



REGIONAL COUNCIL MINUTES

Wednesday, January 18, 2012

The following are the minutes of the Regular Council meeting held at 7:06 p.m. in the Regional Council Chamber, 150 Frederick Street, Kitchener, Ontario, with the following members present: Chair K. Seiling, L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, S. Strickland, J. Wideman, and C. Zehr.

Members Absent: R. Deutschmann

CLOSED SESSION

MOVED by C. Zehr

SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT a closed meeting of Council be held on Wednesday, January 18, 2012 at 6:45 p.m. in Waterloo County Room in accordance with Section 239 of the Municipal Act, 2001, for the purposes of considering the following subject matters:

- a) proposed or pending acquisition of land

CARRIED

MOVED by B. Halloran

SECONDED by T. Galloway

THAT Council reconvene in Open Session.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST UNDER *THE MUNICIPAL CONFLICT OF INTEREST ACT*

K. Seiling declared a pecuniary interest regarding all of the delegations related to Rapid Transit and an item from closed session due to two of his adult children who own residential properties within the proposed corridor.

D. Craig declared a pecuniary interest regarding all of the delegations related to Rapid Transit and an item in closed session due to his son owning property within the area of a proposed station on the rapid transit system.

PRESENTATIONS

- a) Jane Mitchell, Chair and Joe Farwell, CAO, Grand River Conservation Authority appeared before Council to receive a grant cheque in the amount of \$35,000 to assist with the acquisition of the Paleczny property in North Dumfries Township. J. Mitchell provided background information on the purchase of the 40 hectare property which is of natural

heritage significance and is part of the Beverley Swamp. She thanked the Region for this donation.

Memo: Environmental Stewardship Fund Grant to Grand River Conservation Authority (GRCA) for Acquisition of Paleczny Property was received for information.

K. Seiling vacated the Chair due to his pecuniary interest and J. Wideman assumed the Chair.

DELEGATIONS

a) Rapid Transit Funding

- i) Ben Tucci, Councillor, Ward 4, Cambridge appeared before Council to request fair treatment when dealing with tax rates specific to the LRT. He suggested area rating be used since the City of Cambridge is not in support of the LRT motion and Cambridge taxpayers do not want to pay for the system. He compared the City of Cambridge to the Townships in that they are not receiving the same service as Kitchener and Waterloo. He further noted Regional Council recently approved area rating for a GRT service expansion in Woolwich Township. He believed a precedent has been set.

Councillors questioned if when the Stage 2 LRT is constructed to Cambridge if those costs should be charged only to Cambridge residents. B. Tucci responded he did not believe Cambridge will ever see LRT. There was further discussion with respect to the extended and expanded GRT service and aBRT to Cambridge.

- ii) Nicholas Ermeta, Councillor, Ward 8, Cambridge appeared before Council and acknowledged the other members of Cambridge Council who were present including Councillors Keifer, Monteiro and Reid. He noted the Region has already approved area rating for Woolwich Township and questioned why this would not be extended to the rest of the Region. He suggested if the Region wants to improve transit in Cambridge, they need to make it more convenient. He stated this is a big issue for his constituents and Cambridge is still at a disadvantage.

Councillors inquired if the delegation believed area rating should be used for all services. N. Ermeta stated this is a matter of interpretation but he did support area rating for all municipalities. It was noted the Region expanded service delivery by 72,000 hours last year which exceeds the total amount of hours for the Cambridge system when it was amalgamated.

- b) Orville Thacker and Joyce Cruikshank, representing the Waterloo Regional Council of Union Retirees, appeared before Council with respect to the Privatization of Public Transportation. O. Thacker stated they are opposed to the proposal for the Public-Private partnership for light rail transit. J. Cruikshank provided a presentation, [a copy of which is appended to the original minutes](#). They expressed concern with the loss of control of fares and other costs involved in the operation of the system and cited Highway 407 as an example. They urged that the operation of the public system remain in public hands.

A member of Council questioned if the maintenance of the system should also be in public control. O. Thacker stated it is the same ball park as the operation and their concern is with losing control of the system.

*J. Wideman vacated the Chair and K. Seiling resumed the Chair.

MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

J. Brewer requested an amendment to the Budget minutes of December 14, 2011 to reflect the date of the next Police Services Board meeting of January 11, 2012.

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by L. Armstrong

THAT the following Minutes be approved:

- a) Closed Audit – December 12, 2011
- b) Closed Budget – December 14, 2011
- c) Budget Public Input – December 14, 2011
- d) Budget – December 14, 2011
- e) Closed Council – December 14, 2011
- f) Council – December 14, 2011
- g) Planning & Works – January 10, 2012
- h) Administration & Finance – January 10, 2012
- i) Community Services – January 10, 2012
- j) Closed Committee – January 10, 2012

CARRIED

COMMUNICATIONS

- a) City of Cambridge regarding Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC) Motion Regarding LRT was received for information.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT Council go into Committee of the Whole to consider reports.

CARRIED

FINANCE REPORTS

- a) F-12-003, T2011-149 Construction & Testing of Municipal Supply Wells, 2012

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Gerrits Drilling & Engineering Limited for the Construction and Testing of Municipal Supply Wells, 2012 at a total price of \$750,054.44 including all applicable taxes.

CARRIED

- b) F-12-004, T2011-021 Elmira Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Dewatering and Miscellaneous, Township of Woolwich

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Stonetown Construction Limited for the construction of T2011-021 Elmira Wastewater Treatment Plant (WWTP) Dewatering and Miscellaneous Upgrades, Township of Woolwich, at a total price of \$4,685,000.00 including all applicable taxes.

CARRIED

c) F-12-005, P2011-43 Processing of Brush/Yard Waste, Pallet/Related Wood Waste and Screening of Finished Compost

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the proposal of Orgapower Compost Corp. and Integrated Municipal Services for the Processing of Brush/Yard Waste, Pallet/Related Wood Waste and Screening of Finished Compost in the amounts of \$726,547.06 and \$200,145.60 respectively, for a two year period commencing February 1, 2012 at an estimated total cost of \$926,692.66 including all applicable taxes.

CARRIED

d) F-12-006, P2011-32, Digital Production System – Corporate Publishing

T. Galloway inquired why only one bid was received. Charles Whitlock, Director, Procurement and Supply Services advised three bids were submitted but two were disqualified, partly due to not acknowledging addendum to the proposal or not submitting required information. He confirmed that Xerox is the current supplier.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the proposal of Xerox Canada Ltd. for the Digital Production System – Corporate Publishing for a five (5) year term, with the option to renew for three (3) additional one year periods in the amount of \$317,560.29 including all applicable taxes.

CARRIED

e) F-12-007, T2011-137 Grand River Transit (GRT) Strasburg Road Facility Expansion

S. Strickland requested that the middle clause of the recommendation be taken separately as he cannot support the additional increase in consulting costs for this project. There was discussion about this tender being reissued and it was noted the additional costs were approximately \$30,000 excluding the increased consulting fees.

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the tender of Melloul-Blamey Construction Inc. for the Grand River Transit (GRT) Strasburg Road Facility Expansion in the amount of \$47,250,950.00 including all applicable taxes;

AND FURTHER THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo authorize the issuance of debentures in an amount not to exceed \$45,000,000 for a term not to exceed 20 years for this project.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Wideman
SECONDED by T. Cowan

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve additional consulting fees of \$470,000, plus applicable taxes for Morrison Hershfield Limited for design and construction administration of the Grand River Transit (GRT) Strasburg Road Facility Expansion construction project;

CARRIED
(C. Millar and S. Strickland opposed)

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Planning and Works

The Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee was presented by Geoff Lorentz, Vice-Chair of the Committee.

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by R. Kelterborn

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Planning and Works Committee, dated January 10, 2012, Items 1 to 7, and 3 reports from closed session, Items 8 to 10, be adopted as follows:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with Delcan Corporation to provide consulting engineering services for Detailed Design of Phases 1 and 2, and Contract Administration and Construction Inspection for Phase 1 of the South Boundary Road and the Franklin Boulevard Extension in the City of Cambridge and Township of North Dumfries, at an upset limit of \$989,115.00 plus applicable taxes for the detailed design, with contract administration and construction inspection services to be paid on a time basis. [E-12-008]
2. THAT The Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into an Extension and Amending License agreement with FIDO Solutions Inc. ("FIDO") effective January 31, 2012 for the purpose of the installation, maintenance and operation of certain telecommunications equipment on the Freeport Water Tower (the "Tower"), in the City of Kitchener, as outlined in Report E-12-005 dated January 10, 2012, in a form satisfactory to the Regional Solicitor and that the Commissioner of Transportation and Environmental Services be authorized to execute the same.
3. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following actions with respect to Waterloo North Water Supply Class Environmental Assessment according to Report E-12-007 dated January 10, 2012:
 - a) Receive the report entitled "Waterloo North Water Supply Class EA Environmental Study Report" prepared by AECOM, dated November 2011, and

- b) Direct Transportation and Environmental Services staff to issue the Notice of Completion of Environmental Study Report, and to file the Environmental Study Report for public review in accordance with Municipal Class Environmental Assessment requirements.
4. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into a Consulting Services Agreement with Stantec Consulting Ltd. of Kitchener, Ontario, to provide consulting engineering services for the Assimilative Capacity Study for the Hespeler and Waterloo Wastewater Treatment Plants (WWTPs), at an upset limit of \$842,530.00 plus applicable taxes, as per Report E-12-010, dated January 10, 2012.
5. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo forward the draft source protection policies as documented in Report E-12-012 dated January 10, 2012, to the Grand River Conservation Authority for inclusion in the Draft Proposed Source Protection Plan and related public consultation;
- AND THAT a letter be forwarded to the Grand River Conservation Authority, Source Protection Committee expressing support for requesting an extension to December 31, 2012 of the submission deadline to the Province of Ontario for the Proposed Source Protection Plan, with a copy to the Minister of the Environment and Area Municipalities.
6. THAT the Region of Waterloo accept P-12-001, Monthly Report of Development Activity for November 2011, dated January 10, 2012.
7. THAT the Council of the Regional Municipality of Waterloo convey to the Federal and Provincial Government the importance of the Region of Waterloo, the 10th largest Census Metropolitan Area in Canada, being an official station stop on any future High Speed Rail system in the Windsor to Quebec City Corridor , as described in Report No. P-12-003, dated January 10, 2012;
- AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo encourage the Federal and Provincial Governments to advance increased passenger rail service (VIA and GO Transit) to Waterloo Region, including additional peak service, two-way peak service and service to Cambridge and that the implementation of High Speed Rail would not result in the elimination of VIA service along the London-Kitchener-Toronto corridor unless a suitable alternative is provided;
- AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo supports the undertaking of an inter-city transportation master plan that includes stakeholder participation;
- AND FURTHER THAT a request for a response to this report be forwarded to the Federal Minister of Transport and the Provincial Minister of Transportation, with a copy to all local MP's, MPP's and Area Municipalities.
8. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the appointments of John Jackson, Pete Leonard and James Robinson for a four-year term expiring on December 31, 2015 and Katherine Waybrant for a two-year term expiring on December 31, 2013, to the Water Efficiency Advisory Committee.
9. THAT the Region of Waterloo take the following actions with respect to the Ecological and Environmental Advisory Committee (EEAC), as follows:

- a) re-appoint Patrick Duxbury, Greg Michalenko, and Charles Priddle for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2014;
 - b) appoint Lauren Cymbaly and Laura Ehnes for three-year terms expiring December 31, 2014; and
 - c) appoint Wayne Caston, Andrew Dean, and Ron Donaldson for two-year terms expiring December 31, 2013.
10. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo take the following action with respect to the Laurel Creek Headwaters Environmentally Sensitive Landscape Public Liaison Committee, as follows:
- a) re-appoint Bruce Bieth and Dianne Ensing to three-year terms ending on December 31, 2014; and
 - b) appoint Leanne Baer to a three-year term expiring December 31, 2014.

CARRIED

Administration and Finance

The Summary of Recommendation of the Administration and Finance Committee was presented by Tom Galloway, Chair of the Committee.

MOVED by T. Galloway
SECONDED by T. Cowan

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Administration and Finance Committee dated January 18, 2012, Items 1 to 4, be adopted as follows:

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo support the recommendations contained in the Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OASPSB) White Paper entitled "Provincial Offences Act – Unpaid Fines" dated 11/01/2011;

AND THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo request the Province of Ontario to commence with inter-ministry and municipal discussions, to review the paper and develop an implementation plan to address the recommendations contained in the paper;

AND FURTHER THAT a copy of this report be circulated to local MPPs, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), Association of Municipal Managers, Clerk's and Treasurers of Ontario (AMCTO), Ontario Association of Police Service Boards (OAPSB), Waterloo Regional Police Services (WRPS) Board and Municipal Court Managers Associations (MCMA). [CR-CLK-12-001]
2. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo enter into an agreement with WalterFedy to provide engineering consulting services related to the procurement and installation of a standby generator at 150 Frederick St. Kitchener, Ontario at a price of \$132,900.00 plus applicable taxes and disbursements. [CR-FM-12-001]

3. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo accept the proposal of Deloitte & Touche LLP for Audit Services and appoint as the Region's auditors for a five (5) year term (2011-2015) at a total cost of \$638,550.00 plus applicable taxes.[F-12-001]
4. THAT the Administration and Finance Committee approve the minutes of the Audit Committee dated December 12, 2011.

CARRIED

Budget

The Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee was presented by Tom Galloway, Chair of the Committee. It was requested that item #9 be taken separately and also items #10 – 13. C. Zehr requested a recorded vote.

MOVED by T. Galloway
SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee dated January 18, 2012, Items 1 to 8 and 14, be adopted as follows:

Children's Services Resolutions

1. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve an increase of \$559,517 in 100% provincial funding with a net levy impact of \$0 for the 2012 Children's Services budget as outlined in Appendix G of Report F-12-002, dated January 18, 2012.

Social Services Budget Resolutions

2. Counselling Services

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the following Counselling Service Grants for 2012:

Agency

Lutherwood	\$ 47,287
Shalom Counselling Services Inc.	13,213
Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge and North Dumfries	57,874
Interfaith Community Counselling Centre	15,168
Kitchener-Waterloo Counselling Services Inc.	191,817
Mosaic Counseling and Family Services	130,948
Woolwich Counselling Centre	<u>13,625</u>
Total	<u>\$469,932</u>

3. Peer Counselling Services

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the following Peer Counselling Service grants for 2012:

Agency

Cambridge Self Help Food Bank Inc.	\$ 4,756
K-W Working Centre for the Unemployed	<u>14,932</u>

Total	<u>\$19,688</u>
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4. Community Outreach Programs

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the following Community Outreach grants for 2012:

Agency

Cambridge Family Early Years Centre	\$ 40,179
Cambridge Self Help Food Bank Inc.	78,080
Mosaic Counselling and Family Services	109,720
Family Counselling Centre of Cambridge & North Dumfries	53,678
Greenway Chaplin Community Centre	43,000
House of Friendship of Kitchener	131,262
Kitchener-Waterloo Counselling Services Inc.	176,206
Kitchener-Waterloo Multi-Cultural Centre Inc.	35,663
Kinbridge Community Association	85,999
Langs Farm Village Association	43,000
Our Place Family Resource and Early Years Centre	38,396
Preston Heights Community Group	43,000
Wilmot Family Resource Centre Inc.	37,578
Motivational Learning Groups	<u>8,473</u>
Total	<u>\$924,234</u>

5. Emergency Food Hamper Program

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the following rates for the Emergency Food Hamper Program effective January 1, 2012:

Program

Hamper Rate	\$39.55
Diaper Rate	\$ 5.55
Formula Rate	<u>\$14.00</u>

AND THAT the 2012 expenditures for the Emergency Food Hamper program not exceed \$785,400.

6. Dental Program

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a 2% increase in rates for basic, emergency and discretionary dental services and denture rates effective April 1, 2012, subject to approval by the Province of Ontario.

7. Homelessness to Housing Strategy

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the following Homelessness to Housing Stability Strategy Grants for 2012:

Agency

House of Friendship of Kitchener	\$ 54,346
YWCA of Kitchener-Waterloo	54,346

Cambridge Shelter Corporation	90,203
Lutherwood	94,399
K-W Working Centre for the Unemployed	60,000
Kitchener Downtown Community Health Centre	20,000
Reaching Our Outdoor Friends (ROOF)	38,613
Mennonite Central Committee of Ontario	60,000
STEP Home	8,000
Supportive Housing of Waterloo (SHOW)	100,000
Argus Residence for Young People	54,346
Total	<u><u>\$634,253</u></u>

AND THAT the 2012 expenditures for the Emergency Shelter Overflow not exceed \$78,243.

8. Funeral Rates

THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a phased-in approach to increasing funeral rates, subject to Council approval of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Region of Waterloo Funeral Directors to establish the service standards for funerals undertaken under the agreement;

AND THAT the Memorandum of Understanding reflect a phase-in of funeral rates over a three-year period as follows:

Year	2012	2013	2014
Approved Rate:			
Traditional	\$3,500	\$4,500	\$5,545
Memorial	\$2,300	\$3,000	\$3,695
Cremation	\$1,500	\$1,900	\$2,325

AND FURTHER THAT the phased-in funeral rates shall become effective upon completion of the Memorandum of Understanding.

Library Budget Resolutions

14. THAT the Region of Waterloo Budget Committee approve the following with regard to the Region of Waterloo Library Budget as contained in Report P-LIB-11-007, dated December 6, 2011:

- a) the 2012 Library Operating Budget with a net levy of \$2,190,207;
- b) the 2012 Library Capital Budget;
- c) the 2013-2021 Library Capital Forecast;
- d) the distribution of the 2010 Library Operating Surplus.

CARRIED

MOVED by T. Galloway
 SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee dated January 18, 2012, Item 9, be adopted as follows:

General Budget Resolutions

9. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve a GRT fare increase of 9% effective July 1, 2012 as currently reflected in the 2012 base budget with specific fare increases to individual elements to be brought forward to Council for approval in Spring 2012.

CARRIED

Yeas: L. Armstrong, T. Galloway, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, S. Strickland, J. Wideman, C. Zehr.

Nays: J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, C. Millar

MOVED by T. Galloway

SECONDED by J. Wideman

THAT the Summary of Recommendations of the Budget Committee dated January 18, 2012, Items 10 to 13, be adopted as follows:

General Budget Resolutions

10. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the 2012 Property Tax Operating Budget with a net levy of \$ 271,958,573 (1.23%), excluding Police Services, and the 2012 Property Tax Capital Budget and 2013-2021 Capital Forecast, excluding Police Services, reflecting budget issues presented to Budget Committee as amended.
11. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo approve the Waterloo Region Police Services 2012 Property Tax Operating Budget with a net levy of \$125,944,325 (1.30%) and the Waterloo Regional Police Services 2012 Property Tax Capital Budget and 2013-2021 Capital Forecast as amended.
12. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo repeal By-law Number 11-015, being a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and that a new Fees and Charges By-law be passed including those fees and charges listed on the January 18, 2012 Budget Committee Agenda.
13. THAT the Regional Municipality of Waterloo receive the Information Paper titled "Municipal Budget Regulations" included in the January 18, 2012 Budget Committee Agenda for information, as required by *Ontario Regulation 284/09*.

CARRIED Unanimously

Yeas: L. Armstrong, J. Brewer, T. Cowan, D. Craig, T. Galloway, J. Haalboom, B. Halloran, R. Kelterborn, G. Lorentz, C. Millar, J. Mitchell, K. Seiling, S. Strickland, J. Wideman, C. Zehr.

OTHER MATTERS UNDER COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MOVED by B. Halloran

SECONDED by C. Zehr

THAT Committee of the Whole rise and Council resume.

CARRIED

MOVED by J. Mitchell
SECONDED by G. Lorentz

THAT Council adopt the proceeding of the Committee of the Whole.

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

Mike Murray, Chief Administrative Officer reminded members of the special Planning and Works Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, February 7th at 6:00 p.m. to deal with the Rapid Transit procurement issues. He stated the staff report will be available for release on Friday, January 27th. Staff has also scheduled a session following Committee meetings on Tuesday, January 31st to hear a presentation and summary of the analysis from the consultant and respond to any questions. It is expected to start at approximately 2:00 p.m. depending upon the Committee schedule for that day.

C. Zehr requested consideration for an earlier start time for the March 7th Council meeting. He advised the Region and local municipalities are hosting an event for the Federation of Canadian Municipalities that evening and there will be conflict for a number of councillors. S. Strickland advised he is not able to attend an afternoon meeting.

MOVED by C. Zehr
SECONDED by C. Millar

THAT the start time of the March 7, 2012 Council meeting be changed to 3:00 p.m.

CARRIED
(S. Strickland opposed)

J. Brewer requested the letter from the City of Cambridge be referred to the process dealing with costs for light rail transit. Chair Seiling advised procedurally a motion to reconsider would be required on this issue.

ENACTMENT OF BY-LAWS – (FIRST, SECOND & THIRD READINGS)

MOVED by G. Lorentz
SECONDED by J. Mitchell

- a) THAT a By-law to Establish Fees and Charges for the Regional Municipality of Waterloo and Repeal By-law 11-015, As Amended be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-001 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.
- b) THAT a By-law to Confirm the Actions of Council of January 18, 2012 be read a first, second and third time, finally passed and numbered 12-002 signed by the Regional Chair and Regional Clerk and sealed with the Regional Seal.

CARRIED

ADJOURN

MOVED by J. Brewer
SECONDED by C. Millar

THAT the meeting adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

CARRIED

REGIONAL CHAIR, *K. Seiling*

REGIONAL CLERK, *K. Fletcher*

PRESENTATION TO WATERLOO REGIONAL COUNCIL FROM THE WATERLOO REGIONAL COUNCIL OF UNION RETIREES

JANUARY 18, 2012

Our purpose in appearing before Regional Government is to convey to you in the strongest possible terms our opposition to the proposed Public-Private Partnership (also known as P3s), to operate our light rail transit system for the next thirty years.

For a number of years the taxpayers of Waterloo Region have been told that a light rail transit system is the only option to maintain and improve our public transit. Now we are told that there is little or no knowledge or expertise in this part of the province for building, maintaining or operating a light rail system. This leads one to ask, "Was this decision made locally or in some corporate board room?"

We have many examples of P3s in the past, especially in the hospital industry where communities have had to settle for less and at a much higher cost. These mega projects are always developed on borrowed money, borrowed at a higher interest rate than what is available to municipalities. Also, the private corporation must show a profit in order to satisfy their shareholders.

There is also the risk of losing control of fares and other costs involved in the operation of the system and the public will probably never be told how much profit a partner takes out of the transit system. The 407 highway is a good example of what happens when you lose control of the cost for using the service.

We urge you to take a good look at operating the rail transit system. We recognize that a project of this nature would be tendered to private companies for construction, but the operation of the public service should remain in public hands where ratepayers are able to have access to the costs and benefits.

Orville Thacker, President

Joyce Cruickshank, Secretary

Waterloo Regional Council of Union Retirees

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