

**NIAGARA TRANSIT COMMISSION PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

**NTCPAC 1-2025
February 10, 2025
Committee Room 4
In-Person and Electronic Meeting
Niagara Region Headquarters - Campbell West Entrance
1815 Sir Isaac Brock Way, Thorold**

Committee Members: C. Charlton (Committee Vice Chair), H. Chesshire*, L. Hay*, G. Hillhouse, T. Hounsell, S. Kosh*, H. Levine, S. Lord, J. Mann*, G. McIlhone (Committee Chair), A. Romeo*

Non-Voting Member: C. Stout, General Manager

Absent/Regrets: M. Alba, M. Anees, W. Barnes, J. Jessop

Staff: E. Braniff, Supervisor, Specialty Services, J. Hambleton, Office Manager, W. Middleton, Client & Community Coordinator, J. Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, H. Talbot, Manager, Integration & Transformation, L. Tracey, Communications Consultant

* indicates participants who attended the meeting electronically, all others participated in person

1. CALL TO ORDER

Committee Chair McIlhone called to order at 4:05 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT STATEMENT

Committee Chair McIlhone read the Land Acknowledgement Statement.

3. DISCLOSURES OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no disclosures of pecuniary interest.

4. PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Master Plan Public Engagement - Exploring Possibilities Survey & Sessions

Pia Dimayuga, Engagement Lead and Accessibility Lead, and Yuval Grinspun, Project Manager, Left Turn Right Turn (LTRT), provided information respecting the Transit Master Planning Project. Topics of the presentation included:

- Transit Facilities, Strategic Assets & Service Network Master Plan
- When and why are we engaging

- What was considered in the future options development
- Common elements for future options
- Defining types of service
- Future options
- Comparing the options

4.2 Review of Niagara Region Transit and Microtransit

Carla Stout, General Manager, Niagara Regional Transit, provided information respecting the Review of Niagara Region Transit and Microtransit. Topics of the presentation included:

- Understanding Microtransit
- Transit Accessibility
- Affordable Transit
- Upcoming Microtransit Improvements

5. ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION

5.1 NTCPAC-C 1-2025

Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee Workplan

Moved by G. Hillhouse

Seconded by S. Kosh

That the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee **RECOMMENDS** to the Niagara Transit Commission Board that the following items be approved as part of the Committee's 2025 workplan:

- Review accessibility features on conventional and specialized equipment
- Review current staff training modules related to accommodating customers with disabilities
- Review MTO requirements for vehicle maintenance, defect repair procedure and inspections
- Report on Budget lifecycle
- Review of Voyago operations – explanation of high level contract requirements, vendor responsibilities and regional oversight provisions
- Review of NRT KPI's and On demand ridership review by municipality or origin/ destination

Carried

5.2 NTCPAC-C 2-2025

Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee 2025 Meeting Schedule

Moved by H. Levine
Seconded by S. Lord

That the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee meetings **BE HELD** at 4:00 p.m. on Monday, June 9, 2025, Monday, September 8, 2025, and Monday, November 10, 2025.

Carried

6. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

Moved by C. Charlton
Seconded by T. Hounsell

That the following items **BE RECEIVED** for information:

NTC 10-2025

Niagara Transit Commission Minutes from October 15, 2024

NTC 11-2025

Niagara Transit Commission Minutes from November 19, 2024

NTCPAC 3-2024

Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee Minutes from September 9, 2024

Carried

7. OTHER BUSINESS

7.1 Committee Communication

Chair McIlhone reminded Committee members to refrain from sending emails to members of the Committee and to raise comments during other business. Committee members requested that the Committee Chair and Vice Chair meet with Niagara Transit staff to discuss best practices for Committee members to provide information between meetings.

7.2 Snow Removal at Bus Stops

Committee Member Amy Romeo requested that staff consider prioritizing snow removal from bus stops based on a protocol for people with disabilities, not based on ridership demand. Committee Member Gavin Hillhouse added that this consideration should not be limited to snow removal but for all regular maintenance. Leah Tracey, Communications Consultant, advised that she would bring this to the Customer Experience team to address.

7.3 Niagara Transit Commission Meeting Agendas

Moved by H. Levine
Seconded by J. Mann

That the Niagara Transit Commission meeting agendas **BE CIRCULATED** to the Niagara Transit Commission Public Advisory Committee members once they are published.

Carried

7.4 Summary of Transit Amalgamation

Committee Member Howard Levine requested a one (1) page summary outlining the history of the transit amalgamation including how the process evolved and was completed and the decisions and outcomes by Niagara Region and the local municipalities.

7.5 Chronology of Niagara Transit

Committee Member Howard Levine requested that a one (1) page summary be prepared that includes a brief chronology of Niagara Regional Transit, legacy systems, accomplishments, and the microtransit service in order to provide the information to members of the public.

7.6 Voyago

Committee Member Stuart Lord requested an update on the Voyago presentation that was previously requested. Jenna Spratt, Legislative Coordinator, advised that this request was captured in the NTCPAC minutes on September 9, 2024, and will be brought to a future Committee meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be held on Monday, June 9, 2025, at 4:00 p.m. in Committee Room 4, Niagara Region Headquarters.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:08 p.m.

Gerry McIlhone
Committee Chair

Jenna Spratt
Legislative Coordinator

Ann-Marie Norio
Regional Clerk