

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 9, 2008

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

STAFF: Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Project Delivery Coordinator, Metro  
Transit  
Mr. Edward Robar, Manager, Planning and Product Development,  
Metro Transit  
Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm in Boardroom #1, Sackville Planning Office, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - March 12, 2008**

Corrections:

- 4.1 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph - *HRM Real Estate staff* rather than individuals  
6<sup>th</sup> line down - Mr. Hugh Burns is with the Operations Department
- 8.1 *Margison* rather than Marginson Drive
- 8.6 Page 9 - Bluewater is one word  
*Add to the Cobequid Terminal*

**MOVED BY Mr. Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. Churney that the minutes of March 12, 2008, as corrected, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

**Additions:**

- 8.1 Support of Route 86 Motion at North West Community Council - Mr. Merrick

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Status Items**

**4.1.1 Sackville Park and Ride and Link Bus**

Mr. Edward Robar, Manager, Planning and Product Development, Metro Transit, advised that Metro Transit was looking at the provincial land around the Sackville Terminal closer to the interchange pending the province's cooperation. He stated that the cost recovery on the Metro Link was approximately thirty five (35) percent and that each line costs one million (1,000,000) to one and a half million (1,500,000) dollars to operate annually.

**4.1.2 Parking at Sackville Bus Terminal**

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

#### **4.1.3 2007 Load/Ridership Counts**

Mr. Robar advised that staff was currently compiling data and that all 80 series information would be completed first. He noted that the North West Transit Advisory Committee would receive this data once it was completed.

### **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

#### **5.1 Manager's Position at Metro Transit**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works, advised that a new manager was being carefully selected. He stated that the biggest challenge in finding the best candidate was the competitive salaries offered by other major cities. He also noted that staff was currently in talks with an individual from Toronto and that they are optimistic on the outcome.

### **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

#### **6.1 CORRESPONDENCE - NONE**

#### **6.2 PETITIONS - NONE**

#### **6.3 DELEGATIONS**

##### **6.3.1 Metro Transit Update - Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works**

Mr. Mike Labrecque and Mr. Edward Robar provided an update for the Committee. Highlights were as follows:

- C Transit is at the top of the Municipal Growth Services;
- C There is currently a service gap that translates into approximately forty (40) busses;
- C Another complication is that Metro Transit has exhausted all of it's maintenance capacity. The design capacity of the current Illsley garage is approximately two hundred (200) busses and this year there will be two hundred and twenty five (225), therefore, the current garage has been outgrown;
- C A new garage must be built to accommodate a new potential fleet of two hundred and ninety (290) busses. Metro Transit is currently confirming site locations and hopes to complete the garage within the next twenty four (24) months;

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- C Metro Transit would like to introduce hardware to make fare boxes electronic and also to heighten security for both drivers and the public;
- C There is a desire to rebuild the Dartmouth Bridge Terminal site;
- C Ridership has gone up by twenty five (25) percent over the last four (4) years.

A discussion ensued with Mr. Labrecque and Mr. Robar responding to questions. The following points were noted:

- C Ten (10) busses will be replaced this year and there is a hope to acquire forty five (45) new busses over the next five (5) years;
- C Staff is looking at the Ragged Lake area as a potential new garage site pending a traffic analysis. Approximately seventeen (17) acres will be required for the site;
- C The Illsley garage will be kept for the purpose of completing heavy work;
- C The Regional Plan calls for a Clayton Park Metro Link which will also include Peninsula service, therefore, a replacement terminal must be built for Clayton Park;
- C The Bayers Road “choke point” must also be dealt with to ensure better service;
- C The proposed fast ferry will be a catalyst for more service in the Bedford area. There could be shuttle services to and from the Hammonds Plains area as well as Blue Mountain and Bedford West. There will also be a connection with Metro Transit’s conventional fleet.

The Chair thanked Mr. Labrecque and Mr. Robar for their update.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Bedford Visioning Update - Mr. John Merrick**

This item was deferred due to lack of time.

**8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 Support of Route 86 Motion at North West Community Council - Mr. Merrick**

Mr. Merrick inquired as to whether or not it would be helpful for a member to attend the North West Community Council meeting on April 10, 2008, in order to support the motion submitted by the North West Transit Advisory Committee at their March 12, 2008 meeting.

Councillor Johns advised that as it was a straight forward motion that it would not be necessary to have representation from the Committee. He noted that if the North West

Community Council agreed to support the recommendation and a report is submitted that he will forward it on to the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, May 14, 2008.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Shawnee Gregory  
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. Canadian Automobile Association article - March 2008 - Mr. Bill Chaffey