

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

November 10, 2010

PRESENT: Mr. John Merrick, Chair
Mr. Alan Barnhill
Mr. Michael Cormier
Ms. Christina Parker

REGRETS: Mr. Stephen J. Scott, Vice-Chair
Mr. William Chaffey
Mr. Phil Cox
Mr. Ian MacLaine
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF: Mr. Eddie Robar, Manager, Planning and Product Development,
Metro Transit
Ms. Sarah Pellerine, Legislative Support
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Acadia Room 1, Sackville Planning Office, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR / VICE – CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant advised that due to the number of Committee Members not in attendance, the Committee may consider deferring this item to the next meeting as Members must be in attendance to nominate someone or to accept a nomination.

MOVED by Ms. Christina Parker, seconded by Mr. Alan Barnhill that the election of Chair/ Vice Chair of the North West Transit Advisory Committee for the 2011 term be deferred to the January 12 meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 13, 2010

Correction: Item 5.8: Recommendation 2 should read *“Incorporate a left turn signal from the Beaver Bank Connector Road...”* not *“lane”*.

MOVED by Mr. Michael Cormier seconded by Ms. Christina Parker that the minutes of October 13, 2010, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions: 9.1 Metro Transit Schedule Changes
9.2 Dartmouth Bridge Terminal Update

The agenda, as amended, was approved.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Lucasville / Hammonds Plains Transit Service

Ms. Parker would have liked the letter and survey regarding the public transit of Lucasville/ Hammonds Plains to have included Hammonds Plains. It was put forth to Mr. Robar why Hammonds Plains was not included in this survey and if there would be any consideration to re-open the survey up to Hammond Plains residences. Mr. Robar explained the survey is currently closed but he would consider this request.

The Legislative Assistant advised that Mr. MacLaine, who was not in attendance, had expressed concern that a portion of the residences may have been missed as the survey was not sent via a mass mail out, it was available mostly online and many

residents may not have internet access. Mr. Robar advised that he would take the issue of mass mail outs for future surveys back to Metro Transit for consideration.

5.2 Commuter Rail / High Speed Ferry

Mr. Robar gave a brief update regarding the report on the viability of Bedford transit alternatives. The report is completed, but has not been reviewed by Metro Transit and, therefore; it is unable to be discussed at this time.

Based on the current workload at Metro Transit the report will be vetted in the New Year/ early January. The committee requested to have the report as soon as it is made public; the Legislative Assistant will oversee this request.

5.3 Nova Scotia Utility and Review Board – Notice of Public Hearing re; Halifax Harbour Bridges Toll Increase

The Committee reviewed their draft report for the North West Community Council in regard to contacting the UARB expressing concern with the proposed increase in the bridge tolls and requesting zero tolls for Metro Transit buses.

The second sentence in the report should include the word “congestion” and read as follows: “...*assisting the Bridge Commission by reducing traffic congestion on the bridges.*”

The Committee suggested that the report should state that Metro Transit buses be exempt from bridge tolls altogether as this was the intent from previous discussions.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Committee Members

8.1.1 Bedford Visioning

Mr. Merrick advised that the Bedford visioning is going along great and there shall be recommendations to put forth in January. He informed the Committee that there was a lot of input from the community with regards to the meeting, most of which deal with the design along the Bedford waterfront.

8.1.2 Proposed 2011 Meeting Schedule

A copy of the proposed 2011 Meeting Schedule was before the Committee. It was discussed and there were no known conflicts.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Metro Transit Schedule Changes

As per 5.2 from the October minutes Metro Transit was to discuss changes made to the bus schedule. The meeting among Metro Transit officials was bumped to a later date but many of the discussed changes had been made. The main concern around buses running later for people leaving work after 10:00 p.m. was addressed and a change was made. The Legislative Assistant will forward an e-mail with the link showcasing the changes that have been made to Go Time, Access-a-Bus and the Ferry service.

9.2 Dartmouth Bridge Terminal Update

The Committee would like to discuss the replacement terminal at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. Metro Transit has received the tender documents, however; the project remains over budget. Transit will request those companies who submitted tenders to look for a way to have costs cut somewhat from the final budget.

The Legislative Assistant provided an update in regard to the security measures at the terminal as requested by the Committee at the October meeting. Mr. Robar advised that there will be increased security with the new terminal. He explained that there is a conceptual plan of the proposed terminal on the Metro Transit website as well as the plans for the new Lacewood Terminal on Willet Street.

10. NEXT MEETING DATE – January 12, 2011

The January meeting will be held in Acadia Room 1, 1st Floor Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:06PM.

Sarah Pellerine
Legislative Support