



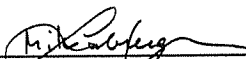
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Northwest Community Council  
June 24 2009

Info #1

**TO:** Chair and Members of Northwest Transit Advisory Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director of Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** May 22, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Transit Shelter Cost Sharing - Damascus Road

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### **ORIGIN:**

Report requested by the chair and members of Northwest Transit Advisory Committee (NWTAC) at the May 13, 2009 meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND:**

The background leading to this report is as follows:

- February 12, 2008: The Chair of NWTAC submitted a request to Wal-Mart on Damascus Road that they consider installing a shelter at the bus stop nearest their store for the comfort of their customers and employees. This letter noted that Metro Transit did not have any plans for a shelter at that location in the near future.
- November 12, 2008: The Chair of NWTAC submitted a follow-up letter to Wal-Mart requesting an update. The letter suggests that Wal-Mart consider working with other businesses in the area and the area developer to install a shelter.
- December 9, 2008: The Chair of Northwest Community Council (NWCC) submitted a follow-up letter to Wal-Mart, requesting a response to previous letters from NWTAC.
- January 16, 2009: NWCC received a response from Wal-Mart requesting more information on a joint venture with respect to a transit shelter.

- March 13, 2009: Metro Transit staff submitted a letter to Wal-Mart explaining the requirements and approximate costs to install a shelter on the site requested. Further, staff advised that Metro Transit was not currently in a budgetary position to cost share the shelter, but could assist in the procurement process.
- May 13, 2009: At the regular meeting of NWTAC, it was requested staff report on the possibility of Metro Transit participating in a 50% cost share of the shelter in question.

**DISCUSSION:**

Metro Transit staff receive numerous requests for shelter installations every year. Since the number of requests generally exceeds the amount of budget available for shelters, staff are tasked with prioritizing these requests based on ridership, available space/right of way, and other criteria particular to a given location. The availability of a cost sharing opportunity is not a factor in this prioritization process, since even with cost sharing, the money spent by transit on the shelter would preclude the installation of a shelter at another higher priority location.

Staff have reviewed this request and have determined that a shelter at this location would not be a high priority as ridership numbers are very low at the associated bus stop. Current ridership counts show 45 boardings per weekday at the stop, significantly below the minimum 100 boardings per weekday required as the minimum ridership justification for a shelter.

Metro Transit currently has approximately 40 shelter requests from customers, Councillors and businesses in a waiting list. The majority of these requests are at stops with higher daily boardings than the stop in question. Currently available funds are allocated to higher priority locations; therefore Metro Transit will not be able to cost share the requested shelter at this time.

Metro Transit staff did request that our advertising shelter contractor, CBS Outdoor, review this location for a possible advertising shelter. However they are not interested in pursuing a shelter at this location as there is insufficient traffic volumes on Damascus Road for the shelter to be feasible from their perspective.

Metro Transit has requested increased funding for transit shelter expansions in the 09/10 budget. If these budget increases are approved, Metro Transit will re-examine the location in question, however the prioritization process outlined above would still apply.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:**

There are no budget implications.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN**

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Approved by: Pat Soanes, CMA, General Manager, Metro Transit, 490-6388