

**REPORT NO. 82**  
of the  
**WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)**  
of its meeting held  
March 6, 2014  
at 5:30 o'clock p.m.  
Lou Romano Water Reclamation Plant, 4155 Ojibway Parkway

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**Members present at the March 6, 2014 meeting:**

Councillor Alan Halberstadt, Co-Chair  
Charlie Wright, Co-Chair  
Councillor Hilary Payne  
Frank Butler  
Derek Coronado  
Jesse Gardner Costa  
Paul Henshaw  
Mike Nelson  
Lindita Prendi  
Tamara Stomp  
Radwan Tamr

**Your Committee submits the following recommendation:**

Moved by F. Butler, seconded by J. Gardner Costa,  
That all surrounding municipalities in the Windsor-Essex region **BE ENCOURAGED** to enter into discussion regarding the development of regional transportation for Windsor-Essex County.

Carried.

**NOTE:** A letter from Councillor Halberstadt, Co-Chair and Charlie Wright, Co-Chair, Windsor Essex County Environment Committee dated April 3, 2014 regarding participation and support for a Regional Transit Authority and system – **attached.**

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COUNCILLOR ALAN HALBERSTADT, CO-CHAIR

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COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

<b>NOTIFICATION:</b>	
<b>NAME</b>	<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>
WECEC Committee including resource personnel	On file
Penny Williams, General Manager, Transit Windsor	<a href="mailto:pwilliams@city.windsor.on.ca">pwilliams@city.windsor.on.ca</a>
Brian Hillman – Tecumseh Transit Service	<a href="mailto:bhillman@tecumseh.ca">bhillman@tecumseh.ca</a>
Mary Brennan, Director of Council	<a href="mailto:mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca">mbrennan@countyofessex.on.ca</a>

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Service/Clerk, County of Essex	
Cheryl Bondy, Clerk – Town of Essex	<a href="mailto:cbondy@essex.ca">cbondy@essex.ca</a>
Ruth Orton-Pert, Director of Corporate Services, Town of Kingsville	<a href="mailto:rorton-pert@kingsville.ca">rorton-pert@kingsville.ca</a>
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Brenda Andreatta, Clerk, Town of LaSalle	<a href="mailto:bandreat@town.lasalle.on.ca">bandreat@town.lasalle.on.ca</a>
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Laura Moy, Clerk, Town of Tecumseh	<a href="mailto:lmoy@tecumseh.ca">lmoy@tecumseh.ca</a>
Brenda Percy, Clerk, Town of Amherstburg	<a href="mailto:bpercy@amherstburg.ca">bpercy@amherstburg.ca</a>



# Windsor Essex County

## ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

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April 3, 2014

**Re: Participation and support for a Regional Transit Authority and system**

Dear Mayor and Members of Council of Windsor and Essex County Municipalities,

In February of this year, the chair and board of Transit Windsor proposed a meeting of Essex -Windsor municipalities to discuss the potential for and establishment of a Regional Transportation Authority and system to benefit the citizens of our region.

Though previous proposals have not been timely or considered advantageous, certainly it is time to revisit the issue of a regional system given the increase impact of congestion on our roads and the changing needs of citizens for convenient and affordable transportation. Given the stress of upkeep on infrastructure felt by all municipalities and the changing demographics, a collective response to address those needs is logical. Certainly students, seniors, workers and other commuters would benefit from a reliable and dependable system. The environmental benefits of a reduction in vehicle emissions, road congestion and road repair and enhanced community health and other factors are tangible.

One indisputable fact shared by all municipalities is that funding for needed infrastructure is increasingly difficult to access. One clear advantage of a Regional Transportation Authority will be the ability to increase access to federal and provincial funds earmarked for public transit. A collective proposal through a regional authority could access funds that municipalities to date has not been successful in accessing. Certainly there are a number of regional transportation systems in southern Ontario that illustrate the success of a regional approach to moving citizens. The logic of a regional response to transportation will continue to increase and should not be ignored.

Participation in discussions and creating a task force to study how to proceed with establishing a regional transit authority is a first step. Being involved at the inception of a project also ensures process and structures are set up to build consensus and address local concerns.

In closing, WECEC encourages all municipalities to participate fully in this proposal and these seminal discussions in establishing a regional transit system for the Essex-Windsor region. Further, the committee would be willing to assist your council with information as your advisory committee on environmental topics. Working together, we can enhance the quality of life of citizens and improve the environment of our region.

Respectfully,

Alan Halberstadt  
Committee Co-chair

Charlie Wright  
Committee Co-chair