

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

OCTOBER 16, 2003

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

ALSO PRESENT: Eddie Robar, Schedule Planner, Transit Services
Taso Koutroulakis, A/Manager, Traffic and Transportation
Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

Regrets: Bill Chaffey

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m. in the LeBrun Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford.

The Clerk advised that North West Community Council, at its meeting held on September 25, 2003, endorsed the continuation of Alastair Lawrie's appointment as a member of North West Transit Advisory Committee representing District 21 Bedford even though he has moved out of the District.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - SEPTEMBER 17, 2003**

MOVED by Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Ron McKinnon to approve the Minutes of meeting held on September 17, 2003 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. **INPUT FROM TRAFFIC AND TRANSPORTATION SERVICES**

Taso Koutroulakis, A/Manager of Traffic and Transportation Services was in attendance to provide input on the following items as well as provide general information to the Committee concerning traffic and transportation issues.

3.1 **Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street**

Mr. Koutroulakis provided information on annual traffic counts carried out and advised that a delay study was carried out for Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street as part of this. The delay study indicated that it was not pedestrians but traffic backing up on Barrington Street that was creating the problem. Staff has been asked to look into whether or not improvements can be made on Barrington Street to improve the progression of traffic. He then provided information on the completed Phase 1 of a Consultants Study of 40 intersections and Phase 2 which will look at models of downtown to deal with congestion issues.

A question and answer period ensued on this issue.

3.2 **Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Summer Street**

Committee members provided information to Mr. Koutroulakis on the problems being encountered at this intersection re the issue of congestion and getting the 80 Series buses turning left through this particular intersection.

After discussion, Mr. Koutroulakis agreed to contact Doug Mosher, Senior Service Supervisor, Transit Services with regard to carrying out a left turn study this fall.

3.3 **Development of Apartment Buildings behind Cobequid Park and Ride**

Committee Members provided Mr. Koutroulakis with information regarding their concerns re additional traffic congestion at this location once the apartments are built and also concern re the placement of the stop sign just recently.

Mr. Koutroulakis responded that the stop sign can be relocated once the development is completed if deemed necessary. It would also be necessary to wait to see the impact of the development on traffic congestion.

3.4 **Traffic Congestion due to Construction**

There was a general discussion regarding the impact of construction on traffic, particularly during peak hours.

3.5 **Akerley Drive and Windmill Road**

Committee members provided Mr. Koutroulakis with information on concerns in this area, including Magazine Hill. Mr. Koutroulakis responded that this area was part of the Showcase Proposal which involves BRT from Sackville to Burnside and BRT from Cole Harbour as well. The proposal is to provide an exclusive lane for buses. Consideration was also being given to a Transit Priority Signal which would allow the bus to proceed before the light turns green for other traffic but this is waiting on approval of legislation by the province.

As to the Showcase Proposal, Eddie Robar advised that a decision has been delayed once again.

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

4.1 **Route 87 Gridlock**

Eddie Robar contacted Doug Mosher regarding the 87 getting jammed up in traffic inside the Bridge Terminal at 7:09 a.m. and asked that Mr. Mosher request the service supervisors to look at this situation and recommend a possible solution.

Eddie Robar provided a copy of a Notice to Operators from Mr. Mosher which indicated that operators on layover at this location are encouraged to be aware of buses possibly stuck behind front end buses. If the operator observes a departure caught in a lineup, the operator is requested to circle around and re-enter the Bridge Terminal to await their proper departure time.

4.2 Cleaning of Buses

Paul Beauchamp, Manager of Fleet Services will be asked to attend the next meeting.

4.3 Bus Shelter - Bedford Highway at MSVU

No information provided.

4.4 Service to Former Sackville Heights Elementary School

Eddie Robar advised that Transit Services had a concern with the Connolly Road intersection.

Councillor Johns advised that there were already a number of groups using the facility and there was a need for service. With regard to signalization, he and Councillor Harvey would be willing to contribute to a priority signal light. Provision of this light was very important.

4.5 Route 82 Service

Eddie Robar is reviewing 82 connections with other routes.

4.6 Park and Rides

4.6.1 Beaver Bank Park and Ride

No new information.

4.6.2 Upper Sackville Park and Ride

Councillor Johns advised that the former Middle Sackville School building has been sold by HRM. Transit Services was not interested in the property at this time.

Councillor Johns went on to advise that it appeared there could be an Armoyan CDD coming forward for consideration which would be adjacent to the location of the proposed Beaver Bank ByPass. If it went forward as a CDD, consideration should be given to creating a Park and Ride at this location.

MOVED by Councillor Johns, seconded by Gunther Seyffarth that appropriate staff in Planning Department be advised that if there is a development going forward in that location through a CDD Agreement, there should be some consideration given to creating a Park and Ride. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

It was pointed out that during the CDD process, there was every expectation that public meetings would be held with regard to the application.

4.6.3 Downsview Park and Ride

Eddie Robar reported that consideration is being given to a Park and Ride in the area of Wheatons on the Walker Connector Road. As well, he reported that Route 85 was now rerouted to the Walker Connector area.

4.7 Long Range Issues

No new information on any of these issues.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road

The pad should be in place shortly. The shelter has been ordered. Councillor Johns recommended that Lexan glass be used. Eddie Robar will contact Kenny Silver regarding the use of Lexan glass. The shelter should be completed by Christmas.

5.2 Bus Schedules

Phillip Cox expressed concern that all the 80 Series buses are running late. Concern was expressed by the Committee that it appeared that the 80 Series buses were being shortchanged when there was a shortage of buses. In response, Eddie Robar advised that with the February schedule, top priority will be given to service for Route 80. He indicated that there would be increased service to Sackville due to an increase in the budget and the fact that seven of the new buses coming would be expansion buses. He added that with the November schedule, Routes 9, 6 and 66 would need low floor accessible buses, leaving more regular buses for the Sackville routes.

There was a general discussion about problems with the present service and specific mention made of the following:

- Route 86 late in the morning
- Driver-related incidents re 87 and 84
- Route 84 service with a bus with no sway bar
- Route 82 bus stop sign missing on Nappan Drive
- Route 82 leaving at 4:05 running 15 minutes late
- Route 35 at 4:16 bus not showing up

5.3 **Access A Bus**

Councillor Johns questioned Access A Bus policies regarding the number of kilometres away from a bus stop for Access A Bus service. He cited an incident which is happening in the Fenerty Road/Springfield Lake area. Councillor Johns then provided information on the proximity of transit having an effect on the tax rate.

Eddie Robar agreed to provide Kevin Hindle, Supervisor, Special Services, Transit Services with the information and ask for a response.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, November 19, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute
Assistant Municipal Clerk