

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 19, 2004

PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair
Alastaire Lawrie
Ron McKinnon
Gunther Seyffarth
Bill Chaffey

ABSENT: Councillor Brad Johns
Troy Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT: Eddie Robar, Schedule Planner, Metro Transit
Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Regional Planning
Millie Hull, Legislative Assistant
Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Program Room, Bedford Library, 15 Dartmouth Road, Bedford.

2. PRESENTATION: HRM REGIONAL PLANNING

- Guidebook to HRM's Alternatives for Growth was before the Committee.
- Copy of Presentation - Regional Planning and Concept Alternatives - Open House

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Regional Planning, made a presentation outlining where they are on the Regional Plan and the alternatives that are being considered described in the citizen's guide. His presentation highlighted the centres as the building blocks with each centre offering a different range of activities, services and public open space, as outlined in the guidebook:

- Regional Centre
- Major Centres
- Rural Centres
- Community Hubs
- Neighborhood Villages

and identified the alternatives that combine the various centres:

- Alternative A - Regional and Major Centres
- Alternative B - Transit-Linked Community Hubs
- Alternative C - Multiple-Hub Centres

Mr. McCusker briefly outlined the next steps in the process. A discussion ensued with Mr. McCusker answering questions from the Committee members. The Chair thanked Mr. McCusker for his presentation.

3. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions: 6.2.1 August Route Schedule - Mr. Edward Robar

6.2.2 Off Peak Service from Bedford to Downtown & Service from Bedford to Bayers Lake - Mr. Bill Chaffey

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - March 24, 2004

The Minutes of March 24, 2004 were circulated at the meeting. It was agreed to defer approval of the minutes to the next meeting scheduled for June 16, 2004.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road

Mr. Robar advised the Fenerty Road shelter pad has been installed. The shelters will be received this week and installed immediately upon delivery.

5.2 Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road and Summer Street

The Committee raised concerns regarding the delay of inbound Route 80 arriving downtown and outbound Routes 84, 85, 86, and 87 due to traffic congestion/parking along Barrington Street. Mr. Robar will contact staff and provide an update at the next meeting.

5.3 Bus Shelter - Bedford Highway at MSVU

Mr. Robar submitted a draft, schematic plan for the bus shelter. He indicated the shelter will be moved to the front of the bus bay and new concrete poured behind the sidewalk so that the shelter can be reversed. Reversal of the shelter should alleviate the problem of transit users being splashed by passing vehicles while waiting for the bus.

5.4 Service to Former Sackville Heights Elementary School

Mr. Robar advised Councillor Johns and Mr. Ken Silver, Transit, are meeting to discuss this issue and will provide an update at a future date.

5.5 Bus Schedules - Concerns with 80 Series Buses

5.5.1 Route 83 - Map

The Committee agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

5.5.2 Route 82 - Service to NSCC on Leeds Street

The Committee agreed to remove this item from the agenda as transit has reviewed the issue and have decided no changes are to made to the route at this time. There is indication that the NSCC Leeds Street Campus may eventually be amalgamated at the new Dartmouth site.

5.6 Park and Rides

5.6.1 Beaver Bank Park and Ride - *No new information*

5.6.2 Upper Sackville Park and Ride

Mr. Robar advised the proposed site for the Upper Sackville Park and Ride has been sold. He will provide an update on other locations being considered at the June meeting.

5.6.3 Downsview Park and Ride

Mr. Robar advised a report is before Regional Council regarding purchasing land for the new terminal.

5.6.4 Cobequid Park and Ride

Mr. Robar advised that construction has begun on the new apartment building adjacent to the Park and Ride and concern was expressed regarding space for the park & ride as they want to expand.

5.7 Long Range Issues

5.7.1 Status of Beaver Bank Bypass - *No new information.*

5.7.2 Future Service to New Cobequid Health Centre

The Chair advised construction has begun on this centre. Mr. Robar added communication is ongoing regarding service to the facility. He also noted Mr. Silver is waiting to discuss with Councillor Johns a new set of traffic lights required at this location.

5.7.3 Use for Present Cobequid Multi-Service Centre - *No new information.*

5.7.4 Future Service for New Recreation Facility in Bedford - *No new information.*

5.7.5 Future Service for New Community College in Woodside

Mr. Robar reported he has seen the plans for the new community college and has added input on the transit perspective.

The Committee expressed concern with students traveling from the Bedford/Sackville area having no direct route to the campus. With the existing schedule, students will have to travel to downtown Halifax and then take the Woodside Ferry across. Mr. Robar indicated that by

the time the college is built there will be 15 minute service at peak hours. Mr. Robar further advised with the implementation of this college, an extension of the Woodside ferry hours is being considered as well as rapid transit from Woodside to Penhorn.

5.7.6 Transit Service to Halifax International Airport - No new information

5.7.7 Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park from Bedford

Mr. Robar advised discussions are now taking place on this item.

5.8 Bio-Diesel in Metro Fleet

A copy of a press release dated Tuesday, March 30, 2004 was distributed to the Committee for their information. The Committee agreed to remove this item from the agenda.

5.9 Promotion of Metro Transit

The Committee requested Mr. Robar invite Ms. Lori Patterson, Manager, Public Affairs, Metro Transit, to the next meeting scheduled for June 16, 2004 to discuss promotion and marketing of Metro Transit. Further, that Ms. Patterson present an update to the Committee in the fall.

Mr. Robar advised the new scheduling software will begin implementation in June.

5.10 Commuter Rail

The Committee expressed concern with the number of rail lines being torn up across the province, specifically in the Bedford area, and suggested the Provincial Government, CN be encouraged to maintain these valuable transportation corridors.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Deferred Business

6.2 New Business

6.2.1 August Schedule

Mr. Robar advised Metro Transit is creating a new accessible route which will direct more of the accessible buses to Sackville. Also, schedule adjustments are being implemented for:

- Route 18, Mount Saint Vincent University service, to accommodate for the peak hour bottlenecks on Bedford Highway

- 3 extra trips at P.M. peak from St. Mary's University
- 3 extra trips on Route 59 to downtown to accommodate for using low floors on Route 61 and 14 to compensate for the loads from Penhorn Mall to Summer Street.

6.2.2 Off Peak Service from Bedford to Downtown & Service from Bedford to Bayers Lake

Mr. Chaffey expressed concern on the length of time it takes to get from Sunnyside Mall to Downtown. He indicated he felt it was a result of the route #80 takes, the traffic problems on Spring Garden Road and the parking on both sides of Barrington Street.

It was agreed to bring this issue forward to the next meeting scheduled for June 16, 2004 for further discussion.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, June 16, 2004

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Millie Hull
Legislative Assistant