

**NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**JANUARY 15, 2003**

THOSE PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair  
                          Gunther Seyffarth  
                          Ron McKinnon  
                          Councillor Johns

ALSO PRESENT:           Kenny Silver, Planning, Transit Services  
                                  Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

Regrets:                    Bill Chaffey

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	Call to Order .....	3
2.	Approval of Minutes - December 11, 2002 .....	3
3.	Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions ....	3
4.	Business Arising Out of the Minutes	
4.1	Commuter Rail Committee Update .....	3
4.2	Proposed Park and Ride in Upper Sackville Area .....	3
4.3	Route Numbers on Backs of Buses .....	4
4.4	Transit Service to the Halifax International Airport .....	4
4.5	Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park from Sackville .....	4
4.6	Route 86 Delays Outbound .....	5
4.7	Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion .....	5
4.8	Status of Beaver Bank Bypass .....	5
4.9	Bus Shelter Vandalism .....	5
4.10	Traffic Problems - Intersections of Spring Garden and Barrington and Spring Garden and Summer Street .....	5
5.	New Business	
5.1	Replacement Buses .....	6
5.2	Overcrowding on Route 84 a.m. Peak .....	6
5.3	Route 87 .....	6
5.4	Route 82 Saturdays .....	6
5.5	Transit Passes .....	7
5.6	Proposed Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road .....	7
5.7	Budget 2003/04 .....	7
5.8	Membership .....	7
6.	Next Meeting Date .....	7
7.	Adjournment .....	7

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Charles Fenerty Room, Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - DECEMBER 11, 2002**

**MOVED by Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Councillor Johns to approve the Minutes of meeting held on December 11, 2002 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. **APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

The Order of Business was approved with the addition of items under Item 5.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Commuter Rail Committee Update**

There was no new information available. The Clerk was asked to check with Mayor Kelly to find out the status or who to contact otherwise.

Gunther Seyffarth indicated that he had a tape available providing information on commuter rail in Germany and asked if the Committee would be interested in viewing it.

The Clerk was asked to find out if video equipment would be available for a future meeting, with the understanding that the presentation would not be more than 10 minutes long.

Phillip Cox asked for an update on climate change dollars from the Federal government. In response, Kenny Silver advised that staff continues to follow up on this matter because HRM is on a short list of 15. He felt there could be an announcement regarding programs in the near future.

4.2 **Proposed Park and Ride in Upper Sackville Area**

Councillor Johns advised that he considered Weir Field but did not know what kind of ridership would result from that location. He felt that the former Middle Sackville School site where the 50+ Club and Beacon House is located would be a good site for a Park and Ride. The former school site is owned by the Municipality. Beacon House is now actively looking at purchasing a building in another area. At least half the building was going to come down

regardless. He did not know if the remainder of the building would be of any use, or just the land itself.

Gunther Seyffarth spoke in favour of some kind of building being kept on the 50+ site. Discussion then took place on the pros and cons of having a building - a presence, possible vandalism - and the possibility of some kind of coffee shop for the location.

Discussion then took place on whether or not Transit Services permitted covered coffee cups on the bus. Committee members were referred to pages 2 and 3 of the Rider's Guide which indicated in part that "While Metro Transit may offer the sale of coffee, beverages and food at some terminals for the convenience of passengers, this is meant to be enjoyed while waiting for the bus, not to be consumed on the bus itself." This rule was because of safety and legal issues.

Question arose as to which HRM department would be handling the property in Middle Sackville being vacated by 50+ and Beacon House. After discussion, Kenny Silver agreed to contact Phil Townsend, adding that in conjunction with enhancing Park and Ride at the Sackville end, service going in and out the highway should be enhanced as well.

#### **4.3 Route Numbers on Backs of Buses**

Kenny Silver advised that route numbers should be on all buses that do not have electronic numbers.

#### **4.4 Transit Service to Halifax International Airport**

As requested, Kenny Silver contacted CUTA for information on other municipalities operating transit to the airport. CUTA advised that Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver and Dorval in Montreal were the only airports with transit service.

Discussion took place. Subsequently, Councillor Johns agreed to bring this matter up at Regional Council and ask for a staff report on the feasibility of such a service.

#### **4.5 Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park from Sackville**

As requested, Kenny Silver approached staff regarding whether or not HRM has any counts, estimates or census information that would estimate the daily travel activity between Sackville and/or Bedford to Bayers Lake Business Park. Mr. Silver advised that Marcus Garnet, Planner was working on this and he hoped that information would be available for the next meeting.

Kenny Silver added that the crosstown route recommended in the Transit Study would begin operation in May from Bayers Lake Business Park to Burnside and return. It would operate every half hour.

#### **4.6 Route 86 Delays Outbound**

Kenny Silver advised he had checked and found there are problems with all the routes coming down Spring Garden Road and onto Barrington at peak time in the afternoon. There was also a problem with the turn from Summer Street onto Spring Garden Road. For more information see 4.10 below.

#### **4.7 Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion**

Phillip Cox expressed concern with traffic congestion because of the snow and traffic is increasing. He advised he felt congestion would get worse once the apartment buildings are built behind the Cobequid Terminal. He further provided information on the owners of land in the area and the possibility of a land swap.

Kenny Silver agreed to check on the possibility of a land swap.

#### **4.8 Status of Beaver Bank Bypass**

As requested, the Clerk questioned David McCusker as to whether or not the Beaver Bank Bypass is on an HRM priority list. Mr. McCusker responded that as part of the Regional Planning process, three categories were developed and the Beaver Bank Bypass project is in the third category. The status of the Beaver Bank Bypass on the third category was not known.

After discussion, it was agreed that the Bypass is a provincial responsibility but that a Park and Ride in conjunction was important. The time to push this would be during a provincial election campaign. This item will stay on Business Arising.

#### **4.9 Bus Shelter Vandalism**

As requested, Kenny Silver approached Viacom regarding shelter vandalism. Viacom indicated that there is a program with Crime Stoppers to discourage shelter vandalism and they are developing a program with the Police as well. Part of the program would include decals with a number to call if anyone wishes to report an incident.

#### **4.10 Traffic Problems - Intersections of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road and Summer Street**

Kenny Silver advised that Traffic Services was doing a delay study for both intersections. He hoped that the information would be available for the next meeting.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Replacement Buses**

Twenty of the 32 low-floor replacement buses ordered have arrived. Comparison of bus seating capacity is as follows:

Average seating capacity of regular buses - 48 seated load  
Seating capacity of articulated buses - 72 seated load  
Existing low floor buses - 36 seated load  
New low floor buses - 36 seated load

Phillip Cox asked if Transit Services would hold onto some of the older buses. In response, Kenny Silver advised the problem is that most of them are over 25 years old and it becomes a mechanical question. Transit Services will be carefully looking at the routes the new buses will cover.

Phillip Cox stated that the status quo might be maintained as far as the number of buses was concerned; however, there was the loss of seating involved. This was particularly important when it pertains to runs to Bedford/Sackville.

On a question as to when additional new buses would be ordered, Kenny Silver advised the tendering process which could see new buses starting in November. He further advised that it was a corporate decision to retire the old buses at this time.

Councillor Johns asked if some of the retiring buses would be used for Community Transit. In response, Kenny Silver advised that some Community Transit buses could be retired and the old buses would be new to them.

5.2 **Overcrowding on Route 84 a.m. Peak**

Phillip Cox expressed concern re overcrowding on Route 84 for 6:10 a.m. and 6:40 a.m. Kenny Silver agreed to pass this concern on to Operations.

5.3 **Route 87**

It appears that buses are going into Highfield Park during peak hours when they are not supposed to. As well, there are problems with the 87 not connecting with the 82 during off peak hours because it goes into Highfield Park. Kenny Silver agreed to check.

5.4 **Route 82 Saturdays**

Phillip Cox outlined scheduling conflicts for Route 82 on Saturdays. Kenny Silver agreed to check and see if changes could be made for the May schedule.

5.5 **Transit Passes**

Ron McKinnon asked for information on kinds of passes issued by Transit Services. In response, Kenny Silver advised that Transit Services has Convention Passes which are purchased by organizations but there are no day passes or family passes. The fare structure is under review at this time.

5.6 **Proposed Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road**

Gunther Seyffarth asked the status of this proposed shelter. Kenny Silver advised that ten shelters have been approved throughout the Municipality. He had provided Councillor Johns with costs of a glass shelter. Mr. Silver suggested there might be other locations in the area as well that should be considered and he would contact Councillor Johns with the information before the next meeting.

5.7 **Budget 2003/04**

Kenny Silver advised that Transit Services staff are working hard to ensure that recommendations from the Transit Study are built into the budget. Councillor Johns indicated that he understood Transit would have a large role in the upcoming budget.

5.8 **Membership**

The Clerk advised that Alastair Lawrie had been appointed to the Committee by Community Council to represent District 21 (Bedford). Because the appointment had only taken place the day before the meeting, Mr. Lawrie was not able to attend this meeting.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, February 19, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute  
Legislative Assistant