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April 13, 2017

Chair and Members
Civic Works Committee

Re: Buses off Dundas Street - Update

At its meeting of March 29, 2017, the Commission approved:

- i. postponing the rerouting of buses off Dundas Street until April 2018, in coordination with the start of the spring signup period, subject to confirmation from civic administration by April 7, 2017 that construction will not be completed on Queens Avenue by the planned implementation date of September 3, 2017; and
- ii. advise Municipal Council through the Civic Works Committee, of the Commission's plans regarding the Dundas Street service.

Background

Municipal Council, at its September 13, 2016 meeting, resolved that the following actions be taken with respect to local public transit:

- a. the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to work with the London Transit Commission to move the existing bus routes on the Downtown core section of Dundas Street by September 2017; and
- b. the Civic Administration BE DIRECTED to explore the opportunity for including the capital costs of the additional buses as a Project Funding Request to the Phase 1 intake of the Federal Public Transit Infrastructure Fund.

This resolution had the effect of moving up the implementation date for the removal of buses from Dundas Street from January 2018 to September 2017. A total of nine of LTC's current routes will be impacted by the removal of buses from Dundas Street including Routes 2, 5, 7, 9, 11, 12, 19, 20 and 23. The Commission through the approval of the 2017 Service Plan, at its January 25, 2017 meeting, confirmed plans to include the removal of buses from Dundas Street effective September 3, 2017.

The City of London also has plans to construct a cycle track along the north side of Queens Avenue. In order for buses to be moved from Dundas Street to Queens Avenue, major construction work for the Cycle Track project on Queens Avenue must be completed prior to the planned implementation date of September 3, 2017. Of particular importance are major transit amenities such as transit platforms, bus shelters, and pedestrian crossings across the cycle tracks.

At its March 21, 2017 meeting, Council approved a plan to build protected cycling lanes along the north side of Queens Avenue however they directed that the Cycle Track project be put on hold until confirmation and approval on the Rapid Transit Master Plan is reached, which is not anticipated until June 2017 at the earliest.

Preparing and implementing new schedules and/or services involves a significant amount of work including:

- preparation/production of new schedules, layovers/time points, public timetables and Operator signup (work schedules);
- arranging for new bus stop approval and installation, including concrete landing pads, info posts, and advanced notification signage;
- updating the AVL system including GPS locates of new stops and routes, voice announcements, electronic destination signs and on-street signs;
- updating routing and schedule information for Google Maps; and
- undertaking a marketing program including printed ride guide maps and route timetables, Transit Talk, Communicator, website updates and social media, as appropriate.

Due to the volume of work involved with the implementation of the service plan, preparations for September 2017 are currently underway. With the ongoing uncertainty of the status of the Cycle Track project and the potential that this work will not be completed by the planned September date for moving buses off Dundas Street, the Commission reviewed two other scenarios, which could have seen the rerouting take effect earlier, however both were discounted due to the significant inconvenience they would cause the transit rider. As such, the Commission confirmed that delaying the rerouting of buses off Dundas Street until April 2018, to coordinate with the start of the spring signup period would have the least negative impact on transit riders and also has the benefit of allowing passengers to familiarize themselves with the changes separate and apart from the other fall service plan changes, scheduled to take place in September.

London Transit administration will continue to work with civic administration on the progress of the Queens Avenue Cycle Track project as well as other projects planned in the core in an effort to mitigate, to the greatest extent possible, negative impacts on transit rider while at the same time, ensuring that transit service continues to be offered in as close proximity as possible to the primary trip generators in the downtown core.

Yours truly,



Kelly S. Paleczny
General Manager