

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 14 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Philip Cox, Chair
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
Mr. Steve Scott
Mr. William Chaffey

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
Mr. John Merrick
Mr. Terry Churney

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 7:04 pm in Boardroom #1, Sackville Planning Office, 1st Floor, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - April 9, 2008

Corrections:

Margeson rather than *Margison* Drive

6.3.1 Page 5 - *hardware* rather than software to make fare boxes electronic
replacement terminal rather than new terminal for Clayton Park

MOVED BY Mr. Scott, seconded by Mr. Seyffarth, that the minutes of April 9, 2008, as corrected, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions:

- 8.1 Tabling of Bedford West and Bedford South Developments - Chair
- 8.2 Media Articles - Chair

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Items

4.1.1 Sackville Park and Ride and Link Bus

Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Project Delivery Coordinator, Metro Transit advised that there was no update on this issue.

4.1.2 Parking at Sackville Bus Terminal

It was noted that items 4.1.1 and 4.1.2 would be merged together as one (1) status item as they were essentially the same issue.

Mr. Reage advised that Metro Transit has been contacted by Wheatons and that they had offered the use of their rear gravel parking lot which held fifty (50) spaces for park and ride purposes. He indicated that all residents had to do was go in to Wheatons to register their

vehicle and obtain a free monthly parking pass. He also stated that Metro Transit was attempting to obtain a memo of understanding to make the matter more formalized.

The Chair indicated that he would like to send a letter of thank you acknowledging the help of Wheatons who had done this completely on their own initiative.

Mr. Reage advised that Mr. Mike MacKinnon was the contact for Wheatons.

4.1.3 2007 Load/Ridership Counts

A CD containing the load/ridership counts was submitted to Mr. Chaffey. He advised that he hoped to have some preliminary information at the next meeting.

4.1.4 Letter to Wal-Mart re: Bus Shelter

The Legislative Assistant advised that no reply had come as of yet as a result of the Committee's letter. The Chair noted that he would follow up on this matter.

4.1.5 Barrington Bus Stop Report

The Legislative Assistant advised that this report would be going to the North West Community Council at their next meeting and would then be forwarded on to the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

The Chair stated that he did not think the stop would be removed which was located on Barrington Street north bound, just before Artz Street. He requested that Mr. Chaffey check the ridership count for this stop.

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 Update on the Transit Plan Approved in the 2008/09 Budget

Mr. Reage advised that the five (5) year plan was currently in the early stages, that it had been approved, in principle, by Council and that it would be subject to budget approval each year. He stated that the first priority of Metro Transit was still to build a new garage as there would be no room for any new busses otherwise. Mr. Reage also indicated that the report that had gone to Council was now available on the Metro Transit website.

7.2 Bedford Visioning Update - Mr. John Merrick

No update was available at this time as Mr. Merrick had sent his regrets for the meeting.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Tabling of Bedford West and Bedford South Developments - Chair

C A copy of the Bedford West and Bedford South Developments plans was before the Committee.

The Chair advised that the Bedford South development would be completed prior to the Bedford West one and that construction on the Larry Uteck interchange would not begin until January of 2009. He noted that these higher density developments which would include apartments and condominiums may put a larger strain on bus loads.

Mr. Reage indicated that he thought the development was well designed as the higher density buildings were located on roads that are compatible with future bus service.

Mr. Scott noted that sixty thousand (60,000) new residents are predicted over the next thirty (30) years with new development areas being marketed as sustainable living.

The Chair noted that it would be convenient to have new routes in place prior to residents buying land and property in Bedford.

8.2 Media Articles - Chair

The Chair advised that the Bedford Sackville Weekly newspaper had contacted him requesting information on the motion that had gone to the North West Community Council regarding standing room on Route 86. He indicated that a resident had also written a letter to the paper on the same issue and that a picture of the low floor bus had been published. The Chair noted that the article had not been too out of line with what he had said.

The Chair indicated his desire to have some new issues to deal with in the fall; stating that the Committee had been dealing with the same ones for quite some time.

Mr. Scott requested that the Committee contact the community of West Hants to inquire as to whether they would consider partnering with the Halifax Regional Municipality on a park and ride lot in Mount Uniacke. He noted that this could be another rural bus system to add to the ones which had recently been approved by Council.

Mr. Chaffey indicated his frustration that rural transit had not yet been considered in larger areas such as Bedford.

The Chair advised that he would like a gas tax update at the next meeting.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, June 11, 2008.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 pm.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

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