

REPORT NO. 51
of the
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE (WECEC)
of its meeting held February 3, 2011
Conference Room, Windsor Airport

Present: Charlie Wright, Deputy Mayor Town of Leamington
Tamara Stomp, Deputy Mayor Town of Kingsville
Frank Butler
Matthew Child
Derek Coronado
Rick Coronado
Paul Henshaw
David Diemer
Phil Roberts
Dean Clevett.

Your Committee submits the following recommendation:

Moved by F. Butler, seconded by M. Child

That County of Essex and Corporation of the City of Windsor Councils **BE REQUESTED** to reconsider the development of a Regional Transit System and initiate the dialogue and preliminary work that can be done at this time and further that the concept **BE REINTRODUCED** next year or in subsequent years.

NOTE: The report of the Transportation Sub-Committee dated January 22, 2011 is attached as Appendix "C".

COMMITTEE COORDINATOR

CHAIRPERSON

Notification:

Name	Email Address
WECEC	ON FILE
County Council	ON FILE
Transit Windsor	ON FILE

Transportation Subcommittee

January 22/11

In attendance

Frank Butler

Dean Clevett

Dave Diemer

Bernie Drouillard

Regrets

Parma Yarkin

Rick Coronado

Dave Diemer was welcomed to the subcommittee as the replacement for Dave McGregor as Chamber of Commerce representative to WECEC.

County Council Declines Regional Transit System

The subcommittee discussed the Jan 20th decision by County Council to not pursue the creation of a regional transit authority. The decision was primarily based on budget restraints. The subcommittee noted Warden Bain's comments that early phases of the transition could have been started. It is also noted that other regions have successfully initiated such regional projects and this deferral will leave Essex Windsor further behind. Certainly, to form a regional authority would take considerable negotiations and goodwill at the inception. Though funding may not have been available in this year's budget, the work could have started on the conceptual and planning phase of developing a Transportation Authority.

The need for a regional strategy and structure to address future public need for reliable and sustainable transportation will not be diminished by short term rationalizing of doing nothing.

Recommendations

That County Council with Corporation of the City of Windsor reconsider the development of a (Transit Authority) and initiate the dialogue and preliminary work that can be done at this time. Further, that the concept be reintroduced next year or in subsequent years

Regional Transit System

WECAER

The subcommittee discussed the presentation to WECEC on the regional emergency preparedness and response group proposed by the subcommittee in a previous report. Averil and Dean have been working on a power point for the February meeting. A hard copy of the power point was shown to the subcommittee. Dean will do the presentation for the next meeting of the full committee. The subcommittee reaffirmed the previous recommendations to the committee.

APPENDIX "C"

Refer to this applicable section to Report 51

Transit Windsor Report

The subcommittee discussed the Transit Windsor Report of Jan 14th. Like other divisions of the City Corporation, Transit Windsor h\was directed to find 10% reduction to their budget. The subcommittee notes the decision to reduce the number of buses purchased from six to five yearly that will result in a saving of only \$670,000 per bus (pg. 3 under Operating Budget). As well, the purchase of diesel rather than hybrids is also problematic.

Also noted was the discussion of MTO requirements for monthly inspections required by regulations. These requirements have been in effect for CVOR licensing required to operate a transit property since 2008 and has been done at the expense of other preventative maintenance. The report also identifies:

- Windsor has the oldest bus fleet in the province
- Currently there are 39 buses over 18 years old
- Maintenance for an ageing fleet will continue to rise

It is also noted that for two years both Transit Windsor B.O.D. and administration have recommended the approval of one additional mechanic to address the need for MTO inspections. This request has been turned down by City Council both times. Overall the long standing failure to properly invest in our fleet has resulted in its deteriorating and diminished status. The subcommittee's previous recommendation to increase Windsor Transit funding significantly is well founded based on the report referenced here.

Recommendations

That City Council increase Transit Windsor budget to include the hiring of an additional mechanic.

That the budget be amended to reinstate the practice of purchasing six buses per year.

That the buses be hybrid buses.

That Transit Windsor (funding be increase by 10%) and the budget revised to reflect that increase.

BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED

Submitted by the Chair

Frank Butler