

**NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**SEPTEMBER 17, 2003**

THOSE PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair  
Troy Mitchell  
Ron McKinnon  
Gunther Seyffarth  
Bill Chaffey

ALSO PRESENT: Eddie Robar, Schedule Planner, Metro Transit  
Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

Regrets: Councillor Johns  
Alastair Lawrie

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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 - JUNE 18, 2003**

**MOVED by Ron McKinnon, seconded by Bill Chaffey to approve the Minutes of meeting held on June 18, 2003 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee dealt with New Business as outlined on the Agenda along with other new items during the course of the meeting. Business Arising items were also dealt with randomly. For the sake of order, the items are listed as per the Agenda and added items.

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

4.1 **Commuter Rail Committee Update**

No new information. To be moved to Long Term Issues.

4.2 **URB Requirements for Buses**

Phillip Cox indicated he had not sent the letter as agreed because he understood there was going to be a change in the legislation that would change the requirement for access to both front and back doors. This could change the seating configuration.

4.3 **Route 86 Complaints**

Eddie Robar advised he is looking at alternatives for the outbound trip for the November schedule.

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

The Clerk advised that Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager of Traffic and Transportation indicated that he was willing to attend a meeting but was unable to attend the September meeting.

The Committee was advised that David McCusker, Regional Planning indicated that the intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street is one of three intersections being considered for a pedestrian-only (scramble) phase which would address pedestrian conflict at this intersection.

The Clerk will contact Taso Koutroulakis again to see if he is available for the next meeting.

#### 4.5 **Route 87 - Capacity and Frequency**

The route is picking up and dropping off everywhere except during peak hours.

Troy Mitchell expressed concern that the 87 is getting gridlocked at the Dartmouth Terminal in the morning for as much as five minutes. Eddie Robar will check.

#### 4.6 **Cleaning of Buses**

Transit staff advised that the present schedule is that a bus receives a complete interior wash every 12 weeks. The buses are swept out and the step area cleaned every night. Each night every bus receives a certain task to be performed by the Hostlers (Mondays - fill washer bottles, Tuesdays - wipe and wax dashes, Thursdays - clean handrails, Fridays - other duties such as clean windows, clean operator area. Staff was looking at avenues to try to reduce the 12-week period for the complete interior wash.

Troy Mitchell stated that maintenance of buses should also be part of the issue. He suggested that a staff member from Fleet Services be asked to attend a meeting to discuss concerns re cleaning and maintenance of buses. As stated previously, he indicated that his biggest concern at this time was with the handrails; in his opinion, they should be cleaned daily but they are done once a week.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Paul Beauchamp, Manager of Fleet Services to request that a representative attend an upcoming meeting.

#### 4.7 **Traffic Holdups due to Construction**

No concerns raised.

#### 4.8 **Park and Rides**

##### 4.8.1 **Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion**

Eddie Robar advised that he had checked with Kenny Silver who indicated that the stop sign was erected in that particular location because there was a through street.

The Clerk advised she had checked with Development Services who indicated that the developer had applied for HRM to take over the road - Legacy Court - which would no doubt happen within the next couple weeks. No permits have been issued for building construction.

#### 4.8.2 Beaver Bank Park and Ride

Troy Mitchell raised the issue of replacing Community Transit for Beaver Bank with transit service. After discussion, it was agreed that this would be part of the provision of a Park and Ride for Beaver Bank.

#### 4.8.3 Upper Sackville Park and Ride

No new information.

#### 4.8.4 Downsview Park and Ride

Transit staff met with representatives of Downsview Mall in August; however, there has been no further contact since then. The signs are not in yet. Pavement marking is also being considered. The proposal is to relocate to the first two parking rows immediately opposite the existing bus stop and shelter. There are 16 parking spaces in the first row and 18 parking spaces in the second row.

#### 4.8.5 Other Park and Rides

No new information.

### 4.9 **Long Range Issues**

#### 4.9.1 Status of Beaver Bank Bypass

No new information.

#### 4.9.2 Future Service for New Cobequid Multi-Service Facility

Kenny Silver met with the developer and the design will include bus access.

#### 4.9.3 New Use for Present Cobequid Multi-Service Centre

Phillip Cox advised he had checked but there were no firm plans at this time for use of the present Cobequid Multi-Service Centre.

4.9.4 Future Service for New Recreation Facility in Bedford

Plans are for bus service to run into the planned development. There will not be any bus stops on Duke Street.

4.9.5 Future Service for New Community College in Woodside

No firm plans are available as yet in this regard.

4.9.6 Transit Service to Halifax International Airport

No new information.

4.9.7 Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park from Sackville

This is on the list for consideration.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Regional Planning Workbook**

Ms. Erica Tiffany, Regional Planning circulated copies of the Regional Planning "Directing the Action" Workbook and reviewed same. She requested that Committee members take the time to fill out the workbook and send it back. Workbooks are also on line and Committee members can fill them in this way as opposed to hard copy. The Workbooks are due by October 6, 2003.

5.2 **Bus Shelter on Bedford Highway - MSVU**

Phillip Cox expressed concern that the bus shelter at the Mount main entrance on the railway side is too small for the number of students and there is no way to protect them when it is raining because the bus shelter is too open.

Eddie Robar agreed to put this matter on the list for shelters for the next budget year. Phillip Cox, however, asked if something could be done in the interim and Mr. Robar agreed to check.

Bill Chaffey pointed out that the bus shelter in question is not located in the right place and consideration should be given to this as well.

### 5.3 **U Passes**

Eddie Robar updated the Committee on the implementation of the U Passes. He advised that problems have been encountered which staff are working through. There were not enough buses available. The next round of 12 new buses will have a higher seating capacity. Some will be replacement buses. There will be 26 more buses coming after the 12 new buses. He provided information on five 500 series buses purchased from British Columbia.

### 5.4 **Route 85**

Eddie Robar advised that Metro Transit received a Petition from residents living in the apartments on Old Sackville Road behind Downsview requesting service to Old Sackville Road by rerouting the 85 to the Walker Connector. He asked for input from the Committee as to this proposal.

Discussion then took place, particularly with regard to former service in this area and how the bus could be rerouted. This would be for both the morning and evening service.

**MOVED by Bill Chaffey, seconded by Ron McKinnon to endorse the proposal to reroute Route 85 to the Walker Connector area. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### 5.5 **Service to Former Sackville Heights Elementary School**

Gunther Seyffarth asked the status of a proposal to provide service to the above location when it becomes a community centre. In response, Eddie Robar indicated there were operational issues in this regard. He would find out the status from Kenny Silver.

### 5.6 **Service to Shannon Park**

Troy Mitchell asked the status of service to Shannon Park since Shannon Park will be closing. In response, Eddie Robar advised that there would be no more service to Shannon Park effective with the November schedule.

### 5.7 **Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road**

The pad work has been done. The shelter has been ordered and should be installed within the next couple months.

5.8 **Membership**

Alastair Lawrie advised the Clerk that he had moved from Bedford to Millwood; however, he indicated a willingness to continue to serve on the Committee. The Clerk advised that there was no vacancy for District 19 at this time. She intended to bring this issue forward to North West Community Council for consideration.

5.9 **Urban Showcase Proposal**

The outcome should be known by the end of the month.

5.10 **Route 82 Service**

Phillip Cox provided information on Saturday service for Route 82 which indicated that with every connection there was a half hour wait to link with Route 80. As well, Route 87 leaves before the 82 gets to Cobequid. Eddie Robar agreed to review the information.

Discussion took place on additional service to Halifax for Route 82 and Route 87. Bill Chaffey supported additional Route 82 service to Halifax because it would be an improvement to service for Bedford; however, he pointed out that Route 87 would not.

There was also discussion on the use of low floors on Route 82. Eddie Robar advised that there will be new accessible routes implemented in November and low floors will be required for these. This could limit the use of low floors on other routes.

5.11 **Appointment of Chair and Vice-Chair**

**MOVED by Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Ron McKinnon that Phillip Cox remain as Chair and that Bill Chaffey remain as Vice-Chair of the Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, October 15, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute  
Legislative Assistant