

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 9, 2007

PRESENT: Mr. Philip Cox, Chair
 Mr. William Chaffey
 Mr. John Merrick
 Ms. Angela Miller
 Mr. Stephen Scott

REGRETS: Mr. Terry Churney
 Mr. Ron McKinnon
 Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
 Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Dave Reage, Project Manager, Metro Transit
 Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions

- 8.1 Rural Express Transit Study
- 8.2 Passes

MOVED by John Merrick, seconded by Stephen Scott, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The following changes were noted:

The first paragraph under item 4.1.3 of the March 14th minutes be changed to “Metro Transit passenger profiles for 2005 were discussed and the Committee decided that the graphs were useful and the process should be repeated with the 2006 data”.

The word “only” be changed to “primarily” in the last paragraph on page 4 of the March 14th minutes in reference to route 80 series buses.

MOVED by John Merrick, seconded by William Chaffey, that the minutes of March 14, 2007 and November 9, 2005 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

It was agreed that the April 11th minutes be deferred to the June meeting.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 STATUS SHEET ITEMS

4.1.1 Service Through Bedford

Mr. Reage noted that although the RIM development was conceptual at this stage, route 88 may be extended to serve the development and some of the residential areas through Bedford. He commented that if the route is lengthened there would be a requirement for additional busses, noting these discussions would take place at the site planning process.

It was agreed Route 88 - RIM development be added as an agenda item for the June meeting.

4.1.2 Ridership Counts

- Reports on Route 80 and 84 were circulated to the Committee.

Ridership was discussed with it being noted Information on the size of buses used on these routes has yet to be received. It was further noted buses with 49 seats have people standing on the early morning runs.

Mr. Reage advised that although Route 81 duplicates Route 80, it is a new route and it may take time for people to change their travel patterns before there is a change in ridership patterns. He noted that if a large number of passengers are standing on the early morning run, Transit may have to examine whether an extra bus is warranted.

Mr. Chaffey noted that people are taking the 84 to access the Link at Barrington Shops and Scotia Square but there still are passengers standing for a distance of 16 km from Scotia Square to Cobequid,

Mr. Merrick suggested the focus be on number of seats rather than number of buses.

Mr. Chaffey suggested the Committee identify the problems and forward them to Metro Transit and Council to determine the solution. He advised there is an improvement since 2005.

Following discussion, the committee agreed that discussion on presentations going forward be added to the June agenda.

4.1.3 Passenger Complaints

Mr. Cox advised the committee had requested this information in order to determine whether there were operating issues on the bus routes such as the buses not showing up.

Mr. Reage advised that under the Hanson reporting system it is not possible to isolate and summarize specific issues.

4.1.4 Parking at Sackville Bus Terminal

It was noted the lot is at capacity and at times it is being used as a car pool parking lot.

In response to a concern regarding only two handicapped parking spots being provided, staff advised the two spots are not consistently used and there have been no complaints

nor concerns raised. Mr. Reage advised he would obtain information on the standards pertaining to the number of spots required.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE**

6. **REPORTS - NONE**

7. **CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

8. **ADDED ITEMS**

8.1 **Rural Transit Meetings**

Mr. Reage advised there was a positive response and there was support for the initiative. He noted there may be a summary of the meetings produced as a part of the final report although no date has been identified for completion of the final report.

The Committee requested that a report be forwarded to on the above noted when complete.

8.2 **Transit Passes**

Mr. Reage advised that in 2006 the Dalhousie U Pass was introduced and students that were identified for buying passes are now rolled into the U Pass program and because there are no specific numbers identifying these there is no way to correlate any of the stats. He advised he had compared the data from July and August of 2005/06 and found a small increase in the percentage of total ridership after the tax credit came into effect. Mr. Cox requested data for adult pass sales be provided to the committee in September.

The Committee agreed to invite Councillor Martin to the next meeting to discuss the Fast Ferry.

9. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, June 13, 2007.

10. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Julia Horncastle
Legislative Assistant

