

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 8, 2009

PRESENT: Michael Cormier, Chair  
John Merrick, Vice-Chair  
Philip Cox  
Gunther Seyffarth

ABSENT: Terry Churney (regrets)  
William Chaffey (regrets)  
Ian MacLaine  
Stephen Scott (regrets)  
Councillor Brad Johns (regrets)

STAFF: Mr. David Reage,  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. Michael Cormier, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm in Boardroom #1, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Sackville Planning Office, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - February 11, 2009 and March 11, 2009

February 11, 2009

Revision: Mr. Michael Cormier to be noted as a “*former*” member not “*new*” member of the Committee  
Page 5: End the last sentence after “*review*”.

**MOVED BY Mr. Phil Cox, seconded by Mr. John Merrick that the minutes of February 11, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

March 11, 2009

Correction: Page 5: “\$55 million” should be “\$155 million over five (5) years”.

Clarification: Page: 5: Add “*hired by HRM*” after “*the Design and Engineering Consultants*”.

**MOVED BY Mr. John Merrick, seconded by Mr. Phil Cox that the minutes of March 11, 2009, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Mr. Gunther Seyffarth entered the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

**Deletions:**

- 4.1.2 GPS Update
- 5.1 2007 Ridership Analysis
- 6.3.1 Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager, Metro Transit
- 7.2 Bedford Visioning
- 7.3 Ian MacLaine (Presentation)

**MOVED BY Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. John Merrick that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

**4.1.1            Letter to Wal-Mart re: Bus Shelter**

A response was received from Wal-Mart expressing their interest in possible cost sharing for a bus shelter near their Bedford location. Staff have replied to Wal-Mart's request for costing information. No further update was available at this time.

**4.1.2            GPS Update**

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the agenda as Mr. Philip Herritt, Acting Supervisor, AVL Project, Metro Transit, has declined the Committee's invitation to present at this time as there is no further public information available in regard to the AVL/GPS technology.

**4.1.3            Route 80 - Request for Earlier Start Time**

Mr. David Reage, Coordinator, Planning and Project Delivery, Metro Transit, Transportation and Public Works, advised that the matter of an earlier start time for the Route 80 leaving Sackville to Bedford had been forwarded to Ms. Amy Power, Supervisor, Scheduling and Service Planning, Metro Transit, Transportation and Public Works, who has reviewed the route schedule. Staff advised that in order to accommodate this request, the schedule would have to be changed by seven (7) minutes for the bus to arrive in Bedford by 6:00 a.m. Considering that the request came from only one commuter, there was no justification for a change in the schedule at this time as it would disrupt the travel patterns of a larger group.

In response to members of the Committee that Metro Transit add an earlier bus on this route or implement a schedule change at the next transit schedule update, Mr. Reage advised that there were other budget priorities in regard to additional buses and, as he advised earlier, the schedule would not be changed based on one request.

Mr. Merrick noted that although the travel pattern may be disrupted for some commuters others, may be attracted to the service if the change were made.

**4.1.4            Cobequid Terminal - Route 89 Concerns**

Mr. Reage advised that he had spoken with a Transit Supervisor in regard to buses blocking the Cobequid terminal area so that other buses could not get through. The Supervisor requested that whenever this occurs that it be reported to the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000 so that the issue may be tracked. He noted that the Route 89 does have a bit of extra running time but once service to the Research in Motion (RIM) area of Bedford commences the matter may resolve itself.

**4.1.5 List of Reports Requested by North West Transit Advisory Committee**

Mr. Reage advised that only one report was outstanding, a report sent to the North West Community Council in May 2008 re: Route 86 Basinview - Standees.

The Legislative Assistant will obtain a copy of the report for distribution in the next agenda package.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 2007 Ridership Analysis**

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda as an Information Report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee was forwarded to the North West Community Council for their March 26, 2009 meeting.

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Delegations**

**6.3.1 Ms. Patricia Soanes, General Manager, Metro Transit**

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda as Ms. Soanes reluctantly declined the Committee's invitation as she was unavailable at this time.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Passenger Overloads**

An e-mail from Metro Transit staff including charts and graphs had been included in the March agenda package. Mr. Reage explained the information advising that:

- Route 1 is the worst offender with most of the overloads occurring in the vicinity of the universities in the afternoon.
- Route 14 was also experiencing overloads.
- Log files are received every few days from the Operators. Information on the route, time, number of people missed and the date is entered with the result being the charts/graphs circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Reage noted that he will provide similar data at future meetings as the information becomes available.

**7.2            Bedford Visioning**

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda.

**7.3            Ian MacLaine**

This item was deleted during the approval of the agenda.

**7.4            Transit Survey Results**

Mr. Phil Cox requested that, when available, the Committee be provided information obtained from the recent transit survey.

Mr. Reage advised that the survey was complete and the process of crunching the numbers had begun. Over 8000 responses had been received which will provide a great database of origin destination. Consultants are developing a service plan that will hopefully meet the service patterns that show up in the data. In regard to sharing the data, he would not be able to provide copies of the surveys as they would contain personal information that HRM would not be permitted to release under HRM's FOIPOP regulations. Mr. Reage explained that the data was to provide information on travel patterns and was not sure if "trends" could be identified from the data. The final data will be part of an Operating Plan that will be presented to Regional Council in the fall of 2009. He noted that there would be three Open Houses held in June in Dartmouth, Halifax and possibly the Bedford/Sackville area.

In response to Mr. Merrick, Mr. Reage advised that in regard to new electronic farebox technology, the automatic passenger counters would not be available for all buses. The equipment would be assigned where needed and transferred between buses.

Mr. Cox requested that a blank copy of the survey be provided to the Committee.

**7.5            Highway 101 Interchange - Update**

Mr. Reage advised, in response to Mr. Cox, that although he had no official update on the interchange, he was aware that:

- HRM has secured some land for a future rural express route.
- Since the Wheaton's parking area was once again made available, increasing parking spaces at the MetroLink terminal to 415, complaints have stopped.

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- There would not be a terminal at the interchange but plans include a park 'n ride of sorts.
- The land, located directly north of the interchange, was purchased by the HRM Regional Transportation group under Mr. David McCusker, Manager.
- The area is outside the urban tax boundary and tax structure of HRM so no regular transit service is planned for the area.
- Service will be similar to that provided by the MetroLink Route 185 with a stop in Burnside.

No further action requested.

**8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE**

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, May 13, 2009**

Items to be added to the next agenda:

- Route 87 through Bedford
- Realign all Routes for Dartmouth Crossing / Direct Connection from Sackville to Dartmouth Crossing.

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant