



Minutes

Operations Committee

July 23, 2026, 5:30 p.m.

City Hall - 808 2nd Avenue East - Council Chambers

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Scott Greig
Vice Chair Jon Farmer
Member Donald Anderson
Member Arlene Blue Indoe
Member Michele Hawkins
Member Graham Jordan
Councillor Carol Merton (via phone)
Member Aletta Schurter

MEMBERS

ABSENT/REGRETS: Councillor Brock Hamley

STAFF PRESENT: Lara Widdifield, Director of Public Works and Engineering
Mason Bellamy, Manager of Public Works and Engineering
Heidi Jennen, Supervisor of Environmental Services
Christina McLean, Committee and Executive Support
Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Greig called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. CALL FOR ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

- 2.a Committee and Executive Support Coordinator Re: 2026 Municipal Election Reminder
- 2.b Councillor Farmer Re: Traffic Concerns at 8th Street East and 4th Avenue East
- 2.c Councillor Farmer Re: Recent Changes to Urban Speed Limits in the Municipality of Meaford

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 3.a Member Hawkins - Item 8.b.1 - Report OP-26-035 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Owen Sound Transit 45-Minute Service Pilot Results and Item 8.b.2 - Report OP-26-037 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Find My Bus App Capital Project Update

Member Hawkins declared an interest with items 8.b.1 and 8.b.2 due to their personal employment with the City's transit operator, Voyago/Transdev.

4. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

- 4.a Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on May 21, 2026

OP-260723-001

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

"THAT the Operations Committee approves the minutes of the meeting held on May 21, 2026."

Carried.

5. DEPUTATIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

There were no deputations or presentations.

6. PUBLIC FORUM

- 6.a Jake Bousfield-Bastedo, Owen Sound resident

The Speaker provided comments respecting the pedestrian infrastructure at 2nd Avenue West and 9th Street West, noting that the button must be used to prompt the pedestrian signal and reprogramming of the signal would help pedestrians and improve safety.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Public Works and Engineering noted that staff have investigated this specific intersection, and that due to the age of the infrastructure, the entire signal system would need to be replaced in order to reprogram it in such a way.

7. CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED FOR WHICH DIRECTION IS REQUIRED

There were no correspondence items presented for consideration.

8. REPORTS OF CITY STAFF

- 8.a Environment

- 8.a.1 Report OP-26-036 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Landfill Approval Alternatives Analysis

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, the Supervisor noted that although Grey County Council could receive the Regional Waste Management Study as early as 2027, implementation of the study's recommendations could take several years. The Supervisor added that the consultant preparing the study is aware that the City is considering this site for excess soils.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Public Works and Engineering noted that excess soil can be moved around or reused in some instances as long as it is clean and within regulations; however, there is also a volume of soil that is deemed "unclean" that would be disposed of at the site for perpetuity.

In response to a question from Committee, the Supervisor clarified that leachate is still collected from the Genoe site.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager noted that the compost site could possibly accept clean fill in the future, but that the main focus is finding a location to dispose of unclean fill at this time, which can only be deposited at a licensed facility, such as the landfill.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering noted that, unlike the landfill, the compost site does not have an environmental compliance approval. If the site were significantly expanded or changed, the City would need to obtain the necessary approvals before it could be used for additional purposes. The Director added that this would result in additional costs compared to using the landfill site, which already has the required approval.

OP-260723-002

Moved by Councillor Merton

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-036 respecting the Landfill Approval Alternatives Analysis, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to use the \$35,000 approved in the 2024 capital budget to investigate the feasibility of using a section of the Genoe Landfill for Excess Soils storage."

Carried.

8.b Transit

Having declared a conflict of interest with Items 8.b.1 and 8.b.2, Member Hawkins left the Council Chambers.

8.b.1 Report OP-26-035 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Owen Sound Transit 45-Minute Service Pilot Results

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to questions from Committee, the Supervisor noted that:

- The change to the pilot program caused some confusion among riders and drivers, and there are no plans currently to restart the pilot program.
- There was a traffic route optimization study completed in 2023 which outlined the different transit routes, and that routes can be investigated again in the future to help with better on-time performance, as 10th Street East and the hospital are two locations that often cause additional delays.
- Staff are meeting with the contractor in August 2026, who has some recommendations for fleet and routes to share with the City, and any recommended changes will be brought forward to a future Council or Committee meeting.

OP-260723-003

Moved by Vice Chair Farmer

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-035 respecting the Owen Sound Transit 45-Minute Service Pilot Results, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to discontinue the 45-minute pilot and return to the regular 30-minute schedule, effective August 3, 2026."

Carried.

8.b.2 Report OP-26-037 from the Supervisor of Environmental Services Re: Find My Bus App Capital Project Update

The Supervisor of Environmental Services provided an overview of the report.

In response to a question from Committee, the Supervisor noted that the quote in the report is for three portable GPS systems, so all buses should have the capabilities to use the live tracking system at all times.

OP-260723-004

Moved by Member Jordan

"THAT in consideration of Staff Report OP-26-037 respecting the Find my Bus App Capital Project Update, the Operations Committee recommends that City Council receive the report for information purposes."

Carried.

Member Hawkins returned to the Council Chambers.

8.c Engineering

None.

8.d Public Works

None.

8.e Water and Wastewater

None.

9. MATTERS POSTPONED

There were no matters postponed.

10. MOTIONS FOR WHICH NOTICE WAS PREVIOUSLY GIVEN

10.a Motion for Which Notice was Previously Given by Councillor Merton at the May 21, 2026 Operations Committee Meeting Re: Pedestrian Accident Involving a Child

In response to questions from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering noted that:

- In cases of traffic or speeding concerns, the inquiry is directed to the City's Traffic Engineering Technologist who then performs traffic monitoring of the location and added that the Owen Sound Police Service does not typically follow up with the City after an accident unless there is a particular issue that needs to be addressed by the City directly, such as tree trimming or signage adjustments.
- The Neighbourhood Traffic Calming Policy was implemented as an avenue to address these concerns in a consistent and effective way, and if the data collected supports the concern, then items will be budgeted and rectified accordingly.
- Education and enforcement are normally tried first to aid in traffic concerns before any engineering changes take place.
- The next Transportation Master Plan is going to be multi-modal and comprehensive and will take into account items such as pedestrian/vehicular conflicts and how individuals get around the City with all modes of transportation.

"THAT the Operations Committee recommends that City Council direct staff to provide an update relating to the concerns and suggestions provided by citizens respecting the recent accident involving a 4 year old child to a future meeting of the Operations Committee."

Defeated.

11. CORRESPONDENCE PROVIDED FOR INFORMATION

There were no correspondence items presented for information.

12. DISCUSSION OF ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

12.a 2026 Municipal Election Reminder

The Committee and Executive Support Coordinator provided a reminder of the upcoming Municipal Election in October, highlighting that nominations are open until August 21 at 2:00 p.m., and that voters can confirm their voter registration online at RegisterToVoteON.ca by August 12.

12.b Traffic Concerns at 8th Street East and 4th Avenue East

Councillor Farmer provided comments respecting recent correspondence received regarding traffic concerns at specific intersections throughout the City, including at 8th Street East and 4th Avenue East, and highlighted that a set of lights or stop control device could be beneficial for individuals as there is not another pedestrian crossing in the direct area.

In response to a question from Committee, the Manager of Public Works and Engineering noted that staff are aware of these concerns and have collected traffic data at the intersections. Based on the data collected, additional signalization is not warranted at this time.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering added that several factors are considered when determining whether to install a protected pedestrian crossing, including pedestrian counts, safety considerations, and the existing landscape such as hills.

12.c Recent Changes to Urban Speed Limits in the Municipality of Meaford

Councillor Farmer provided comments respecting the recent changes made by the Municipality of Meaford to update their urban speed limits to 40km/h.

In response to a question from Committee, the Director of Public Works and Engineering noted that speed limit changes could be considered by staff if directed by Council. The Director added that these concepts will also be considered as part of the upcoming 2028 Transportation Master Plan.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

There were no notices of motion.

14. ADJOURNMENT

The business contained on the agenda having been completed, Chair Greig adjourned the meeting at 6:47 p.m.