

From: Gil Brocanier

Sent: September-01-16 2:38 PM

To: Forrest Rowden; John Henderson; Lydia Smith

Cc: Brian Darling; Barry Thrasher; Debra McCarthy; Ian Davey; Lorraine Brace; Stephen Peacock; Aaron Burchat

Subject: Re: CTA Transit Feedback

Dear Lydia, I am disappointed with your "then let them eat cake" attitude with respect to our transient riders. While some of our citizens are fortunate enough to be able to afford personal transportation and all the benefits that go with it, many of our citizens are not in the same category. The last rider ship figures for 2014 show 109,244 riders. This indicates to me there is a need for the service by people who do not have vehicles, cannot drive, have accessibility issues or can't afford the high cost of taxis, but still need to get to work, shop for food, get to the hospital or other medical appointments. To hit these people with a 12.5% increase as recommended in the IBI report would be excessive. However, I am not suggesting that we shouldn't increase fees but we need to do it in a responsible manner. Much of our financial philosophy is based on "cost of living" increases and I see this as no different. We do need to review the rates and will do so in the next budget and it will not be done on "anecdotal information".

I do agree with you that we have a fiscal responsibility and that is why we are continually working on making our system more efficient while keeping costs under control. About 8 years ago we made the decision to purchase buses that have a 15 year life expectancy to reduce our capital costs. We did this knowing that halfway through the 15 year life span of the bus and frame we would have to invest \$30,000. in a new motor as the motor doesn't last 15 years. This is still far more cost effective than purchasing buses a little cheaper with only a 5 year life expectancy. As a matter of fact I gave this information to Mayor Sanderson as they have been purchasing the buses with a 5 year life expectancy. We are also regularly reviewing our bus schedules and routes to allow us to meet public needs in the most efficient way.

I don't agree that our system is broken but I do agree that our service is occasionally interrupted and we are taking steps to correct that. This is just another example of how we are continually reviewing the service to make it more efficient.

Before you hold Port Hope up as the standard we should work to, I suggest you wait for the results of their review. I can tell you that in my conversations with Mayor Sanderson, he too agrees that we have a social obligation to our citizens that depend on a public transit system.

Regards,
Gil

Gil Brocanier
Mayor, Town of Cobourg