

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

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NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

May 12, 2010

PRESENT:                   Mr. John Merrick  
                                  Mr. William Chaffey  
                                  Mr. Alan Barnhill  
                                  Mr. Gunther Seyffarth  
                                  Ms. Christina Parker  
                                  Mr. Stephen James Scott  
                                  Mr. Ian MacLaine

REGRETS:                   Mr. Philip Cox  
                                  Deputy Mayor Johns  
                                  Mr. Terry Churney

STAFF:                     Mr. Eddie Robar, Metro Transit  
                                  Ms. Paulette Campbell, Legislative Support

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## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 p.m. in the Bedford Junior High School Library, Rocky Lake Drive, Bedford.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 14, 2010**

**MOVED by Ms. Christina Parker, seconded by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth that the minutes of April 14, 2010, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Corrections:

### Item 7.2 - Hybrid Buses

- The hybrid articulate buses were not purchased by provincial government. They were purchased by Metro Transit and Conserve Nova Scotia. The buses cost \$1,300,000.00 each. Metro Transit put in \$1,000,000.00 per bus and the \$300,000.00 difference was made up by Conserve Nova Scotia.
- The regular articulate buses cost \$800,000.00 per bus.
- The hybrid buses are 60 feet long, the same as a normal articulate bus.
- They are considered low floor buses, they are more stable than a regular articulated.
- There are just as many handles and extension bars within the hybrid bus.

### Item 8.2 - Concerns Regarding Metro Transit X Buses

- Include the Halifax dockyard in Metro X stop, the dockyard is going to start charging for parking, Ms. Christina Parker has spoken to several people and they feel it would only add a few more minutes onto the journey.

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

Additions: 8.1 North West Transit Advisory Committee 2010/11 Workplan - Mr. John Merrick

**MOVED by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Ms. Christina Parker that the agenda, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

### **4.1 Proposed Changes to Five Year Strategy regarding Routes 80, 81, 82, 85, and 88.**

Mr. Eddie Robar discussed the Five Year Strategy Plan for the bus routes. After the

discussion, the following comments were made:

- Route 80 is the third or fourth heaviest route on the system.
- There is no plan for route 82 travelling downtown all day.
- Last year the average number of passengers per hour on Route 82 was 25, but the ridership in peak periods approaches the maximum possible per bus.

In response to a concern raised by Mr. Alan Barnhill, Mr. Eddie Robar, Manager, Planning and Product Development, Metro Transit, explained that the peak times for Route 82 were 6:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. He advised that staff will look into the possibility of adding an earlier run for the morning and afternoon peak times.

- Route 82 has not changed in the past 9 years. Tests can be done to see if this would be productive to passengers.

Mr. Eddie Robar explained that the possibility of Route 85 going to the top of Akerley Boulevard is still in the cards, however it will not be for another 3 to 4 years, once construction of the Burnside Terminal is complete.

NWTAC has heard from the community that the Route 88 schedule is not conducive to employees working in Bedford Commons. The first morning run arrives at the Commons at, or after, regular work hours commence and the last evening run departs at, or before, the close of business. An adjustment of the schedule would better serve the business park to arrive 15 minutes before store opening and departing 15 minutes past 10:00 p.m. in order to meet the needs of employees.

NWTAC also suggested that route 88 should change to run between Bedford Commons and connecting to the other shopping centres in Bedford, then continuing on to the Cobequid Terminal.

Mr. Robar commented that the route 88 is under very close scrutiny but he will consider a route change that would not impact on overall cost / timing factors.

#### **4.2 Metro X Service**

Mr. Eddie Robar gave a brief update on the service:

- Metro X won a Service Excellence Award from the Canadian Urban Transit Association.
- Rider ship has increased every month, Metro X bus pass sales have doubled every month that it has been in service.
- 10% of Metro X riders live outside of Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Metro Transit received a lot of inquiries with respect to offering Metro X to the dockyard. Metro Transit does not have the resources to route the Metro X into the dockyard. The expectation of additional passengers would very likely exceed

the ability of the current fleet service availability to absorb additional capacity.

#### **4.3 Proposed Transit Advisory Committee for the Peninsula Community Council**

Deferred to next meeting.

#### **5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

#### **6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATION - None**

#### **7. REPORTS**

##### **7.1 Committee Members**

##### **7.1.1 Bedford Visioning - Mr. John Merrick (verbal)**

Mr. John Merrick gave a verbal update on Bedford Visioning with the following remarks:

- There has not been a meeting since the last North West Transit Advisory Committee meeting.
- There is going to be a public presentation put on by Council with respect to the Bedford Waterfront within the next 4 weeks.

##### **7.1.2 Rural Transit Service for the Lucasville Road area via the Sackville Metro**

Mr. Ian MacLaine asked about the proposed rural transit service for the Lucasville Road Area. Mr. Eddie Robar explained that there is money in the budget for rural transit service with the Lucasville area being the first. He is not sure what service will be provided however a study will be completed to determine needs of rural residents. The Annual Service Plan will be available on the internet.

#### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

**8.1 North West Transit Advisory Committee 2010/11 Workplan**

Mr. John Merrick put forth that at the next meeting they will come back and have a discussion on where the Committee can go, what types of information they should be involved with, how much support to Mr. Robar and his group. To have a short open discussion as to comments and ideas.

**9. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 9, 2010**

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 p.m.

Paulette Campbell  
Legislative Support