton City Hall
71 Main Street West, Hamilton

Present: Councillors B. McHattie (Chair), P. Bruckler, and T. Whitehead
T. Nolan, (Vice Chair), D. Bender, H. Donison, M. Duncan, 
R. Letourneau, D. McLean, A. Pazaratz, L. Heywood, P. Shaker
R. Smithson, and K. Wiens

Absent with regrets: Councillor M. Ferguson, illness
Councillor T. Whitehead, personal business
B. Simons, work commitment
J. Dawson, alternate
K.L. De La Cruz

Also present: Councillor B. Bratina
S. Stewart, General Manager, Public Works
D. Hull, and A. McLaughlin, Transit Division
T. Horzelenberg and L. Skrypniak, Capital Planning and Implementation Division
T. Tollis, Director of Budgets & Finance
B. Hollingworth, I.B.I. Group and L. Bedioui, Clerk’s Office

THE PROVINCIAL GAS TAX TRANSIT MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE PRESENTS REPORT 06-003 TO THE PUBLIC WORKS, INFRASTRUCTURE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE AND RECOMMENDS:

1. Ridership Growth Initiative - North End Neighbourhoods Survey (Wards 2 & 3) (Item 5.4)
   That the Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee approve funding in the amount of $6,000 in gas tax funds, on a one-time only basis, to

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partially fund the design, delivery and analysis of a neighbourhood transit survey to be conducted in partnership with Environment Hamilton starting in June, 2006.

FOR INFORMATION:

(a) Declarations of Interest
Don McLean declared an interest with respect to Item 5.4 as he is a member of the Board of Directors of Environment Hamilton.

(b) Minutes
The Minutes of the March 2, 2006 Provincial Gas Tax Transit Master Plan Steering Committee were approved as presented.

(c) Information Only Items

(i) Membership Update (Verbal) (Item 4.1)
Staff advised that Councillor Chad Collins has resigned from the Steering Committee because of workload and Councillor Bob Bratina has been appointed to the Committee to replace Councillor Ferguson. Councillor Phil Bruckler is also a new member and he has already attended a previous meeting.

Also, staff indicated that they have received sad news that Lee Wilson has passed away and the Committee will be considering a replacement from previous applicants.

In response to questions from the Committee, staff provided updates on the resume received from Ms. June Noonan which has been kept on file for future consideration and the status of the vacancy for the representative from the Public School Board. As the vacancy still exists, the Committee suggested a School Board Trustee or a representative from the Separate School Board as possible replacements.

(ii) CUTA (Item 4.2)
The Chair advised the Committee Members that Items 4.2(a) respecting Tax Credits and 4.2(b) an Issue Paper from CUTA were for their information. The Committee asked the Chair to provide information respecting the recent CUTA symposium and he agreed to provide it through the Clerk’s Office.

(iii) Inventory of Service Requests (Item 4.3)
(Duncan/Wiens)
That the Inventory of New Service Requests received from December 1, 2005 to March 31, 2006 be received and referred to staff for consideration when drafting the service enhancement plan.

CARRIED

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(iv) Gas Tax Balance Sheet (Item 4.4)
Copies entitled Transit Reserves (Surplus)/Deficit were distributed for information.

(v) Minutes of the Ridership Growth Plan Sub-Committee (Item 4.5)
The Minutes of the March 23, 2006 Ridership Growth Plan Sub-Committee were received.

(d) STAFF PRESENTATIONS

(i) CPI – Update on Downtown Terminal Study (Item 5.3)
Lorissa Skrypniak addressed Committee and advised she is new on this project. At this stage staff are finalizing the functional assessment report and are working on the terms of reference for Phases 2 and 4 of the Class EA.

Scott Stewart briefly explained the process which involves considering various options and indicated that he will provide dates of the public meetings.

The Committee provided some comments such as putting a terminal on the Mountain and interconnecting the beeline to the downtown terminal and Scott Stewart indicated that a detailed update will follow.

(e) Ridership Growth Strategy and Asset Management Plan Service Warrant (2006 Overview – TSC Work Plan) (Item 5.1)
Brian Hollingwood advised Committee that this document is a draft and he welcomed feedback from the Committee. He indicated that the final draft will be presented at the next meeting for consideration.

Daryl Bender requested that employee passes be added as a bullet point to the Summary of Major Initiatives and Priority Areas on page 2. Don McLean indicated that he has several suggestions that he will forward to Brian Hollingwood.

The Committee discussed tax incentives, the automated fare card and how it relates to riders with disabilities, marketing opportunities, and public surveys.

Don Hull advised that he will provide a report on the City’s existing public information initiatives such as information booths at malls.

The Chair indicated that he will bring the issue of disabled customers and the fare card back to CUTA.

Don Hull advised the Committee that Andy McLaughlin has been seconded to be the dedicated staff person to the Steering Committee. Andy McLaughlin who is the Supervisor of Planning and Marketing has years of experience. He invited him to make a presentation.
Andy McLaughlin provided a four slide hand-out which was distributed to the Committee and he explained the industry’s measuring tools for prioritizing.

After some discussion, the Chair requested that staff prepare a matrix and timelines for the Committee’s consideration.

(f) **Taxi Scrip Program (Item 5.2)**

The Committee asked questions about the report and after some discussion made the following decision:

**(Bender/Bruckler)**

That Report dated April 3, 2006 respecting the Taxi Scrip Program – Monthly Purchase Cap be TABLED until the next meeting scheduled for May 3, 2006 in order for staff to obtain input from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities and to prepare a presentation to the Steering Committee.

CARRIED

(g) **Northend Ridership Growth Initiative (Item 5.4)**

Staff explained that residents of the Northend neighbourhood have expressed concerns about the level of transit service in their area. The goal of the survey, which was a suggestion from Environment Hamilton, is to determine if an increase of service is required.

Brenda Johnson, who is from Environment Hamilton and is spearheading the survey advised that students from McMaster will participate and some funding is coming from Environment Hamilton through grants. Union Gas will provide an energy saving kit to all participants as an incentive.

The Steering Committee approved the staff recommendation.

(h) **Discussion Items**

(i) **Downtown to Waterfront Shuttle (6.1)**

The Committee was advised that the motion to purchase a trolley for the downtown to waterfront shuttle was considered by Committee of the Whole but the proposal would be too late to implement this year as the deadline for ordering the trolley has passed.

Discussions followed as to whether to use an existing bus for the shuttle and either transform it to look like a trolley or paint it a distinguishing colour. However, staff advised that money for the operating cost was not allocated in the budget for this year and that other organizations should be invited to participate such as Tourism Hamilton, the Sheraton and the Province who may agree to help with the costs.

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The verbal update respecting the Downtown to Waterfront Shuttle was received for information.

(ii) **Meeting Schedule (6.2)**

The Committee reviewed the meeting schedule in the agenda and was advised that the proposed June 24 Saturday visioning session would not be feasible as it is the same day as the grand opening of the City’s new Composting Facility. The Chair asked the Legislative Assistant to poll for June 17.

(i) **New Business**

The Chair directed that Daryl Bender's proposal for an employee pass be included on the next agenda.

(j) **Adjournment**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 3:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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

Ida Bediou,  
Legislative Assistant  
April 5, 2006