



Consultative Committee

Minutes

Date: December 5, 2023

Location: Virtually, Microsoft Teams

Chair: Atul Sharma, Manager, Government & Stakeholder Relations

Attendees: Anna Victoria Barrera, Toronto Region Board of Trade
Lauren Crawford, Region of Peel
Vincent Crisanti, Councillor, City of Toronto
John Davidson, Regional Municipality of Halton
Brett McDermott, Mississauga Board of Trade
Trevor McPherson, Mississauga Board of Trade
Savik Ramkay, Seneca Collage
Steven Tufts, Brampton Mississauga & District Labour Council
Jonathan Wheatle, Region of York
Marlene Yakabuski, City of Mississauga resident

Regrets: Chris Fonseca, Councillor, City of Mississauga
Sabrina Khan, Region of Peel
Wendy Paradis, Association of Canadian Travel Agencies (ACTA) Ontario
Rod Power, Councillor, City of Brampton
Shane Rayman, City of Toronto resident
Oscar Rodriguez, City of Brampton resident
Simon Gill, Region of Durham
Badar R. Shamim, Brampton Board of Trade or Brett McDermott

Resource Members: Suzanne Acton-Gervais, NACC
Amanda Chum, Transport Canada
Caroline Polgrabia, Ministry of Tourism
Bram Westfall, Ministry of Transportation

Resource Members Absent: Suzanne Acton-Gervais, NACC
Paul Aldunate, City of Brampton
Alessandra Bianchi, Ministry of Transportation
Nikola Maric, City of Mississauga

Also in Attendance Ingrid Pringle, Management Assistant, GTAA
Fares Khouri, Coordinator, Public Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, GTAA
Michael Mendel, Associate Director, Corporate Initiatives
Ivan Battye, Durham Region Resident

Item	Details
1.0	PRELIMINARY ITEMS
1.1	Welcome and roll call conducted by Ingrid Pringle.
1.2	Review and Approval of December 5, 2023 agenda as amended – moved – J. Wheattle, seconded – J. Davidson <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Order of presentations amended.
1.3	Review and Approval of June 6, 2023 minutes – moved – S. Tufts, seconded – J. McDermott.
1.4	Matters Arising from Previous Meeting – June 6, 2023 <ul style="list-style-type: none">• No outstanding matters
2.0	REGULAR ITEMS
2.1	GTAA Information Update. <ul style="list-style-type: none">• GTAA Information Update was provided to members by email prior to the meeting.• Update can be found here.
3.0	DISCUSSION ITEMS
3.1	Toronto Pearson’s Transformative Capital Program <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Michael Mendel, Associate Director, Corporate Initiatives, GTAA provided an presentation on Toronto Pearson’s Transformative Capital Program.• The presentation can be found here.
3.2	Winter Travel Readiness <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Atul Sharma, Manager, Government Affairs and Stakeholder Relations, GTAA presented highlights of Toronto Pearson’s upcoming Winter Travel Readiness plan.• The presentation can be found here.
4.0	MEMBERS UPDATE <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Halton Region – John Davidson<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Halton Region will be bringing forward its budget to council at the end of the year. There are a few major reports to deal with, including the allocation program which is looking at the next phase of residential growth of 73,000 units over the next few years. The GTAA will be providing their yearly update to regional council on December 13, 2023.• Labour Council – Steven Tufts<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Affiliates of the International Transport Workers Federation, ITF, are working to spread a program that is being put in place at Heathrow. The program is a joint labour management effort to monitor safety through a different metric system using a company with proprietary system called Safety 365. Heathrow has seen person days lost due to injury reduced significantly since its implementation. Heathrow has been in contact with some members of the GTA, but the unions hope to facilitate this relationship in this serious discussion to get this system implemented as it has proven, in its early stages, to be a useful program. Air

Transit is currently in negotiations with CUPE which began in late April. Progress has been slow. 99.8% of the members gave a strike mandate to the Union. The legal strike date for that collective bargaining agreement is January 3, 2024. The Union is looking to rectify, through the collective bargaining process, the previous cuts that occurred over the last decade due to restricting and COVID. There are also issues with workers taking second jobs to make ends meet and flight attendants not getting paid if they are not in the air.

- **Mississauga Board of Trade – Trevor McPherson**

- The Mississauga Board of Trade met with Westjet at their headquarters in Calgary. Westjet Cargo have recently joined as members of the Mississauga Board of Trade. We are looking forward to working with them and increasing their understanding of the challenges that they may be going through and how we can support them. MBOT deputized at the Mississauga council and Regional council meetings. The Region meets again on Thursday of this week to continue its deliberations on their proposed budget. MBOT met with members of the Peel Region Transition Board to share any concerns and areas of interest for the business community with regard to the process. We anticipate that in the coming months there will be a first set of recommendations on the distribution of the assets in the region and who pays for the various services.

- **York Region – Jonathan Wheattle - finish**

- The York Region budget was tabled in November and is currently under deliberations with one more budget session the week of December 11, 2024. York Region's economic development action plan is being developed for council consideration in Q1 of 2024. The economic development action plan deals with trying to attract foreign direct investment. York Region collaborated with the economic development team in cooperation with Toronto Global and the City of Markham in setting up a mission to California, specifically in Anaheim for the Med Tec Conference, Anti Silicon Valley to look at the hardware and semiconductor sectors. York Region, along with the City of Vaughan, participated in a mission to the Anuga Trade Conference in Germany that focused on agriculture and agri-food. York Region has the 4th largest food and beverage industry in Canada.

- **Seneca College – Savik Ramkay**

- Seneca College experienced a strong enrollment this year. Placement of graduates is good. Several students attended the GTAA job fair and secured employment. The college will be having an industry event in February, and it would be great if the GTAA could attend.

- **City of Toronto – Vincent Crisanti**

- The development of 750 acres at the Woodbine Racetrack is proceeding well. The grand opening for the 350,000 additional square feet of casino space has taken place. There are two five-star hotels that are currently under construction and one hotel will be opening soon. A 5,000-seat entertainment theatre complex will be opening in the new year. There are two residential components to this development that will bring thousands of housing units and affordable housing units to the City of Toronto and the surrounding area. On the transportation side, the Finch LRT will be operating by the beginning of the year. The missing piece for the Finch LRT is that it does not close the gap for Etobicoke North. I have been advocating with the Province, internally with the city and transportation, and with Mayor Olivia Chow to extend the LRT two more stops. One stop at Rexdale road and the other that will terminate at the future GO station on the GO line at Belfield and Hwy 27 which will
-

connect Etobicoke North to the GTAA Union Station direct to the airport. The money has been allocated for the new GO station by Woodbine Entertainment and Metrolinx will be building it.

- **Amanda Chum – Transport Canada**

- The work on the Southern Ontario aviation studies continues. Nothing to share publicly at this time.

- **Bram Westfall – Ministry of Transportation**

- The Ministry of Transportation is working on finalizing the draft regional transportation plan for the Southern Ontario region just outside of the Golden Horseshoe region.

- **NACC – Susan Acton-Gervias**

- One of our concerns to bring forward is, in July of 2023 the Government of Canada launched an air Passenger protection regulation consultation and there were significant concerns raised during the consultation by numerous groups representing tourism, airports, airline unions, business and others that the proposed regulation changes as being overly costly, reducing regional connectivity, penalizing aviation safety and not improving the traveller experience. We all know that a healthy, sustainable aviation sector makes an enormous contribution to the country's economic and social wellbeing as well, major hubs also contribute to the regional and provincial economies. We are asking for everyone's support to share the concerns that we have.

- **Ministry of Tourism – Caroline Polgrabia**

- From a tourism perspective it has been challenging. 2023 looks to be a rebound year. Travel that was cancelled in 2021 and 2022 have gotten moved into 2023. Projections are looking like 2024 is supposed to be a full rebound but those numbers are not being driven by international or business travel in the way that we had hoped they would be. The concerns regarding the current economic situation and what consumer confidence looks like is frightening from a travel perspective. Not a lot of people feel confident that long-term decision making on what travel looks like from a leisure or business perspective. From an industry perspective, we are hearing from operators with regards to operating costs and inflation impacting their ability to move forward with the same type of pricing structure that they have had with the costs on the expense side of the ledger increasing. From a Ministry perspective, not much of an update on the next steps on what a strategy or framework might look like. There are some higher-level changes currently happening at Destination Toronto and the Tourism Industry Association of Ontario. There is some transition happening from a municipal perspective as well. There is still a lot of cautious optimism and uncertainty as to what 2024 is going to look like from a travel perspective.

Community questions/comments

- **Ivan Battye – Durham Region Resident**

- Two areas of concern for airports. One being the Minister to appoint chair of the airport board. In the presentation it was mentioned that Toronto Pearson filed a submission on April 28th for Transport Canada's consultation and that would indicate Transport Canada relayed that concern prior to April 28th. Your annual general meeting was on May 3rd and
-

there was no mention of this issue and I think that's a serious oversight and I think you need to address this issue of the Minister's confidence.

- **Atul Sharma, GTAA**
 - There was some discussion going on before the introduction of Bill C 52 that it would include some potential governance changes. We had heard that from various officials as part of our consultations and conversations with government, we did relay our concerns to the government, to Transport Canada and to other government officials. Happy to report that when Bill C52 did come out, it did not contain any provisions related to a change in the governance of airport authorities. One of the biggest concerns that we did have was that there was a potential credit rating impact on the change, and we had spoken with some of the experts in the field who said yes, should the government become involved directly with the airport and change the current structure, that is was a definite possibility. We very actively had those concerns and relate them to the government and as a result, we did not that kind of legislative approach in C52.
- **Ivan Battye – Durham Region Resident**
 - That was all done with the previous Minister. Have you had any communications with the new Minister.
- **Atul Sharma, GTAA**
 - The Minister has several other issues that he's dealing with right now with respect to rail and ports. He hasn't come back and give us a definitive, but his view is that some of that legislation or some of those ideas were done at a time when we were in the middle of the pandemic, and we've been able to function very well over the last year or so.

5.0 ADJOURNMENT: meeting adjourned – moved – J. Wheattle, seconded – T. McPherson.

2024 meeting dates – Tuesday, March 19, 2024
Tuesday, June 11, 2024
Tuesday, September 10, 2024
Tuesday, December 3, 2024

Minutes prepared by Ingrid Pringle (416 776-3035) ingrid.pringle@gtaa.com. Any errors or omissions in these minutes should be forwarded to the author immediately.