

**City Council, Standing Committee and Commission
Conseil, comités permanents et commission**

Motion

Notice of Motion / Avis de motion

Committee / Commission: Transit Commission

Comité / Commission : Commission du transport en commun

Report / Agenda : Agenda 27

Rapport / Ordre du jour : Ordre du jour 27

Item / Article : Confederation Line and Bus Service Update

Re: Confederation Line – Task Forces

Moved by / Motion de: Councillor C. McKenney

WHEREAS a westbound train on the Confederation Line derailed on September 19th, 2021; and

WHEREAS on August 8TH, 2021, a train on the Confederation Line derailed while in operation; and

WHEREAS on August 24th, 2021, a ‘ghost’ break forced an unexpected stop between two stations forcing riders to be evacuated from the train; and

WHEREAS ten train cars from the Confederation Line were recently found to have axle problems in need of immediate repair; and

WHEREAS the Transportation Safety Board has been involved in investigating loose axle bearings and cracked wheels on the Confederation Line trains; and

WHEREAS the Rideau Transit Maintenance Group (RTM) – the maintenance affiliate of RTG/SNCL – has a 30-year maintenance agreement with the City of Ottawa; and

WHEREAS the Confederation Line recently passed the two-year mark of revenue service availability and has only had one year of expected service reliability during a time when, due to the global pandemic the ridership was exceptionally low; and

WHEREAS in the first year of revenue service availability there were ongoing serious issues with the rail system that included: train control software and

communication system software problems; compromised catenary mechanical supports; switch heater malfunctions; vehicle passenger door faults; track defects; and wheel cracks on several trains; and

WHEREAS the Terms of Reference for the Finance and Economic Development Committee state that the Committee is expressly responsible for “*all matters related to the Stage 1 and 2 LRT projects ... including procurement, contract award and construction progress*”; and

WHEREAS Section B. 13. of the Terms of Reference for the Transit Commission expressly delegates to the Commission the authority to “*receive operational performance reporting related to the transit system*”; and

WHEREAS the Transit Commission’s Terms of Reference further state that the Commission’s mandate is “*responsible for ensuring the development of a safe, efficient, accessible and client-focused transit system and for providing overall guidance and direction to the Transportation Services Department on all issues relating to the operation of public transit. Including conventional bus service, the O-train an Para Transpo*” [emphasis added]; and

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Transit Commission recommend that Ottawa City Council establish two separate Task Forces as follows:

1. The first Task Force, comprised of relevant external and independent rail experts, to provide a full assessment of the entire system delivered to date’;
2. The second Task Force shall be an independent panel, comprised of leading rail experts to determine and advise the City on a way forward to provide long-term, reliable, and safe rail service on the Confederation Line;
3. The Task Forces shall be supported by City staff and funded from the Transit Reserve.