

City of Toronto/TTC Expert Advisory Panel on Ontario-Toronto Realignment of Transit Responsibilities Review

Introduction: Taking Stock of the Current State of transit in City and Region

Meeting One – Minutes

June 5, 2019 – 3:30PM to 6:30PM
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
1 Devonshire Place, Room 208N, Toronto

Attendees

Chris Murray
Rick Leary
Enid Slack
Drew Fagan
Shirley Hoy
Andy Manahan
Joe Pennachetti
Bill Robson
Matti Siemiatycki
Hana Syed
Patricia Wood

Absent

Pedro Barata
Joe Berridge
Steven Farber
Shoshanna Saxe

Presentations

The Expert Advisory Panel heard the following presentations:

- Presentation on the panel's mandate, with a focus on the panel's role in providing input and advice on key considerations for the long-term future of transit in a growing city and region.
- City Manager and TTC CEO provided a presentation on the current state of transit in Toronto and the region. In particular, the presentation highlighted the complex, integrated, multi-modal nature of the TTC transit system. The presentation also focused on the TTC's Capital Investment Plan and State of Good Repair Needs over the next 15 years, and the need for the transit system to be expanded to support projected growth expected in Toronto and surrounding municipalities.
- A presentation on the Ontario-Toronto Realignment of Transit Responsibilities Review was also provided, which focused on the Ontario-Toronto Terms of Reference and the *Getting Ontario Moving Act*.

Panel Discussion – Key Points

The Expert Advisory Panel discussed the current state of transit in Toronto and the region, Ontario's *Getting Ontario Moving Act*, and the provincial proposals to realign responsibilities between the City and Province as it relates to the TTC subway system, and transit expansion

projects in Toronto. The following are the main themes, ideas, and comments from the panel's discussion. They do not necessarily reflect a consensus position from the panel.

Maintenance of the Current System

- Several panel members noted the importance of maintenance of the existing system, and the need to prioritize it ahead of further expansion of the system.
- A risk of the current proposals is that the province would build new lines and leave the City with the cost of maintaining them.

Opportunities from the Current Review

- Several panel members noted that the Ontario-Toronto Realignment of Transit Responsibilities Review presents a window of opportunity to look at pressing questions, including challenges around regional transit needs and how to properly fund the transit system.
- The Review provides an opportunity to address the imbalance between the amount of infrastructure municipalities are responsible for and their revenue raising power.
- Several panel members stated that it was important that this panel and decision makers set priorities based on evidence and cost-benefit analysis.

Risk of Unfinished Plans and Fragmentation

- There is a risk that provincial plans will not come to fruition and leave the City to fill in the gap.
- There is also a risk that current provincial plans would further fragment the system, and create issues around fare integration and affordability.
- It was suggested that having different owners for assets that complement each other or substitute for each other could lead to unnecessary competition and inefficiencies; it was also noted, however, that many cities have different owners for different subway or bus lines without losing the benefits of integration or efficiency.

Regional Considerations and Opportunities

- It was suggested that there is a need for a firm 30- or 40-year plan for the region that identifies where the growth will be and what transit is needed to meet it.
- One suggestion was that the province should be fully responsible for the construction of new transit lines, but also responsible for 100% of the funding, which would free up city funding for maintenance.
- Several panel members noted that the TTC is already a regional transit system after the extension into Vaughan. Some noted that it could therefore be the backbone or the starting point of a fully regional system.
- It was also suggested that the City of Toronto should reach out to other municipalities in the region, as well as organizations outside government, and partner with them on regional transit.
- Another point raised was the need to continue to increase access to transit as a way of addressing the social equity needs of Torontonians and others in the region.

Next Meeting

Monday, June 17 – 4:30pm to 6:30pm
Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy
1 Devonshire Place, Room 208N, Toronto
Topic: City Building and Transit