

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

APRIL 16, 2003

THOSE PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair
Gunther Seyffarth
Ron McKinnon
Alastair Lawrie
Troy Mitchell
Councillor Brad Johns

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

Regrets: Bill Chaffey

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Charles Fenerty Room, Sackville Library, 636 Sackville Drive, Lower Sackville.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The Minutes were not available.

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

The agenda was approved with the addition of items as agreed during the meeting.

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

4.1 **Commuter Rail Committee Update**

No report.

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

Councillor Johns advised that he and Kenny Silver were going to go for a site visit to the Middle Sackville School site; however, he recommended it would be better to wait until the groups occupying the building at present have moved out. This would allow for a better look at the property.

On a question from Gunther Seyffarth re bus service to the proposed Sackville Heights Community Centre, Councillor Johns advised that bus service will not be considered until it is known what groups/organizations will be going there for sure.

4.3 **Transit Service to Halifax International Airport**

Kenny Silver advised that the report Regional Council requested on January 28, 2003 has not been prepared as yet because staff was still waiting for a response in writing from the Airport Authority. He advised that a response had been received from the Utility and Review Board who indicated that if Metro Transit was going to carry luggage, then luggage-carrying buses were required.

As far as the Airport Authority is concerned, Kenny Silver advised that he met with Airport representatives and had been advised that the airport's contract with Zinck is up shortly and

they will be re-tendering in the next few months. There might be an opportunity to have service to Sackville as part of a new tender. He indicated there were sensitivities with taking transit to the airport such as curb fees and competition with taxis and limousines. He was waiting for confirmation in writing from the Airport Authority.

Councillor Johns advised that when he took the matter to Regional Council, Regional Council indicated it was not interested but did agree to request a Staff Report. He provided further information on what transpired at Regional Council when he brought the matter forward. Discussion then took place on Regional Council's position on the issue.

The Committee then discussed at length how to proceed at this time. The Committee considered the following:

- A recommendation to Community Council regarding a request to include ground transportation to Bedford/Sackville as part of the airport's re-tendering process.
- Whether or not service to the airport is included in regional planning issues.
- Whether or not to request a feasibility study.
- The possibility of making a presentation to Regional Council.
- If the Airport Authority has a Mission Statement.

Subsequently, it was agreed that Kenny Silver would call Wayne Black at the Airport Authority and find out when the official response in writing will be provided. As well at the same time, Kenny Silver would request information on the tender package coming out in the next couple months.

It was also agreed that Ron McKinnon would contact the Winnipeg airport to find out how close their airport is to the downtown core of Winnipeg.

Ultimately, it was agreed to wait until the report is received by Regional Council before proceeding further.

4.4 Transit Service To Bayers Lake Business Park from Bedford/Sackville

No new information.

4.5 Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion

Troy Mitchell asked for clarification of the use of the car pool parking area as there is a sign which indicates car pool parking. Kenny Silver advised that the non-paved parking lot is owned by Department of Transportation and is for car pooling but they have allowed HRM to use it. The paved lot is for park and ride.

Kenny Silver then went on to advise that the Municipality has been short listed for the Federal Urban Transportation Showcase Program. If successful, HRM's Showcase proposal would include Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) service between Sackville and Peninsula Halifax. A presentation will be made to Regional Council.

Councillor Johns suggested that a letter from this Committee would be in order in support of the application. Kenny Silver will draft a letter for the Chairman's signature.

Phillip Cox suggested, if the apartment complex is not going to be constructed soon, it might be possible to lease some of that area on a temporary basis. In response, Kenny Silver provided information on ownership of different parcels in proximity.

Question arose as to whether or not planning is taking place to provide service to the new Cobequid facility and what will happen to the old Cobequid Multi Service Centre building and area. There was also mention of a new Northwood Facility to be located in the Duke Street area of Bedford. Kenny Silver agreed to follow up with appropriate staff to find out what is happening.

4.6 **Status of Beaver Bank ByPass**

No new information.

4.7 **Traffic Problems - Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road and Summer Street**

The study has been completed but the results have not been received. It was hoped to have the information available for the next meeting.

4.8 **Proposed Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road**

After discussion on whether or not the bus shelter approved in the budget should be placed in the Fenerty Road location or at the former Middle Sackville School, the Fenerty Road location was recommended. It was expected that the glass shelter would be installed by late summer. On a question as to whether or not the shelter would be lit, it was suggested that there might be a way to light it off a pole in the vicinity.

4.9 **Route 87 and Highfield Park**

Discussion took place on the purpose of the 87 which is to provide direct service to and from Sackville. The pickup only/drop off only policy is meant to avoid lengthening trip time by reducing duplication of existing Halifax/Dartmouth service. Kenny Silver agreed to provide

a report on capacity and frequency for the next meeting. There was reference to a Policy for Route 87 available on the website.

4.10 **Route 80 on Sundays**

Kenny Silver advised that an inspector looked at the issue of overcrowding but did not notice any particular problems. It was concluded that overcrowding could take place for special events. He indicated that in May, Route 18 would be operating as part of the U Pass program to the Mount and this might take off some of the demand on the 80. As to low floors being used on the 80 run, he would check into this.

4.11 **Proposed Park and Ride at Beaver Bank**

The Clerk was asked to contact Tom Crouse in Real Estate to see if it would be possible to use the lands by the tracks in Beaver Bank for a park and ride. This area was supposed to be considered for commuter rail.

4.12 **Corporate Discounts**

Transit Services has lobbied that the benefit from an employer providing bus passes as opposed to an employer providing free parking should be treated the same. Presently, it is a taxable benefit if an employer provides free bus passes.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Transit Service - Sackville to Dartmouth**

E-mail information was provided by a resident of Sackville checking into service from Sackville to the Community College at Akerley Campus. Discussion took place. Kenny Silver advised he had contacted the Call Centre with correct routing. He agreed to follow up with Mr. Reath, the resident, to make sure Mr. Reath has been given the correct information.

Discussion then took place on the proposal for a new Community College in Woodside. This will be kept on the agenda as a long range item. In the meantime, Kenny Silver will follow up to find out information on the project.

5.2 **Vandalism Signage at Local Shelter**

Ron McKinnon remarked that vandalism signage has been put up; however, the signs themselves are being vandalized.

Kenny Silver advised that the signs should have been on the back of the shelter with front-facing stickers.

5.3 New Years Eve Free Service - No Service To Sackville

Gunther Seyffarth advised he was referring to the fact that Route 83 service was not provided last year.

Route 83 service will be added for next year.

5.4 Other Park and Rides

With regard to Downsview Park and Ride, Gunther Seyffarth advised that the signs are missing. Kenny Silver advised he understood that Metro Transit provided temporary signage that the mall could use until the Park and Ride can be moved back to its permanent location. He would follow up to find out why the mall is not using the signage to direct people to the correct place to park.

Troy Mitchell referred to both the Park and Ride at the Village at Bayers Road and the Mumford Terminal. He advised it was difficult to find the correct parking locations. He also advised that at Bayers Road Shopping Centre, you must go to the Information Desk between certain hours to get identification as a bus user. These hours do not coincide with when someone would be parking their car to go to work.

Kenny Silver agreed to follow up with both the Bayers Road and Mumford locations.

5.5 Other Items

Troy Mitchell provided suggestions to improve service on the 87 at 6:45 a.m. and the 84 leaving downtown and at Barrington and North at 4:10. Kenny Silver took the information and will look into same.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

Wednesday, May 21, 2003.

7. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute

Legislative Assistant