

Northumberland Accessibility Advisory Committee

Minutes

May 26, 2022

555 Courthouse Road, Cobourg

By Zoom video conference - 10:00am – 11:30am

Members present: Christine Bayer, Hope Bergeron, Jason Ducharme, Karl vom Dorff (Chair), Selena Forsyth, Bobby-Jo Preston, Andrea Nicholson (staff)

Regrets: Bob Robertson, Doug Bates, Christina Gray, Stephanie Ash,

Guests: Jennifer Moore (CAO), Dan Borowec (Director Economic Development Planning and Tourism), Denise Marshall (Director Public Works), Thomas J. Flynn (Investment Attractions Specialist)

The meeting was called to order at: 10:02am

1. Transit Pilot Project

Jennifer provided an overview of the transit pilot project. Jennifer, Dan, Denise and Thomas answered the Committee's questions. The project is in the planning stages and will include surveying the community to gather information to inform routes and stops. The following summarizes the key points:

- A few factors have led to the transit pilot project. The County led a study (pre-pandemic) which looked at the potential ridership to bring GO to Northumberland. The Northumberland Manufacturers Association (NMA) has highlighted the challenges of moving employees to get the workforce to businesses with their Pilot Project and requested participation from the county to extend this pilot. In Fall 2021, Metrolinx determined they weren't interested in moving forward in Northumberland. The County was looking at other options when the province announced some funding to connect Northumberland to Oshawa Go. This funding has allowed the County to extend the NMA Pilot Project beyond its initial scope.
- The transit pilot project has two objectives, to connect people within Northumberland County and provide a connection to the GO system. The project aims to qualify the need for these transportation services through data gathered throughout the pilot.
- The initial transit pilot project data will be gathered over a 6-week period, which will inform the development of transit routes. Hop In Technologies is the organization coordinating the data collection for the project. Hop In Technologies specializes in transportation logistics to help design routes based on data.

- The pilot program is not an on-demand program however services will be based on the demand from the community and routes will be scheduled accordingly. The project team is hoping to get information out to market the pilot program out in approximately 2 weeks to start to gather data.
- The transit pilot project will comply with AODA's Integrated Accessibility Standards Regulation (IASR) for Transportation standards throughout the process.
- Community Care Northumberland (CCN) will provide the services connecting people within Northumberland. This will be a new service in addition to the transportation program CCN currently provides.
- Community Care Northumberland has a robust training program in place for all of their drivers.
- Every Community Care Northumberland vehicle will be accessible and follow IASR requirements and will include 4-point tiedowns for wheelchair user safety.
 - If a person with a disability requires an attendant/support person to be with them when using transit, the support person's fare be waived, as per the IASR.
 - If a person is non-wheelchair users will be permitted to use the vehicle's lifts and ramps.
- The shuttle to Oshawa GO station will be provided by Kings Coach. These coaches are not accessible and the shuttle will be supplemented by Community Care Northumberland as an interim solution.
- Transit stop locations are still to be determined and will be based on data collected by the project team. The stops will be informal and there will be no transit terminals. Transit stops will meet IASR requirements.
- The pilot project will be promoted to all residents including people with disabilities through the marketing campaign which includes email, radio, social media, direct mail, print advertising. Community Care Northumberland will additionally inform CCN clients about the pilot
- The provincial government has the relationship with Metrolinx. The County's relationship with Metrolinx for the pilot is to provide data via Hop In Technologies.
- County staff have been working with Cobourg and Port Hope transit and part of the data collection hopes to determine how the pilot system can be linked to existing systems.

- Transit users will have the opportunity to provide input and give feedback throughout the pilot process. Hop In Technologies has an accessible online platform and a 24-hour phone line.

The Committee reiterated its support for the transit pilot project noting access to transportation is a key issue faced by many people with disabilities. The Committee offered to help the project team as needed.

2. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at: 11:05am