

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 9, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Philip Cox, Chair
Mr. John Merrick
Mr. Terry Churney
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
Mr. Steve Scott
Councillor Brad Johns

REGRETS: Mr. William Chaffey

STAFF: Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Project Delivery Coordinator, Metro
Transit
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm in Boardroom #1, Sackville Planning Office, 1st Floor, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - November 14, 2007

MOVED BY Mr. Merrick seconded by Mr. Seyffarth that the minutes of November 14, 2007 be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions

- 8.1 Snow Removal - Cobequid Terminal - Chair
- 8.2 Service Standards and Route 84 Service Starting from Cobequid Terminal - Chair
- 8.3 Access - A - Bus Service - Mr. Terry Churney
- 8.4 Capital Budget - Mr. Terry Churney

The Committee would like an update on North West Community Council's discussion on accessible parking at the Sackville Terminal. The Legislative Assistant will obtain this information from the Municipal Clerk's Office.

MOVED BY Councillor Johns seconded by Mr. Merrick that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Mileage Claims to be Processed

Members were requested to submit mileage claim forms.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 CORRESPONDENCE - NONE

6.2 PETITIONS - NONE

6.3 DELEGATIONS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Councillor Johns - Update and Discussion - Sackville Park and Ride and Link Bus

The Committee raised concerns regarding this ongoing issue. Highlights of their comments as well as responses from Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Project Delivery Coordinator, Metro Transit, are as follows:

- C One side of the Sackville Terminal driveway now has no parking because of snow removal;
- C There is a piece of property before Beaverbank Road that HRM has acquired which may pose an opportunity to create a Park and Ride lot;
- C The four (4) way intersection at the Terminal is becoming dangerous as a result of increased traffic;
- C Many riders are not taking the Link anymore as a result of the lack of parking at the Terminal and the fact that they are having to stand on what is a considered a premium bus that uses the highway;
- C Concerns were raised over residents from Hants County taking up the parking spaces that are funded by HRM tax payers;
- C Regarding car pooling, Metro Transit is now implementing a ride matching software system;
- C The former Walmart site was also brought forward as a Park and Ride option, however, passengers would still be required to take a conventional bus to the Sackville Terminal and these busses are already overcrowded;
- C The Committee would like Mike LaBrecque to come to the next meeting to give an update;
- C The population is growing faster than transit can keep up. Ferry and rail service options must be explored.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Snow Removal - Cobequid Terminal

Mr. Cox raised concerns over the lack of snow removal on the provincially owned gravel portion of the Cobequid Terminal parking lot. He pointed out that the lot had not been plowed since the last snow storm. Mr. Reage is going to check with operations regarding

Metro Transit's responsibility regarding this issue. Mr. Cox would like to be updated before the next meeting so he is able to lodge a complaint.

The Chair submitted a letter from Mr. Bob Wilde regarding this issue.

8.2 Service Standards and route 84 service starting from Cobequid Terminal

Mr. Cox informed the Committee that on several occasions, at approximately 6:40 am, there are busses originating from Cobequid Terminal that are not leaving on time. He stated that ever since the weather has gotten colder that the on time service has become poorer. Mr. Reage stated that busses have a five (5) minute window to arrive and that he is going to look into this issue.

8.3 Access - A - Bus

Mr. Churney inquired about the adequacy of Access - A - Bus service in the Bedford and Sackville area.

Mr. Reage informed the Committee that Metro Transit was given just as little notice as the public that Satellite Taxi was stopping it's service to these areas.

The Committee would like to have Larry Hilton, supervisor for Access - A - Bus, come in to discuss this issue with the Committee regarding North West Community Council's district.

8.4 Capital Budget

Mr. Reage informed the Committee that Metro Transit would be receiving a total of twenty-five (25) new busses; ten (10) replacement and fifteen (15) expansion. He stated that these busses were part of the last year of a three (3) year tender. He was uncertain about Access - A - Bus as they have just completed a large expansion. He also was unsure as to how many expansion busses were slated for Sackville Routes. The expansion busses will be creating, "band-aid fixes" in priority service issue areas. There will not be any new routes just expanded service on existing ones.

Regarding capital cost contributions, Mr. Reage informed the Committee that finance is working on enacting a By-law in late 2008 that would require developments such as Dartmouth Crossing and Northgate to incur transit expansion costs. Concerns had earlier been raised by the Committee that developments such as these were taking transit service away from other tax-based areas such as Lucasville.

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Mr. Reage stated that Fleet Services is working on the next transit tender. They are looking into having all articulated, low floor busses for their busiest routes which would designate them as accessible routes.

The Chair would like to write a letter to the Walmart location at the Bedford Common requesting that they fund the implementation of a bus shelter at their store.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Mr. Scott that the Committee write a letter to Walmart regarding the implementation of a bus shelter at the Bedford Common. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, February 13, 2008.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56 pm.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. Tentative Meeting Schedule for 2008
2. Mr. David Reage - Responses from the November 14th Meeting