

Ottawa Transit Riders – Year in Review

Annual General Meeting
November 16, 2021



Agenda

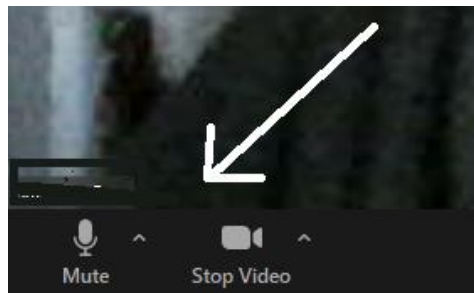
- Zoom refresher
- Introductions
- Where did it all start?
- 2020- 21 accomplishments
- Outreach overview
- Campaigns for 2021- 22:
 - #Fight4FairFares
 - #KeepTransitMoving
 - #ParaParity
 - #TransitChallenge2022
- Board of Directors for 2021- 22
- Resources
- What's next? / Questions?

Quick Zoom refresher

- The chair will mute everyone at the start to keep background noise low
- If you want to speak, please raise your hand (under “Participants” OR “Reactions”, with some browsers/devices) or ask in the “Chat,” both of which are along the bottom of your screen:



- If you want to check that you’re muted (or turn off your video), the controls are in the lower left of your screen:



Where did it all start?

- Two and a half years ago, on April 27, 2019, the Ottawa Transit Riders was formally founded with our first board.
- We originally formed this group because we kept looking at each other and saying, “Someone should do something about this transit stuff...”.
- It’s been quite a year since our last Annual General Meeting...pandemic and Light Rail Transit derailments and R1 bus service and ParaTranspo issues and more!

Accomplishments

- We continued to support ParaParity’s push for online booking and ran a “Para Awareness Week” to inform people in Ottawa of the challenges faced by regular users of ParaTranspo.
- We supported Free Transit Ottawa’s campaign for OC Transpo to provide free passes to low income residents.
- OTR became a founding member of the Keep Transit Moving Coalition, a pan-Canadian advocacy group composed of transit advocates, labour organizations, environmental groups, and others.
- We fought to put transit on the radar during the 2021 federal election.
- And you can find more in the Annual Report 2021!



Outreach

- We've been busy...
 - www.twitter.com/OttTransitRider (4,620 followers).
 - www.facebook.com/OttawaTransitRiders (834 followers).
 - www.Instagram.com/OttawaTransitRiders (294 followers).
 - Active [website](#).
 - Attendance at every single Transit Commission meeting.
 - Countless interviews in print, on radio and tv, and online.

What are we planning for 2021- 22?

- We have a lot planned for the next year...in the next few slides, we'll highlight a few ongoing campaigns.
- But we're membership-driven...what do YOU want us to work on? We'll have time for questions/comments at the end of this presentation but you can also share ideas through email, Twitter, or Facebook!

Campaigns - #Fight4FairFares

- This campaign was originally rolled out to halt the planned City of Ottawa budget 2020 fare increase.
- Through OTR's efforts, the City temporarily froze transit fares from January to the end of March 2020 (the freeze was subsequently extended due to COVID-19).
- Sadly, councillors ended up approving a 2021 fare increase.
- This campaign is expected to be rebooted to push back against the City's plan to increase transit fares again in January 2022...it is simply unacceptable to raise fares AGAIN when transit service has been so poor and unreliable!

Campaigns - #KeepTransitMoving

- In 2020- 21, we supported the #KeepTransitMoving campaign intended to help give transit issues a higher profile during the pandemic.
- For the remainder of 2021 and into 2022, we will continue to pressure the federal government to renew the Safe Restart Agreement and continue to fund public transit.
- This relationship with transit advocacy groups, labour, environmental groups, and others will be essential in making sure that transit riders in Ottawa have a voice on the provincial and national stage.
- We'll need you to help continue to keep the pressure on with social media and writing campaigns.



**Keep Transit
Moving Coalition**
coalition pour le transport
collectif canadien
www.keeptransitmoving.ca

Campaigns - #ParaParity

- OTR will continue to advocate for ParaParity to have a spot at the table (and on the agenda) at all Transit Commission meetings; it simply unacceptable to exclude an entire group of people.
- We will continue advocating for service changes to ParaTranspo, including the addition of service for customers from 12:00- 6:00am.
- Two of our board members are also working with the Para Transpo Customer Service Working Group and will continue to do so.



Campaigns – Transit Challenge 2022

- In 2019, the annual #TransitChallenge was started, challenging everyone – especially the Mayor, city councillors, and high-level City of Ottawa staff! – to take transit exclusively for seven days (or at least make their best efforts!).
- In 2021, we had to put this campaign on hold due to the pandemic...but, in 2022, we're restarting it!
- It's not just a fun way to get people talking about transit issues, it also encourages the city's decision-makers to experience transit firsthand (or have to explain to their constituents why they aren't...).
- We'll be looking for help getting the word out!

Board of Directors 2021- 22

- We received seven applications for our Board of Directors so there is no election required.
- Please welcome our returning board members:
 - John Redins
 - Kari Glynes Elliott
 - Laura Shantz
 - Sam Boswell
 - Sally Thomas
 - Stuart MacKay
- And we're very pleased to have Rory Lewis joining us!
 - Rory has lived in Ottawa since 2009 and is a regular transit users. He shares our view that the bus system is expensive, unreliable, and overcrowded; ParaTranspo needs major overhauls for its users; and the train is a disaster. He is interested in making the transit system work for the people who use it!
- We'd also like to thank Henry Paikin and Chris Hansen for all of their hard work on the 2020- 21 board of directors:
 - Henry has moved to England for school and Chris has stepped back to focus on other responsibilities for this term. We really enjoyed working with both of you...you helped us get to where we are!

Resources

- After this meeting is over, we will have some resources up on our website for your review, including:
 - This presentation.
 - The full version of the 2021 Annual Report (English/French).
 - The new board for 2021- 22 and a brief profile of each.
 - A link to the Code of Conduct (unchanged since its approval at the 2020 AGM).

What's next?

- Moving forward, we are hoping to channel enthusiasm from our members to fight for better transit on several fronts: R1 replacement buses, LRT, and ParaTranspo.
- We will be continuing to support the #KeepTransitMoving campaign and issues related to transit in the “new normal” pandemic world.
- We will be starting to plan #TransitChallenge2022, where we ask councillors and key OC Transpo staff to rely on transit for one week in February.
- We will be organizing to get transit on the radar for the 2022 municipal and provincial elections.
- What do YOU want to see prioritized? Email us! OttawaTransitRiders@gmail.com

Questions?

- Do you have questions? Raise your hand or send us a question using the chat feature!
- Not comfortable reaching out during the meeting? Send us an email!

OttawaTransitRiders@gmail.com

