

### City of Hamilton

### ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT SERVICES REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE REVISED

Meeting #: 17-001

**Date:** January 18, 2018

**Time:** 1:30 p.m.

Location: Room 264, 2nd Floor, City Hall

71 Main Street West

Lisa Chamberlain, Legislative Coordinator (905) 546-2424 ext. 2729

			Pages	
1.	APPF	ROVAL OF AGENDA		
	(Adde	ed Items, if applicable, will be noted with *)		
2.	DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST			
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING			
	3.1	November 2, 2017	3	
4.	DELEGATION REQUESTS			
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	*4.2	Sandra Walker, CUPE Local 5167, respecting DARTS Accessible Transit	9	
5.	CONSENT ITEMS			
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	*6.2	Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities respecting DARTS Service (no copy)		
7.	STAF	F PRESENTATIONS		

- 8. DISCUSSION ITEMS
- 9. MOTIONS
- 10. NOTICES OF MOTION
- 11. GENERAL INFORMATION / OTHER BUSINESS
- 12. PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL
- 13. ADJOURNMENT



# ACCESSIBLE TRANSIT SERVICES REVIEW SUB-COMMITTEE MINUTES 17-003

Thursday, November 2, 2017 1:30 p.m. Room 264 Hamilton City Hall

Present: Councillors S. Merulla (Chair), J. Farr, C. Collins, D. Conley

Absent

with Regrets: Councillor T. Whitehead - Personal

#### FOR THE INFORMATION OF COMMITTEE:

### (a) CHANGES TO THE AGENDA (Item 1)

The Clerk advised there was one change to the agenda.

### 1. DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)

4.6 Delegation Request from Linda Hussey, Parkview Nursing Centre, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting).

### (Conley/Collins)

That the agenda for the November 2, 2017 meeting of the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED** 

### (b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST (Item 2)

There were no declarations of interest.

- (c) APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING (Item 3)
  - (i) July 26, 2017 (Item 3.1)

### (Collins/Conley)

That the Minutes of the July 26, 2017 Accessible Transit Services Review Committee meeting be approved, as presented.

**CARRIED** 

- (d) DELEGATION REQUESTS (Item 4)
  - (i) Tracy Smoke, Victoria Gardens Long Term Care, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Item 4.1)

#### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Tracy Smoke, Victoria Gardens Long Term Care respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

**CARRIED** 

(ii) Jody Clarke, Grace Villa Long Term Care, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Item 4.2)

### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Jody Clarke, Grace Villa Long Term Care respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

**CARRIED** 

(iii) Heather Webster, The Meadows Long Term Care, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Item 4.3)

#### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Heather Webster, The Meadows Long Term Care respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

**CARRIED** 

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(iv) Melissa Gordon, The Meadows Long Term Care, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Item 4.4)

#### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Melissa Gordon, The Meadows Long Term Care respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

**CARRIED** 

(v) Caitlin DiCecca, Alexander Place Long Term Care, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Item 4.5)

### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Caitlin DiCecca, Alexander Place Long Term Care respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

CARRIED

(vi) Linda Hussey, Parkview Nursing Centre, respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (for today's meeting) (Added Item 4.6)

### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegation Request from Linda Hussey, Parkview Nursing Centre respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents, be approved for the November 2, 2017 meeting.

**CARRIED** 

### (e) DELEGATIONS (Item 6)

(i) DARTS respecting Operational and Financial Performance During Previous Quarter (Item 6.1)

Mark Mindorff, Executive Director of DARTS, addressed the Committee respecting the DARTS Operational and Financial Performance During Previous Quarter. A copy of the presentation has been retained for the official record.

### (Conley/Collins)

That the Delegation from Mark Mindorff, respecting DARTS Operational and Financial Performance During Previous Quarter, be received.

**CARRIED** 

November 2, 2017 Page 4 of 4

# (ii) Delegations respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents (Items 6.2 to 6.7)

The six delegations addressed the Committee as a group to present their request. Two hand-outs, from Tracy Smoke and Caitlin DiCecca, were presented to the Committee and a copy has been retained for the official record.

#### (Collins/Conley)

That the Delegations respecting a Request for the Retention of Larger DARTS Buses for Group Trips by Long Term Care Residents from the following individuals, be received:

- Tracy Smoke, Victoria Gardens Long Term Care
- Kirsten Mandozzi (representing Jody Clarke who was unable to attend), Grace Villa Long Term Care
- Heather Webster, The Meadows Long Term Care
- Melissa Gordon, The Meadows Long Term Care
- Caitlin DiCecca, Alexander Place Long Term Care
- Linda Hussey, Parkview Nursing Centre

**CARRIED** 

### (Collins/Conley)

That City Staff be directed to work with DARTS staff to respond in writing to the Delegates to address the concerns outlined in the two hand-outs presented to the Committee, with a copy to be sent to the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-committee.

**CARRIED** 

### (f) ADJOURNMENT (Item 12)

### (Collins/Conley)

That there being no further business, the Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee be adjourned at 2:15 p.m.

**CARRIED** 

Respectfully submitted,

Councillor S. Merulla, Chair Accessible Transit Services Review Committee

Lisa Chamberlain Legislative Coordinator Office of the City Clerk Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Submitted on Thursday, January 4, 2018 - 4:22 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Unknown

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Helga and John La Berge

Name of Organization: selves

**Contact Number:** 

**Email Address:** 

**Mailing Address:** 

' Hamilton

Reason(s) for delegation request: Hopefully learn the reason for the totally insane buying of the new powermax and minivans units that darts has chosen and who was stupid enough to have paid taxpayer money for them.

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? Yes

Form: Request to Speak to Committee of Council Submitted on Monday, January 15, 2018 - 1:47 pm

==Committee Requested==

Committee: Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee

==Requestor Information==

Name of Individual: Sandra Walker

Name of Organization: CUPE Local 5167

**Contact Number:** 

Email Address: walker@CUPE5167.org

Mailing Address: 818 King St E, Hamilton

Reason(s) for delegation request:

Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-Committee - Thursday, January 18, 2018 Regarding DARTS Accessible Transit

Will you be requesting funds from the City? No

Will you be submitting a formal presentation? No

# DARTS

Jan 18, 2018 ATS Review

2017 YTD Service Experience

2018 Current Issues

2018 Priorities

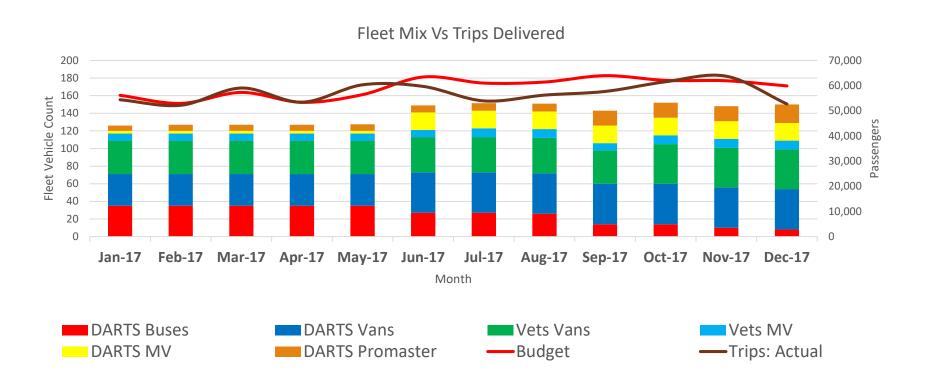
# 2017 YTD Service Experience

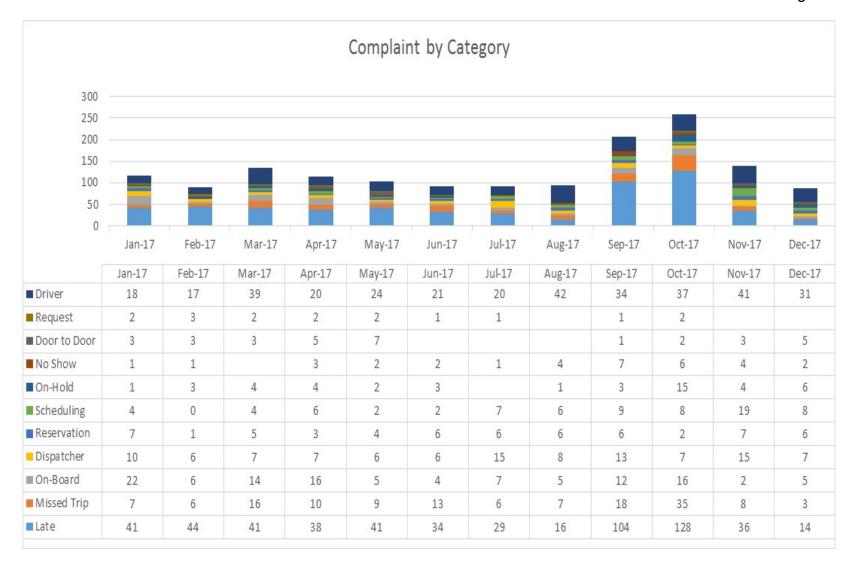
# Performance YTD 2017

Year to Date Performance	Target	Actual	Variance	Comments
Variance to Budget	16,781,198	17,031,423	250,225	+1.5% variance to budget
Total Trips (YTD)	710,000	684,848	- 25,152	-3.5% to budget
Denials	0	11,012	11,012	High demand in the fall
On-Time Performance ( within 30 minutes)	95	98.1		90% within the window
Complaints	360	1644	+1344	360 not realistic

Comparison (2016-2017)	2016	2017	Difference	Comments
Trips	650,000	684,848	34,848	Lower demand
Denials	15,983	11,012	4,971 less	Reducing waiting list
Complaints	1353	1644	+291	Sept-Oct. Outage

## 2017 Experience: Over-estimated demand in the summer and early fall



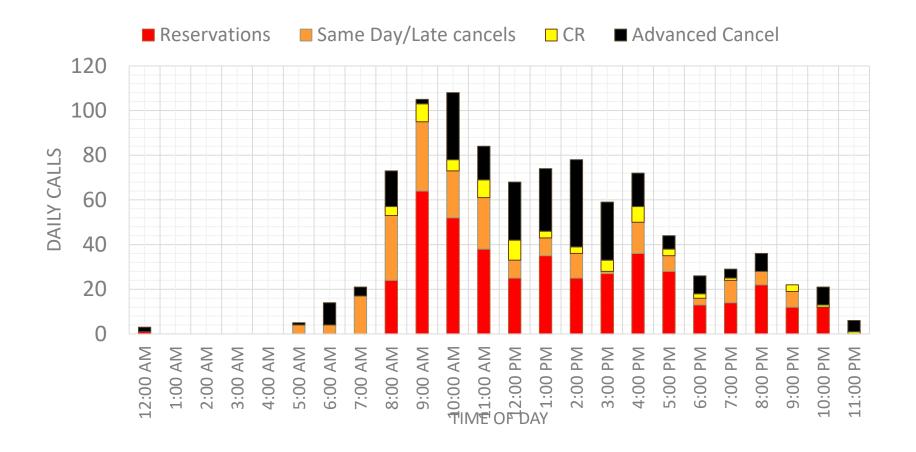


# 2018 Current Issues

# Slowing down the phasing out of buses

- Responding to request from Long Term Care to retain buses for group trips
- Issues of productivity/dwell Time: Promasters and MV vehicles in 2017
- Delay in delivery of 2 Promaster Buses until February, 2018
- Propose service group trips plus service shortfall with average 5 Buses in 2018 :
  - Average 5 Buses to deliver following trips in 2018:
    - 15,787 Non Ambulatory Trips
    - 12,949 Ambulatory Trips
- O Propose DARTS phase out remaining 10 Buses From Jan. 2017 ending in Dec. 2018

## Reduce Cancellation Call Traffic



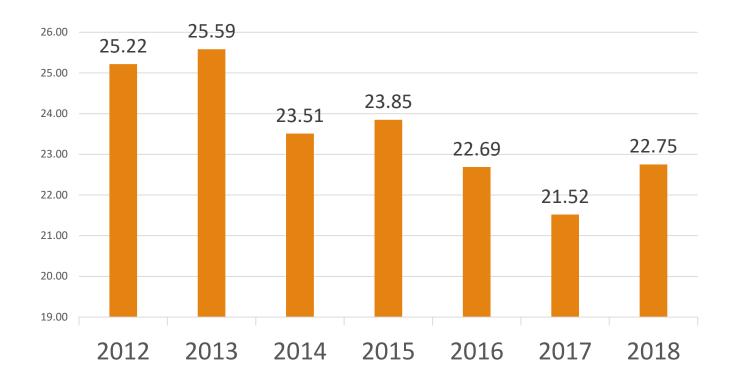
# **Optimizing Fleet Configuration**

Vehicle	Year End - 2017	Planned Year end 2018	Difference
DARTS Bus	10	0	-10
DARTS Promaster	19	21	2
DARTS MV-1	20	20	0
DARTS-Van	46	46	0
VETS- Van	40	40	0
VETS- MV1	8	8	0
HCab-Blueline	0	10	+10
HTown	4	10	+6
Total	147	155	+8

# **Labour Relations**

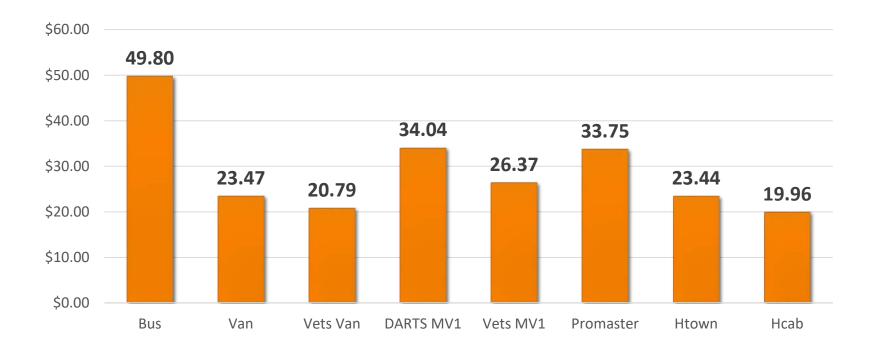
- □DARTS Collective agreement expired December , 2016
- □Ongoing Negotiations with inside and Driver Unit
- ☐ Recent offer to the Inside Unit was turned down,
- □ Continuing to negotiate with Driver Unit
- □Issues:
  - ☐ Available work has gone from Bus -> Van but Van Wage is lower (lower Qualification Requirement)
  - ☐ Effective drop in wage from Bus driver (\$24) -> Van Driver (\$18) or MV-1 driver (\$20)
  - ☐ Continue to Negotiate in November with Drivers

# Driver average hourly wage

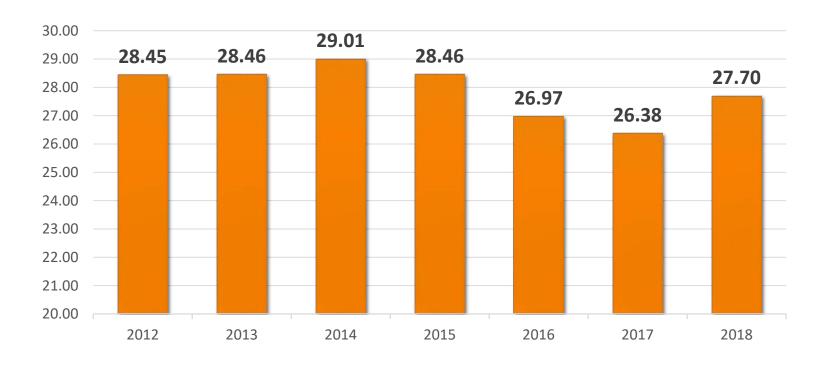


Different vehicles have different Wage Rates – Fewer buses /more vans at lower wage rates

# 2017 Choice of Provider/Vehicle Trip Cost



# Effective cost per trip 2012-2018



# **DARTS Driver Wage Rates**

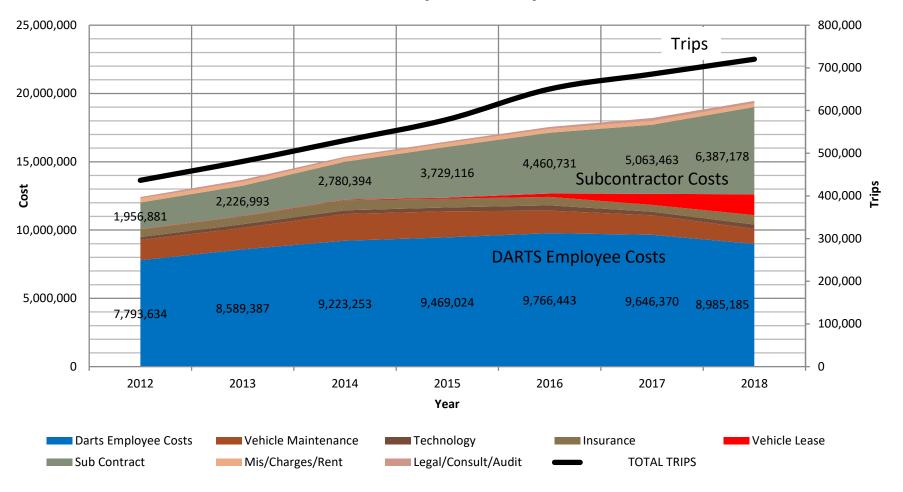
Position	Current Wage Rate	Potential	% Increase
Bus (CVOR) (Class I)	24.65/hr	25.53/hr	3.6 %
Pro Master (Class I)	24.65/hr	25.53/hr	3.6 %
MV (Class II)	20.05/hr	21.00/hr	4.7 %
Van (Class (III)	17.80/hr	19.00/hr	6.7 %

# 2018 Priorities

# Addressing 2017-2018 Cost Pressures

- Lease Transfer to DARTS 1.2 million
- Lease terms shortened to 3 years from 5 years higher lease costs
- Bill 148 impact on subcontractors/DARTS
  - 20% increase in Sub Contractor Wage
  - Sick Days for DARTS
- CUPE Contract reduction of Bus Wage/Increase in Van Wage
- MV/Promaster Vs Bus Productivity –Dwell Times
- Requested 5 % Service Increase

### 2012-2018 expense comparison



# 2018 Work Plan

- Reach a collective agreement
- Reduce denials To zero
- Improve on-time statistics
- Reduce passenger reliance on advance booking
- Reduce time in reservation queue < 5 minutes</li>
- Hardware/software upgrades system security and performance



Quarterly Report to Accessible Transit Services Review Sub-committee

Mark Mindorff, Executive Director, DARTS 905-520-3044
January 18, 2018

### 1 Update on Service Experience

Darts delivered 684,848 trips in 2017, which was 35,000 trips more than delivered in 2016 but approx 25,000 short of the 2017 budget of 710,000 trips. There was a slight decrease in overall demand in the summer coupled with delivery issues related to fleet changes from buses to vans and the capacity of the subcontractors to their meet trip quotas.

DARTS employee based fleet is currently set at 95 Vehicles: 49 wheelchair-capable vehicles and 46 non-ambulatory vans. The DARTS subcontractors field a further 44 vans and 8 wheelchair-capable MV vehicles. This brings the fleet to 147 vehicles overall at the current time (January, 2018).

DARTS currently carries 2400-2800 passenger trips a day. There is an ongoing issue with approximately 500 late cancellations/day which is a waste of service. We will continue to work with the HSR to try to reduce the number of late cancellations still further.

DARTS has contracted with a second service provider. The second subcontractor, HTown has the same terms as the existing agreement with VETS. HTown support for VETS will ensure that fewer schedules are turned back to DARTS on the day of service. Schedules turned back to DARTS by subcontractors result in overloaded schedules for DARTS drivers which translate into increased onboard times and late rides.

DARTS buses are much easier to load and unload than are MV and Promaster vehicles. This has created a productivity problem as the dwell time at pickup and dropped off locations has increased. We are working to develop uniform procedures for all drivers to ensure minimum dwell time at pickup and drop off locations.

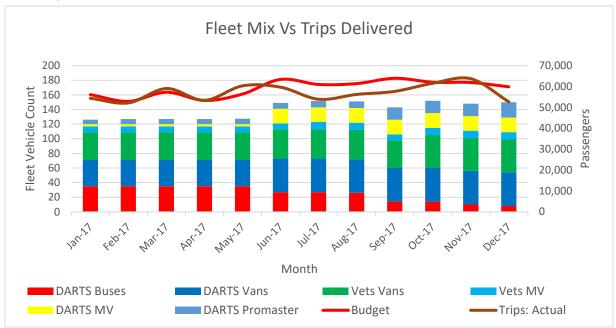


Figure 1 Trips and Fleet makeup change over 2017

In Figure 1, the monthly budget for passengers is the red line. The actual passengers carried is the brown line. The passenger counts are the vertical axis on the right-hand side. The trip lines show that the drop in demand in the summer and December resulted in a trip shortfall of about 25,000 trips. DARTS increased its fleet of vans, Promasters and MV's and reduced its fleet of buses over the year

2017. Figure 1 also shows the sharp increase in DARTS MV's (the yellow) in June and reduction of DARTS buses to 10 in December (the Red bars). The vehicle count is represented by the left-hand vertical axis.

### 2 Complaints, Quantity, and Type

Darts recorded 1645 complaints in 2017 which translates into 2.4 Complaints /1000 passengers carried.

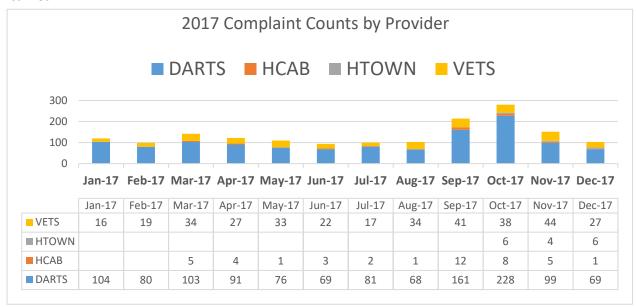


Figure 2 Complaint count by provider

Figure 2 shows the quantity and type of complaints by the provider. DARTS provides reservations, scheduling, and dispatching which explains, to some extent, the higher complaint counts against DARTS.

In late September, early October, 2017, DARTS experienced two major 1-hour outages, one in late September and the other in early October. These two outages caused late ride complaints to more than double in September and October.

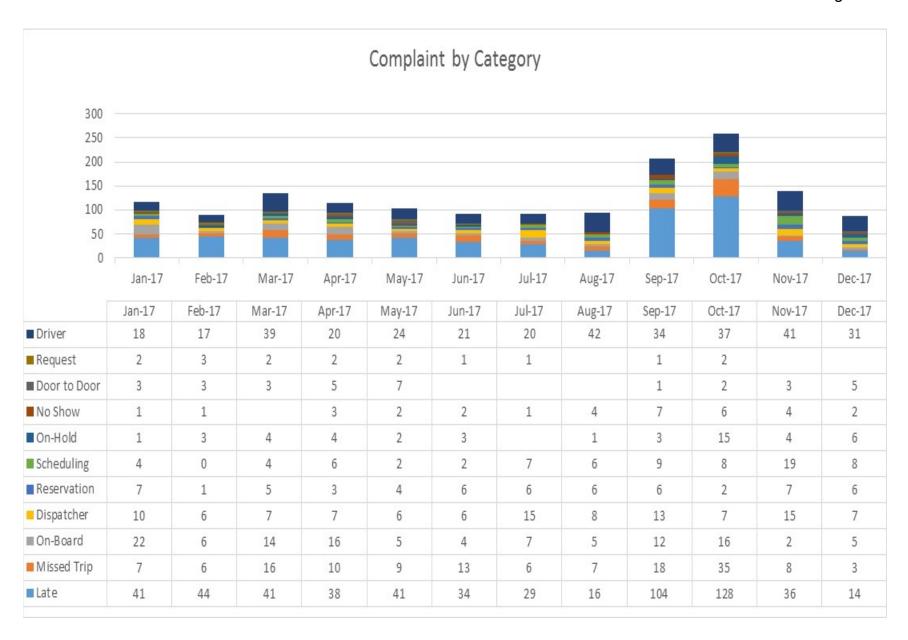


Figure 3 Complaint by type by Month

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Figure 3 breaks out the complaint by category. The main categories of complaints were driver behaviour, late rides, dispatcher errors, passengers being on board vehicles too long. DARTS strives to keep these counts as low as possible:

- Passengers and the driving public at large, interact with Drivers and as such are the main point of contact with DARTS. All complaints are circulated to the appropriate supervisor for review and action as required. Where there are issues of driver/passenger health and safety, the bus camera video is downloaded and reviewed.
- Late Rides are due to traffic encountered by drivers and unplanned passenger loading/unloading issues. Late rides and dispatcher errors are managed with service monitoring systems that identify late rides and on board rides at risk. Dispatchers are then able to move rides from late vehicles to vehicles that will be on time.
- Dispatcher errors are deleting wrong trips and incorrect entry of date, time and locations. The dispatcher is also responsible for ensuring the trip is on time.
- On-board times are caused by overloaded schedules. Overloaded schedules are in turn caused by transferring too many trips from schedules that are closed due to driver noshow or vehicle breakdown.

### 3 Slowing Down the phasing out of the bus fleet

In fiscal 2017, the operating plan called for DARTS to complete the retirement of the fleet of buses, replacing the fleet with smaller wheelchair capable vehicles.

This initiative assumed that the replacement vehicles would match the productivity of the bus and that these vehicles would perform with similar dwell times at passenger pickup/drop-off stops. The experience to-date is that the Promaster vehicle and the MV vehicle are not as productive as the bus.

The long-term care homes use the DARTS service for group outings. They have approached the committee with the concern that group trips now require several smaller vehicles where one or two buses would do in the past. They are requesting that the City consider retaining some of the buses that could carry more than two wheelchairs, to allow passengers to travel together.

Creative Carriage, a small operation in St. George manufactures the Promaster vehicle. The vehicle is very popular with municipal paratransit operations. The demand has delayed the delivery of the final two promasters to DARTS originally expected in September.

DARTS proposes to slow down the retirement of the final <u>10</u> buses. This is in response to the request by delegates concerning the retention of large buses for group trips by Long Term Care residents. <u>This</u> will also support the service in dealing with the delayed delivery of the remaining Promasters, allowing time for DARTS to meet the challenge of improving/optimizing the productivity of the smaller replacement vehicles.

An average of 5 buses: 10 (Jan, 2018) -> 0 (Dec-2018) could be expected to carry 15,787 non-ambulatory trips and 12, 949 ambulatory trips in 2018. Unless otherwise advised, there is no plan to replace the buses with similar size buses once they are retired.

### 4 Reducing Wait times/ Advance Booking Call Centre

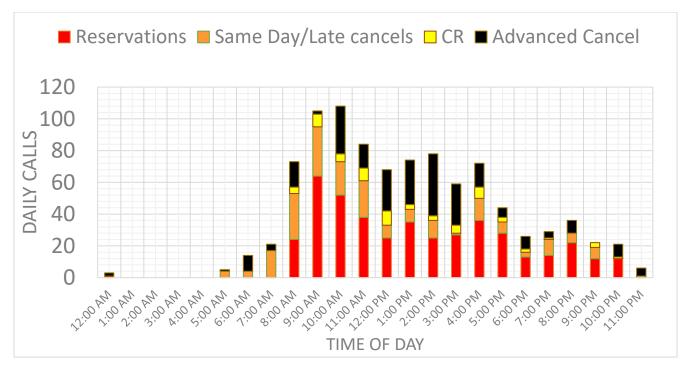


Figure 4 Call Centre Daily Demand

Figure 4 shows the volume of calls by type of call. The red bars are new reservation requests. The peach coloured bars are same day or late cancellations. The black bars are advance cancellations. The yellow bars are call returns. Call returns are calls to pick-up a passenger when they are finished their medical appointment.

The advance cancellation has little impact on the day of service. Same day/late cancellations have a significant impact on the day of service as well as tying up the call centre.

People are cancelling a significant number of rides that have been booked up to a week in advance or are cancelling subscription rides. Fully half of the early morning phone calls are cancellations.

The reason for the advance booking and the demand for some subscription rides is the general public's feeling that somehow this would increase the chances of the passenger getting a ride. If DARTS were to ensure that there is no waiting list, then people would call for rides on demand. On-demand service requires some assurance that the waiting list is extremely small or there is no waiting list.

This is what we are working on in 2018: To reduce the standby, waiting list to zero. Once achieved, to remind passengers that there is no need to book in advance, (creating potential cancellations, should there be a change in plans in the interim period between booking and the day of service) they will always be able to get a ride on the day of service.

### 5 Optimizing Fleet Configuration

Vehicle	Year End - 2017	Planned Year end 2018	Difference
DARTS Bus	10	0	-10
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VETS- MV1	8	8	0
HCab-Blueline	0	10	+10
HTown	4	10	+6
Total	147	155	+8

Figure 5 Fleet Configuration

The DARTS fleet has gone through a significant re-configuration over the last 2 years from Bus-based to Van-based. The short-term plan, while we gain some experience with the new fleet configuration, is to handle increases by using the HCab and HTown sub contractors.

### 6 Status of Negotiations: Collective Agreement

CUPE 5167 represents DARTS employees through a collective agreement. There are two units: an inside unit representing the Call Centre and mechanics; a driver unit representing the DARTS drivers. The DARTS collective Agreement with CUPE 5167 expired Dec 31, 2016, and DARTS is negotiating to obtain a new agreement as quickly as possible.

#### 6.1 Status of Negotiations with the Inside Unit:

The last attempt to ratify an inside agreement was held on Oct 16, 2017. The members voted down the recommended agreement by 94%. A conciliator was subsequently appointed, and the last conciliation meeting date was December 18, 2017. The negotiations are currently focused on the driver unit.

#### 6.2 Status of Negotiations with Drivers:

The issues for the Driver unit are wage rates. Each vehicle has its driver wage rate. The Van driver wage is 17.80, and the bus driver wage is 24.65. With the DARTS fleet switch from buses to vans, there was a significant *increase* in van hours and a significant *decrease* in bus hours. Figure 6 shows the gradual decrease in the average hourly wage rate of bus drivers as the work available switches from 24.65/hr bus wage rate to 17.80 van wage rate. These rates are obtained by dividing the total driver payroll dollars by total vehicle service hours.

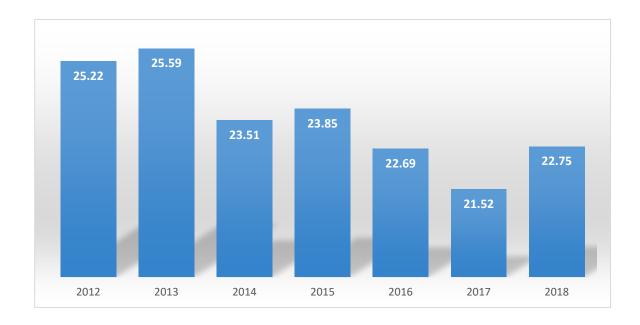


Figure 6 Effective Hourly Wage

Different vehicles command different wage rates based on workload and licence requirements. The conversion from bus to van fleet significantly increased the van driver pool (wage 17.80) from Bus driver (24.65).

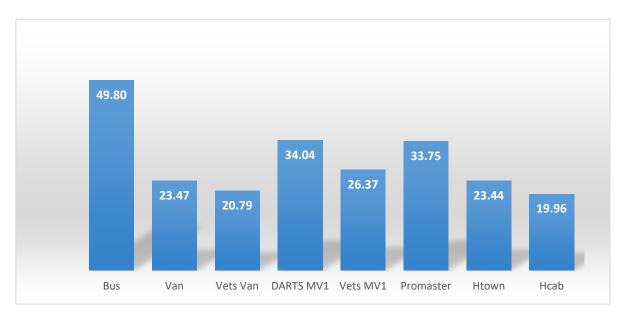


Figure 7 Relative Cost per trip - Different Vehicles

Figure 7 shows the relative costs of trips depending on the vehicle and vendor. The DARTS experience is that the lower rates trips are less reliable and in short supply, Also, due to Bill 148, some of the lower rates will rise in 2018.

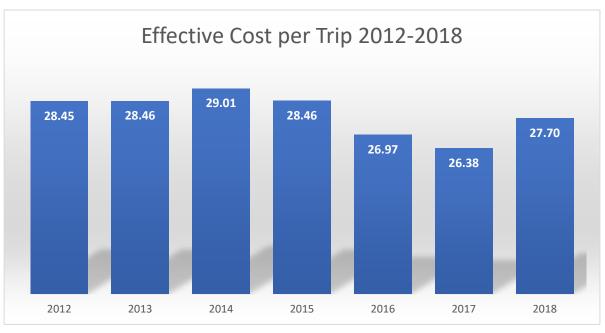


Figure 8 Reduction in average cost/trip 2012-2018

Figure 8 demonstrates that the re-configuration of the fleet has resulted in a decrease in the overall trip charge from 28.45 in 2012 to 27.70 in 2018.

### 7 Addressing 2017-2018 Cost Pressures

#### 7.1 Transfer of Vehicle Leases to DARTS

1.2 million in vehicle lease Costs were transferred to DARTS. Transferring the capital requirements for vehicles to DARTS allows an accurate accounting of the cost of service when calculating the trip cost. This new charge is in red in Figure 9. The charge shows up beginning in 2017. DARTS absorbed most of the cost with the reduction in bus costs.

#### 7.2 Lease terms shortened to 3 years from 5 years

The average Van Lease charge is based on a three-year lease. The shorter-term results in higher charge than there would be if the vehicle cost was amortised over five years. The three-year lease term was a request of the city to ensure that the leases coincided with the end of the DARTS contract term.

#### 7.3 Bill 148 impact on subcontractors/DARTS

#### 7.3.1 Sub Contractor Costs increase by 20%

DARTS is expecting a 20% increase in Sub Contractor expense as the subcontractor effectively pays minimum wage. The minimum wage rose 20% on January 1<sup>st</sup> 2018.

#### 7.3.2 Sick Days

DARTS and Subcontractor's employees are now entitled to two paid sick days a year.

#### 7.4 CUPE Contract

DARTS is negotiating a new contract with CUPE 5167. CUPE expects the agreement to address the effective reduction in wages caused by the fleet re-configuration.

### 7.5 MV/Promaster Vs Bus Productivity – Dwell Times

The vehicles chosen to replace the buses are not as flexible as the buses when it comes to loading and unloading passengers on the vehicle. The result is an increase in the amount of time required to load and unload passengers from these vehicles. Longer dwell times hurt productivity that, in turn, increases overall costs.

#### 7.6 Requested 5 % Service Increase.

The city has requested darts to cost 5% service increase for 2018.

### 8 2012-2018 Service Expense Comparison

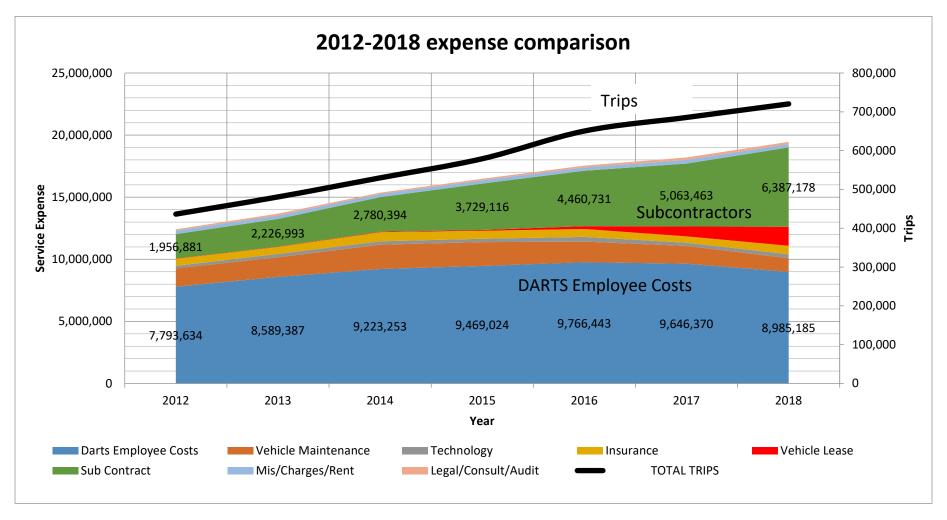


Figure 9 Expense Comparison 2012-18