

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 8, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. John Merrick, Chair
Mr. William Chaffey
Mr. Michael Cormier
Mr. Ian MacLaine
Ms. Christina Parker
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Brad Johns
Mr. Stephen J. Scott, Vice-Chair
Mr. Alan Barnhill
Mr. Terry Churney
Mr. Phil Cox

STAFF: Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

Table of Contents

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.....	3
4.1	Transit Service to Lucasville Road	3
4.2	Beaver Bank Community Transit.....	3
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	3
5.1	Proposed Transit Advisory Committee for the Peninsula Community Council.....	3
5.2	Proposed North West Transit Advisory Committee 2010/11 Workplan.....	3
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS.....	6
6.1	Information Item 2.....	6
7.	REPORTS	6
7.1	Members of the Committee	6
7.1.1	Bedford Visioning	6
7.1.2	Widening of Walker Connector Road Intersection.....	6
7.1.3	Left Turn Signal Required for Cobequid Terminal	6
7.1.4	Request for Right of Way at Fairview Overpass.....	7
7.1.5	Status Sheet / Bring Forward Sheet	7
8.	ADDED ITEMS	7
8.1	Membership Term	7
8.2	Transit Service to the Nova Scotia International Air Show	7
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE	8
10.	ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mr. John Merrick, Chair, called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in the Sackville Planning Office Boardroom, 626 Sackville Drive, Sackville.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – June 9, 2010

MOVED by Ms. Christina Parker, seconded by Mr. Ian MacLaine that the minutes of June 9, 2010, as presented, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions: 8.1 Membership Term – *Mr. Chaffey*
8.2 Transit Service to the Nova Scotia International Air Show

The Committee approved the agenda as presented.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Transit Service to Lucasville Road

In response to a question by Mr. Ian MacLaine, Ms. Christina Parker advised that, in consultation with Councillor Peter Lund and Metro Transit Staff, she is of the understanding that a Committee is to be formed in regard to transit service for the Lucasville Road area.

The Committee requested an update on this issue for the next meeting.

4.2 Beaver Bank Community Transit

Mr. Michael Cormier requested an update on the Beaver Bank Community Transit service following the recent adjustments to various transit services/schedules.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Proposed Transit Advisory Committee for the Peninsula Community Council

This matter has been forwarded to Metro Transit by the Peninsula Community Council. Item to be removed from the agenda as it is not within the mandate of the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

5.2 Proposed North West Transit Advisory Committee 2010/11 Workplan

Discussion ensued on the proposed 2010/11 North West Transit Advisory Committee Workplan.

Mr. Merrick suggested that the Committee consider the following three scales of activity:

1. Mico Scale – review Metro Transit route changes, timing changes, etc.;
2. Medium Scale – consider all issues that affect the transit system in the North West Community Council districts as the transit service stretches into the downtown;
3. Macro Scale – topics within each region related to road closures, openings, changes and population changes that would affect transit.

Mr. Merrick advised that he had spoken with Councillor Outhit, his district Councillor and a Member of the North West Community Council, and stressed that the North West Transit Advisory Committee wants to be proactive and work for the North West Community Council and its residents. He noted that he is awaiting comment from Councillor Outhit on this issue. He then suggested the following three areas of focus for the Committee:

1. Increasing the visibility of the North West Transit Advisory Committee;
2. Emphasizing the Committee's value to Metro Transit; and,
3. Meeting with the new General Manager for Metro Transit once appointed and advising the General Manager that the North West Transit Advisory Committee wishes to contribute their volunteer services to Metro Transit.

In response to Mr. Merrick's request for further work plan suggestions, the Committee raised the following items for future consideration:

- High Speed Ferry
- Commuter Rail
- Report on time lines for buses and rail now that the new Ragged Lake Transit Facility is operational
- Contacting local media to advertise the North West Transit Advisory Committee and its function and requesting that the public contact the Committee with transit issues.

Ms. Christina Parker advised that she had recently commenced a monthly column in her weekly Community Newspaper. She has mentioned the North West Transit Advisory Committee in her column and will reference the Committee in future columns. Her focus will be on the Hammonds Plains hub area.

The Legislative Assistant reminded the Committee that their mandate/role was outlined in the Terms of Reference approved by the North West Community Council. The Committee is "the public" as the Composition of the Committee was designed to ensure appointments were made from the public at large with a representative from each district under the jurisdiction of the North West Community Council as well as adjacent districts. She reminded the Committee that they were not an advisory board for Metro Transit. The Committee is to direct all issues to the North West Community Council with a recommended course of action for their consideration. The Community Council would then decide what action to take based on the recommendations forwarded to them from the advisory Committee. She advised that any advertising of the Committee, beyond

the posting of the agendas and minutes online, would be the decision of the North West Community Council.

MOVED by Ms. Christina Parker that the North West Transit Advisory Committee recommend to the North West Community Council that they advertise/promote the Committee and their mandate.

Mr. Merrick advised that he would prefer to receive comment from his local Councillor prior to forwarding this issue to the North West Community Council.

Without a seconder, the **Motion was Lost.**

In response to a question by Mr. William Chaffey, Ms. Parker explained that the goal of further publicity for the Committee is to garner public input.

The Legislative Assistant reminded the Committee that it was their role as an advisory committee to bring forward concerns on behalf of the public.

Mr. Merrick suggested that an annual public meeting be held to provide an opportunity for members of the public to have their transit issues heard.

In response to a concern raised by Members of the Committee that a member of Metro Transit staff was not always in attendance at their meetings, the Legislative Assistant reminded the Committee that Section 2.4 of their Terms of Reference states that staff "*shall be available upon request*" and were not required to attend every meeting. She noted that the Committee has been very fortunate to have a Metro Transit staff member in attendance at a majority of their meetings.

In response to concerns raised by the Committee in regard to members of the public contacting them directly, the Legislative Assistant advised that no personal information would be made available to the public. All matters for the Committee's consideration were to be sent to the Municipal Clerk's Office. If the matter was within the mandate of the Committee, the item would be added to the next agenda; if not within the Committee's mandate, the matter would be forwarded to appropriate staff. Members of the public are able to contact the HRM Corporate Call Centre at any time in regard to issues.

Mr. Merrick and Mr. Cormier requested an update on whether or not the local area Councillor would be advised of any transit issues received by the Call Centre so that the Councillor could then refer the issues to the Committee. Mr. Cormier noted that the information would also assist in tracking trends. If this information were forwarded to the Councillor and then to the Committee, constructive thought could be given to the issue with a recommendation forwarded to the Community Council.

Mr. Merrick noted that he would like to have Metro Transit recognize the Committee and forward matters to them for consideration.

The Legislative Assistant reminded the Committee that they were an advisory committee to the North West Community Council and that issues have been forwarded

to the Committee from the Community Council such as Information Item 2 on this evening's agenda.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS

6.1 Information Item 2

Mr. Merrick requested an update on the status of the bus shelter for the Bedford Wal-Mart area.

The Committee requested a copy of the report be circulated to them on the Sackville Terminal matter.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Members of the Committee

7.1.1 Bedford Visioning

Mr. Merrick advised that the Bedford Visioning Committee has had an interesting summer. Work is ongoing to compile the comments received during the public presentations and public submissions received. Some of the comments were positive and some were very opposed to changing the natural waterfront/coast line. There was some criticism in regard to the amount of commercial development planned for the Bedford waterfront. The Bedford Visioning Committee will be forwarding a consolidated suggestion to the Waterfront Development Corporation to address the concerns raised by the public. Two upcoming meetings with the Waterfront Development Corporation and Stakeholders have been arranged to address the issues.

7.1.2 Widening of Walker Connector Road Intersection

The Committee requested an update on what work is planned to improve the traffic congestion at the Walker Connector Road and Old Sackville Road.

Mr. Chaffey noted that the issue is trying to exit the Sackville Metro Link Terminal area during rush hour whether turning left or right or continuing across the road. There is also an issue for pedestrians when trying to cross the road. Mr. MacLaine concurred that pedestrians also have difficulty getting from the Sackville Metro Link terminal to the Downsview Mall area.

Mr. Merrick suggested a 4-way stop be installed at the Walker Connector Road/Old Sackville Road entrance/exit to the Sackville Metro Link terminal area.

7.1.3 Left Turn Signal Required for Cobequid Terminal

Mr. Chaffey noted that the concern seems to be with vehicles attempting to turn left onto

the Cobequid Road when exiting the Cobequid Terminal. He inquired whether there was a left turn activation for the buses.

7.1.4 Request for Right of Way at Fairview Overpass

Mr. Merrick noted that the issue was with buses going straight into the intersection and not being able to use the bridge railing lane. He requested an update on this issue.

7.1.5 Status Sheet / Bring Forward Sheet

Mr. Cormier noted that the purpose of a Status Sheet or Bring Forward Sheet would be to enable the Committee to keep track of the long term projects or items they have been advised were not able to be done at this time but perhaps at another time.

Mr. Chaffey suggested that a separate list be maintained and that an item only appear on the Committee's agenda when an update is available.

The Legislative Assistant advised the Committee that their role was to forward matters to the North West Community Council with a recommendation on what they would like to see occur. The matter would then become the responsibility of the Community Council and they would keep track of the issue. There should be no cause for a long term status sheet for the Committee. She agreed to consider the matter further.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Membership Term

Members of the Committee expressed concern with the recent amendment to the Terms of Reference and requested further information on the term "*attrition*" and how it would affect the currently serving members of Districts 19, 20 and 21 when their terms are up. They inquired whether one of the District 20 representatives would cease to be a member of the Committee and how that decision would be made.

The Legislative Assistant explained that all volunteers are required to submit a Volunteer Application form near the end of their term in order to be considered for further service on a Committee. She noted that if a term end was not specifically indicated, the term is generally two-years from the date of appointment. All Volunteer Application forms for the North West Transit Advisory Committee appointments would be forwarded to the North West Community Council who would review all applications and make the appointments. The term "*attrition*" would most likely be for situations where a resignation occurs and an appointment would not be made to fill that vacancy if there were already two serving members from that district.

8.2 Transit Service to the Nova Scotia International Air Show

An information item was circulated to the Committee in regard to the shuttle service

being offered by Metro Transit from Alderney Drive, Dartmouth to the Nova Scotia International Air Show being held at the Shearwater Airport in Eastern Passage. No further action required.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 13, 2010

By request of the Committee, the October meeting will be held at the new Ragged Lake Transit Facility.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:34 p.m.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant