

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

November 12, 2008

PRESENT: Mr. Philip Cox, Chair
Mr. William Chaffey
Mr. John Merrick
Mr. Terry Churney

REGRETS: Mr. Steve Scott
Mr. Dave Reage, Metro Transit
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in Boardroom #1, Sackville Planning Office, 1st Floor, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - October 8, 2008

Corrections: Item 8.3 Rocky Manor should be Rockmanor.
Item 7.1 Stephens should be Stevens
Page 4: add date of report for Item 5.1

Revisions: Page 5: add: "Rocky Lake Drive / Bedford Highway" intersection.
Page 7: add: "extra lane"
Page 5: second bullet: add "Route 84 and 87"

MOVED BY Mr. John Merrick, seconded by Mr. Terry Churney that the minutes of October 8, 2008, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions: 8.1 Route 88 Duke - Mr. Bill Chaffey
8.2 Building for Transit Sign at Magazine Hill - John Merrick
8.3 Status of Wheaton's Parking - Mr. Phil Cox

Deletion: In Camera Item - Personnel Matter
This item will be dealt with at a later date due to Regional Council's extension of all current volunteer terms to December 31, 2008.

The Committee agreed to the agenda as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1.1 Thank You Letter to Wheaton's

Mr. Phil Cox will draft the letter and forward it to the Legislative Assistant for distribution.

4.1.2 Letter to Wal-Mart re: Bus Shelter

Mr. Cox, Chair, presented the letter to be forwarded to Wal-Mart Canada.

4.1.3 Security On Buses

The Committee requested that Mr. David Reage, Planning and Project Delivery Coordinator, Metro Transit, be asked to provide an update on the recent Council approved tenders in regard to security measures for Metro Transit buses/Operators.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 2007 Load/Ridership Counts - Comparison with 2006 Data

- A copy of the data prepared by Mr. William Chaffey was before the Committee.

Mr. Bill Chaffey presented the information contained in the data slides. He noted that the situation regarding the number of standees has improved on the Route 84, most likely due to the MetroLink Route 185 service. An additional run has been added to Routes 80 and 86. He further noted that the issue of standees on Routes 80 and 82 does not appear to have improved. He expressed concern that Metro Transit may lose an opportunity to attract riders if those commuters find alternate transport while waiting for buses to provide, or improve on, transit service. The Committee concurred that until a new transit garage were built to accommodate additional buses, very little could be done in regard to the current capacity issues.

During the ensuing discussion, the Committee requested that an Executive Summary or commentary accompany the data slides and be forwarded to Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager of Metro Transit. The Committee members were requested to forward their comments to Mr. Chaffey by November 24, 2008 in regard to the compilation of an Executive Summary.

The committee thanked Mr. Chaffey for the many hours of work he put into compiling the statistical data.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 Bedford Visioning

Mr. John Merrick advised that transit service was addressed by several persons in attendance at an open house held in October in regard to the Bedford South development. Developers were advising that there would be community bus service in the area as the roadways had been built to accommodate bus turnarounds. Mr. Merrick noted that he

responded to a request for volunteers to work with Mr. Brian Taylor, Senior Advisor, HRM Regional Transportation, in regard to the Harbour Link project (Fast Ferry).

7.2 Approval of the 2009 Meeting Schedule

The Committee approved the 2009 meeting schedule as presented.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Route 88 - Mr. Bill Chaffey

During the ensuing discussion on possible revisions to the Route 88 to make it more pedestrian/user friendly, the following motion was placed:

MOVED BY Mr. John Merrick, seconded by Mr. Terry Churney, that the North West Transit Advisory Committee recommend that the North West Community Council request that Metro Transit consider amending the Route 88 as follows:

- 1. Commence run at the Cobequid Terminal rather than the Sackville Terminal.**
- 2. Proceed from Cobequid Terminal on a counter clockwise route to the Bedford Highway and continue as follows: left turn from the Bedford Highway onto Rocky Lake Drive; left turn from Rocky Lake Drive onto Duke Street; left turn from Duke Street onto Damascus Road; left turn from Damascus Road onto Duke Street then return to Cobequid Terminal.**

The Committee noted that the proposed route amendments would provide service along Rocky Lake Drive and better than hourly service to Duke Street. The shortened route could be run on a thirty (30) minute cycle and would improve ridership. The route would connect with all other Bedford/Sackville runs. The counter clockwise route would better serve pedestrian access to the shopping centres. The route could then be serviced by a smaller bus.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee also requested an update from Mr. David Reage, in regard to the Tantallon Express Route.

8.2 Sign Promoting Transit on Magazine Hill

Mr. Merrick noted that he saw a sign with the message “Building for Transit” showing a bus passing cars. He commented that it was great to inform the public that transit was a priority in HRM.

8.3 Status of Wheaton’s Parking

Mr. Cox requested an update from staff on the status of parking at the Wheaton’s property.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, January 14, 2009

The Committee requested that Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager of Metro Transit, be invited to the January meeting.

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant