

Staff Report 2023-0072

Meeting Date: February 7, 2023

Subject: New Transit Service on Dixie Road, North of Mayfield Road

Submitted By: Arash Olia, Manager, Transportation Engineering, Engineering Services

RECOMMENDATION

That transit service provided by Brampton Transit be expanded to include Dixie Road, north of Mayfield Road as outlined in Figure 1 of Staff Report 2023-0072;

That the Mayor and Clerk be authorized to execute the necessary agreements with the City of Brampton for the expanded transit service;

That the expansion be funded from the Provincial Gas Tax Reserve up to the estimated cost of \$60,000 annually; and

That a copy of this report be forwarded to the City of Brampton and Brampton Transit.

REPORT HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2022, Council directed staff to work with Brampton Transit to explore the feasibility of expanding transit services throughout major corridors north of Mayfield Road and report back to Council on the level of service and budget implications.
- Brampton Transit is currently providing local transit services in Southfields Village and Tullamore.
- Staff believe there are enough employment uses along Dixie Road north of Mayfield Road to support a positive business case for the expansion of transit services on Dixie Road.
- Brampton Transit is prepared to provide this transit service on the Town's behalf, subject to cost recovery.
- The service will improve safety of pedestrians as they do not have to walk along the road to reach to their working places.

DISCUSSION

In 2022, Council directed staff to work with Brampton Transit to explore the feasibility of expanding transit services throughout major corridors north of Mayfield Road, including the Dixie Road corridor.

Employers along Dixie Road have Requested Transit Services

Several large employers along Dixie Road informed the Town that approximately 30% of their employees are using transit to commute to and from work. Given transit services currently end

south of Mayfield Road, many employees have no choice but to walk the last Kilometre north on Dixie Road to their place of work. Dixie Road is still in a rural condition, so there are no existing sidewalks or streetlighting available for pedestrians. This creates a challenging and potentially unsafe situation for pedestrians walking along this stretch of the road. Accordingly, several employers requested the Town expand transit services along Dixie Road, north of Mayfield Road, as illustrated in Figure 1 below.

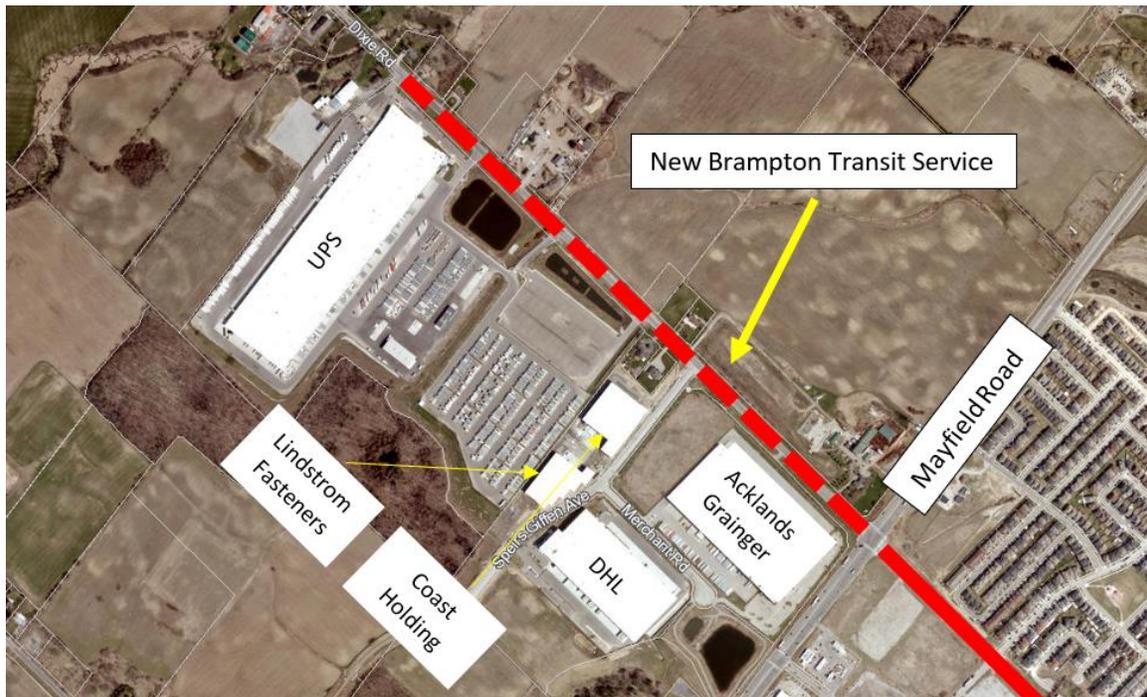


Figure 1: Proposed New Transit Service on Dixie Road

Based on Expected Ridership, there is a Positive Business Case for Transit Services on Dixie Road

Over the last several months, Town Transportation staff have investigated the viability and logistics of establishing a transit route on Dixie Road in consultation with Economic Development, Brampton Transit and the local employers. Through this work, it was determined that the existing employers employ a total of approximately 1,500 people, 500 of whom use transit daily to commute to work. After the ridership demand had been quantified, it was determined that there was a positive business case for the expansion of transit services north on Dixie Road.

A Bus Loop will be Accommodated on the UPS Property

During the route planning stage, Transportation Engineering staff, Brampton Transit staff and representatives from UPS developed a bus route that would allow northbound buses to turn around using the two existing driveways at the UPS facility on an interim basis. This

arrangement provides UPS employees with direct access to transit at the door step and greatly improves the operational efficiency of the transit service. It is to be noted that the Region has been working on a capital project to urbanize this section of the road to 4 lanes with sidewalk on the east side and multi-use trail on the west side, which is expected to be completed by 2024.

Brampton Transit Prepared to Provide Peak Hours, Mid-Day and Evening Service on Dixie Road

Based on the business case and service plan, Brampton Transit is positioned to provide a total of nine trips per day to align with shift changes (AM and PM peak, mid-day and evening). It is anticipated that the new transit service on Dixie Road can be implemented by Q3-2023, subject to budget approval.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The net cost to the Town for Brampton Transit to provide transit services along Dixie Road north of Mayfield Road is estimated to be \$60,000 per year. For 2023, it is being recommended that this expansion in service be funded from the Town's Provincial Gas Tax Reserve (current balance \$1,053,526). This expansion is eligible for funding from the Provincial Gas Tax funds for future budgets to support the ongoing cost of providing transit services on Dixie Road (costs located in and will be added to the Transit cost centre (GL 01-09-500-49116-365-62331)).

Ontario's Gas Tax program supports public transit in municipalities across Ontario by providing two cents per litre of provincial Gas Tax to improve and expand transit based on population, ridership and the municipality's own spending on transit. Provincial gas tax funds received based on previous municipal transit funding have been allocated to reserves pending the expansion of Transit services in Caledon.

In the future, if additional funding is required, it will be included as part of the annual budget approval process for Council consideration.

NEXT STEPS

Subject to Council approval, Transportation Engineering staff will make the necessary arrangement with Brampton Transit for the expansion of transit service on Dixie Road and in consultation with the Corporate Communication and Economic Development, develop a communication plan to inform the residents and employers of the new service in 2023.