Minute No. 480
Report – Standing Policy Committee on Public Works – May 8, 2023

Item No. 3 Service Levels for Winnipeg Transit

COUNCIL DECISION:

Council concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and adopted the following:

1. That the Council Decision of March 22, 2023 with respect to Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 21, 2023, be amended by adding the following new Recommendation:

   "1.H.iv. These service level goals are established on the understanding that ongoing labour market and hiring challenges of Bus Operators will make it unlikely that Winnipeg Transit can practically deliver on those targets by the scheduled dates."

2. That the Public Service continue to have operational and management flexibility to adjust service levels to properly balance Council's ultimate goal of returning to full service against any practical challenges posed by staffing constraints.

3. That the Public Service be directed to continue to take all reasonable efforts to recruitment and retention within the Public Service, with Transit Operator recruitment and retention as a high priority, and report back to Council by December 2023 with an update on all efforts to enhance the recruitment and retention of Transit Operators.

4. That any incremental savings which may appear as a result of these labour market pressures be retained by Winnipeg Transit to permit maximum flexibility to expand service whenever new hires and/or operators may be available.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

Moved by Councillor Lukes,
That the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works be adopted by consent.

Carried

EXECUTIVE POLICY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 16, 2023, the Executive Policy Committee concurred in the recommendation of the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works and submitted the matter to Council.

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION:

On May 8, 2023, the Standing Policy Committee on Public Works passed the following motion:

WHEREAS in its 2023 Operating Budget, Council approved an increase in Transit service to a 3% reduction during the Summer 2023 Schedule Period, and to Full Service during the Fall 2023 Schedule Period;

AND WHEREAS the recruitment of Bus Operators has become increasingly challenging, similarly to what is occurring across numerous industries and organizations, including other City Departments;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service advises that increasing service beyond the current 6% reduction at the present time will create conditions that would potentially diminish the overall quality and level of service;

AND WHEREAS the Public Service is currently finalizing a Talent Acquisition Strategy across the entire organization with a view to enhancing recruitment and retention within the entire Public Service, including Transit;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the following be recommended to the Executive Policy Committee and Council:

1. That the Council Decision of March 22, 2023 with respect to Item 1 of the Report of the Executive Policy Committee dated March 21, 2023, be amended by adding the following new Recommendation:

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DECISION MAKING HISTORY:

STANDING COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION (continued):

"1.H.iv. These service level goals are established on the understanding that ongoing labour market and hiring challenges of Bus Operators will make it unlikely that Winnipeg Transit can practically deliver on those targets by the scheduled dates."

2. That the Public Service continue to have operational and management flexibility to adjust service levels to properly balance Council's ultimate goal of returning to full service against any practical challenges posed by staffing constraints.

3. That the Public Service be directed to continue to take all reasonable efforts to recruitment and retention within the Public Service, with Transit Operator recruitment and retention as a high priority, and report back to Council by December 2023 with an update on all efforts to enhance the recruitment and retention of Transit Operators.

4. That any incremental savings which may appear as a result of these labour market pressures be retained by Winnipeg Transit to permit maximum flexibility to expand service whenever new hires and/or operators may be available.

5. That the Proper Officers of the City be authorized to do all things necessary to implement the intent of the foregoing.