

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 21, 2006

PRESENT: Mr. Phil Cox, Chair,
Mr. William Chaffey, Vice-Chair
Mr. Alastair Lawrie
Mr. Ron McKinnon
Mr. John Merrick
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
Mr. Alain Bourgeois

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF AND
OTHERS: Mr. Edward Robar, Metro Transit
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm in Boardroom #1, Sackville Planning Office, 1st Floor, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. **APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS**

Addition:

- 7.2.1 Letter to NWTAC from Ms. Deborah Ward, #83 Transit Rider
- 7.2.2 Pedestrian Lights
- 7.2.3 AVM GPS

The agenda was agreed upon as amended.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES** - March 8, 2006, April 19, 2006, and May 10, 2006

MOVED by Mr. Bill Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Alain Bourgeois, that the minutes of March 8, 2006 be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Amendments to the minutes of April 19, 2006:

Page 6, para. 1,

Item 5.1.1: Delete the first paragraph and replace with "Mr. Cox commented on the safety issues associated with a bus pulling over to make stops on a road with a 70 km/hour speed limit." This paragraph to be moved to page 7, Item 5.1.7.

Page 6, para. 4,

Item 5.1.1: "Mr. Chaffey commented that there are two car pools travelling in from Windsor" changed to "Mr. Chaffey commented that there are *at least* two car pools travelling in from Windsor"

Page 6, para. 10,

Item 5.1.3: "Fairlane" changed to "Freer Lane"

Page 7, para. 7,

Item 5.1.6: remove the words "where landscaping could be done" and replace with "the number of parking spaces that could be constructed".

Page 8, Item 6.1: change “Mr. Merrick advised that this item could be *deferred*” to “Mr. Merrick advised that this item could be *deleted*”.

MOVED by Mr. John Merrick, seconded by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, that the minutes of April 19, 2006 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Amendments to the minutes of May 10, 2006:

Page 4, para. 3,
Item 4.1.1: change “Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Robar offered to assist Mr. Chaffey in preparing the overlay information.” to “Mr. Lawrie and Mr. Robar offered to prepare the overlay information.”

Page 5, para. 9,
Item 4.1.4: change “(approximate travel time would be *thirty* minutes)” to “(approximate travel time would be *sixty-five* minutes)”.

MOVED by Mr. Bill Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Ron McKinnon, that the minutes of May 10, 2006 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Item - None

4.1.1 Transit Study Update

Mr. Eddie Robar presented the Metro Transit Passenger Profile study to the Committee.

It was requested that on the Route 80 AM Current Capacity slide, a correction be made to indicate a standing 70km+ dashed line from Nelson’s Landing to just past Flamingo Drive.

Mr. Robar clarified that the current capacity slides were compiled for low floor bus use and the future capacity slides were compiled for high floor bus use. It was requested that Mr. Robar change the slides to the same capacity buses, for consistency.

It was noted that the figures in the report are based on 2005 statistics, and rider-ship is anticipated to increase. Mr. Robar indicated he would amend the slides to be consistent with this aspect and to be clear to those being presented to.

The Committee thanked Mr. Lawrie, Mr. Robar, and Mr. Chaffey for their work on this presentation.

Mr. Robar indicated that the Metro Transit General Manager wishes to present the Passenger Profile study to the Director of Transportation and Public Works.

4.1.2 New Metro Link Terminal - Sackville

The Committee discussed the new Metro Link terminal in Lower Sackville. The following comments were noted:

- C there are no seats inside the terminal,
- C the issue of traffic on Old Sackville Road is being reviewed,
- C the air conditioning is currently not working, but will be fixed by whomever installed the system,
- C a new 100 car parking lot will be installed at the terminal in the fall,
- C the pitch of the roof of the terminal was governed by by-law restrictions,
- C the terminal was designed after the other Metro Link terminals,
- C landscaping will be completed in the summer, and tenders are now being collected for this work,
- C vending machine use is being monitored, and the possibility of installing a coffee shop may be considered,
- C visitor information will be available in the terminal permanently,
- C Transit ran out of route maps, however, more are being printed and an updated route map will be distributed in August,
- C security cameras in the terminal are monitored from the transit headquarters.

4.1.3 Bedford Triplex / Northgate Commercial Development

- C Correspondence from Ken O'Brien, Atlantic Road & Traffic Management dated March 9, 2006, along with the Traffic Impact Study - Northgate Development, Bedford, NS dated January 2006 were before the Committee.

The Chair noted that the study does not reference transit or pedestrians, but mainly traffic lights. Mr. Robar noted that there is a meeting scheduled for June 27, 2006 to discuss service connection plans for the facility.

After a brief discussion regarding the development, the following motion was approved:

MOVED by Mr. Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Bourgeois, that a provision for a turning bulb

for a Transit bus at the end of Damascus Drive be included in plans for Phase 1 of the North-Gate Development. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Alastair Lawrie arrived at 7:53 p.m.

Mr. Robar advised that it is anticipated that the development will generate a high volume of pedestrian traffic and many transit users. He further advised that development may start before the end of 2006, however, there is still time for input.

It was noted that in the March 8, 2006 minutes, it was requested that concept plans for any new development in the areas serviced by the North West Community Council be brought before the North West Transit Advisory Committee. It was further noted that in the May 10, 2006 minutes a motion was approved to amend the original motion in the draft report to North West Community Council to include a request for transit issues to be included in the traffic impact study for the Northgate Development area.

It was requested that a discussion on raising the profile of the Committee, to have matters come before the Committee earlier, be added to the September 2006 agenda.

The Committee discussed the need for either a turning bulb, or ideally to have a loop at the end of Verdi Drive, to allow for transit buses to turn.

MOVED by Mr. Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Bourgeois, that the North West Transit Advisory Committee recommend to the North West Community Council that all traffic impact studies address pedestrian and transit issues in addition to vehicular traffic. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Robar indicated that he will circulate comments from the June 27, 2006 meeting to Committee members for their information.

4.1.4 Parking at Cobequid Terminal / New Metro Link Service

Mr. Robar indicated that funding is indicated in the budget for this matter, however it may be deferred until an infrastructure plan is in place for Cobequid Terminal. He indicated that currently parking is not an issue at the Cobequid Terminal.

Following a brief discussion regarding the Cobequid Terminal site, the following motion was approved:

MOVED by Mr. Alastair Lawrie, seconded by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, that the North

West Transit Advisory Committee recommend that North West Community Council request Metro transit staff to pursue the opportunity for a new metro transit terminal site as a replacement of the Cobequid terminal. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 **Provincial and Federal Funding Programs - Jennifer Church, Intergovernmental Relations**

C An Information Report dated June 9, 2006 was before the Committee.

Mr. Robar clarified the following, with regard to the June 9, 2006 report:

- C HRM already participated in the Urban Transportation Showcase Program,
- C staff are looking into Transport Canada's Intelligent Transportation Systems Program,
- C HRM will be receiving funding through the Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) and through the Federal Gas Tax Program for transit services.

Mr. Ron McKinnon noted that the programs outlined in the report are all one time funding opportunities, however there were no ongoing budgetary funds from government sources identified. He suggested that staff look at what funding sources other municipalities use.

Mr. Chaffey suggested that the Metro Transit Passenger Profiles presentation be delivered to the Provincial government, to point out service and funding deficiencies in the transit system.

Mr. Chaffey further indicated that a survey of license plates in the new park and ride terminal was previously suggested. It was noted that plate numbers could be recorded and sent to the Registry of Motor Vehicles to find out registered owner addresses, to determine where riders are travelling from.

Mr. Lawrie inquired whether this initiative would be costly and suggested that if so, it only be done if it will provide useful information. He indicated that he has an email regarding how to bring forward provincial and federal subsidy funding deficiencies to the attention of Community Council in an appropriate form, which he will locate and forward to members.

MOVED by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. Alain Bourgeois, that staff undertake a license plate survey of the Sackville Park and Ride Terminal to determine where users reside. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Robar indicated that the programs outlined in the report are pursued every year, where the program is an annual funding opportunity, or at every opportunity, where the program requires a project to be showcased. He noted that he will keep the Committee updated on the program applications.

7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS

7.1 NEW BUSINESS - None

7.2 ADDED ITEMS

7.2.1 Letter to NWTAC from Ms. Deborah Ward, #83 Transit Rider

C Correspondence dated June 20, 2006 to the NWTAC from Ms. Deborah Ward was presented to the Chair. A copy of this correspondence is on file.

The Chair read the letter aloud to Committee members.

After a brief discussion by Committee members regarding Ms. Ward's transit difficulties, Mr. Robar advised that an earlier route 83 time is being added in August. He indicated that he would look at options for Ms. Ward and contact her directly to advise.

It was requested that the Sackville Metro Link scheduling be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

7.2.2 Pedestrian Lights

The Chair indicated that he was advised that Councillor Mosher has requested of staff a report on the pedestrian countdown lights previously discussed by the Committee. It was indicated that the report will be distributed to members for their information. Mr. Chaffey noted that he received an email regarding pedestrian countdown lights from Councillor Goucher, which he will forward to Committee members for their information.

7.2.3 AVM GPS

Mr. Robar indicated that staff are working on having GPS tracking systems installed in Metro Transit buses, noting the following:

- C the target completion time line for the BRT buses is by September, and the rest of the fleet will be completed during the winter,
- C the Go Time system will also be updated with GPS real time data,
- C a trip planning module will be available on the HRM website,
- C the trip planning software is being specially developed for HRM by Aliant/X-Wave,
- C approximately 50 remote video terminal displays will be installed throughout HRM,
- C the system will provide accurate, interactive information and will be a better product for the customer,
- C Go Time numbers at bus stops may have to be changed.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2006.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant