

**NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**MINUTES**

**NOVEMBER 19, 2003**

THOSE PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair  
Alastair Lawrie  
Ron McKinnon  
Bill Chaffey  
Gunther Seyffarth

ALSO PRESENT: Eddie Robar, Schedule Planner, Metro Transit  
Geoff Wright, Project Manager, Metro Transit  
Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

Regrets: Troy Mitchell

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:10 p.m. in the LeBrun Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Bedford.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - OCTOBER 16, 2003**

**MOVED by Alastair Lawrie, seconded by Ron McKinnon to approve the Minutes of meeting held on October 16, 2003 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. **PRESENTATION RE NEW COLE HARBOUR TRANSIT TERMINAL**

Mr. Geoff Wright, Project Manager, Metro Transit circulated a Fact Sheet with a proposed site plan of the new Cole Harbour Transit Terminal. Facts on the proposal include:

- Location - Portland Street at Portland Hills Drive and Regal Road
- Bus Access to Terminal via Bus Actuated Signal on Portland Street
- Park and Ride Access via Portland Hills Drive
- 8 Bus Platforms
- Terminal Building includes passenger waiting space and amenities along with bus operator facilities.
- 180 Park and Ride spaces
- Cost is \$700,000.
- Opening Spring 2004

Following Mr. Wright's presentation, a question and answer period ensued. Additional information from this discussion includes:

- Staff has proceeded to the detail design phase which will take until mid-January. Tender will be ready in February and should be awarded in March. Construction should start in April.
- Planning Department has had input and did not have any concerns about zoning of the land in question.
- The new terminal will enhance the Penhorn Terminal and allow Metro Transit to focus on changes in service.
- This new terminal is being constructed first because of land availability, the BRT recommendations from the Transit Study and ridership. It will go ahead regardless of whether or not the Showcase proposal is approved.
- Something similar to this concept will be considered for Sackville if the Showcase proposal is approved. The Showcase funds have not been announced yet.

#### 4. **MAINTENANCE AND CLEANING OF BUSES**

Paul Beauchamp, Manager of Fleet Services, had been invited to attend the meeting and provide input into the maintenance and cleaning of buses. Mr. Beauchamp, however, would not be attending but had provided Eddie Robar with information to pass on to the Committee. Mr. Robar provided the following information on behalf of Mr. Beauchamp:

- Yes, the buses are not as clean as they once were. There is a staff shortage and they are trying to compensate for this. They hope to clean four a night but because the cleaners also have to help fuel the buses, sometimes just three a night are cleaned. They are trying to resolve the staffing situation at this time but they are having a hard time meeting their quota for bus cleaning.
- It was not known whether the problem was the inability to find people or budget restraints.

The Committee discussed whether or not it would be appropriate at this time to write a letter to express support for additional staff to clean buses. It was agreed that Eddie Robar would check first to see whether or not the situation is caused by a staff shortage or budget problems and when it was expected to be back to the normal standard. Once this is known, the Committee could decide whether or not to write a letter of support.

It was pointed out by Alastair Lawrie that the situation could become even worse once new buses are received which will add to the number of buses needing to be cleaned.

#### 5. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

5.1 **Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road** - No new information.

5.2 **Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road and Summer Street**

Bill Chaffey referred to the Minutes which stated that the delay study indicated that it was not pedestrians but traffic backing up on Barrington Street creating the problem. He indicated he found this hard to believe.

Discussion then took place. Discussion included:

- The problem could be caused by pedestrians earlier along the route.
- The installation of the parking metres along Barrington Street were the cause of some delays because they affect the traffic flow along Barrington Street.
- Parked delivery trucks also affect traffic flow.

Question arose as to whether or not the delayed time along Barrington Street was built into the schedule. In response, Eddie Robar advised that he was starting to build the delay along Barrington Street into the schedule. Everything now will take 15 minutes from Duke to Summer Street. He agreed to check with Kenny Silver to obtain history on how the parking metres were installed along Barrington Street.

Eddie Robar also agreed to check with Taso Koutroulakis, Traffic and Transportation to see what has been planned for the intersection of Barrington and Spring Garden and the timing of Phase 2 of the study which will look at models of downtown to deal with congestion issues.

### 5.3 **Bus Shelter - Bedford Highway at MSVU**

Eddie Robar went on a site visit. He advised of some options considered but that the only viable option would be to move the shelter further up towards Bedford but it would be out of the bus bay.

Bill Chaffey suggested opening up the ends of the shelter instead. In response, Eddie Robar advised he thought that the ends held the structure up but he would check to see if it would be possible.

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

No new information. Councillor Johns was not in attendance.

### 5.5 **Bus Schedules - Concerns with 80 Series Buses**

1. 86 late in the morning. Doug Mosher is checking into this.
2. Problem with driver of 82 outbound. Might be some riders missed because driver was ahead of schedule.
3. 12 new buses for the May schedule to correspond with the opening of the Cole Harbour Terminal. Seven are expansion buses. They will be low floor but not low floor accessible and have 10 more seats.

### 5.6 **Access A Bus**

An e-mail response was received from Kevin Hindle, Supervisor Special Services, Metro Transit re the service area of Access A Bus, the fact that individual situations could not be reviewed and that Access A Bus uses the assistance of taxis to transport work group clients and adult day care clients only.

Phillip Cox indicated the response was not satisfactory. It was suggested that Mr. Hindle should be invited to attend a future meeting, one reason being that the tax issue was not addressed. In the meantime, however, the Clerk agreed to obtain a copy of the Access A Bus Policy.

## 5.7 **Park and Rides**

5.7.1 Beaver Bank Park and Ride - No new information.

5.7.2 Upper Sackville Park and Ride - No new information.

5.7.3 Downsview Park and Ride

The Park and Ride site should be up and running by December 1. It will be in the same location behind the terminal with 32 spots and no one will have to cross the street.

The proposed changes in routing for the 85 have been put in place. Route 85 will not service the shelter by Canadian Tire.

5.7.4 Cobequid Park and Ride - No new information.

## 5.8 **Long Range Issues**

5.8.1 Status of Beaver Bank Bypass - No new information.

5.8.2 Future Service to New Cobequid Health Centre

Construction has started. There are no plans to change any routes at this time. Eddie Robar indicated he has seen a preliminary plan and will check to see if plans are available.

5.8.3 New Use for Present Cobequid Multi-Service Centre

The facility belongs to the Capital Health District. It would have to be declared surplus first.

5.8.4 Future Service for New Recreation Facility in Bedford - No new information.

5.8.5 Future Service for New Community College in Woodside

It is expected that the Bell Road facility would be shut down by September, 2005.

5.8.6 Transit Service to Halifax International Airport

There has been no response from Reg Milley.

5.8.7 Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park from Sackville - No new information.

5.8.8 Commuter Rail Committee - No new information.

6. **NEW BUSINESS**

6.1 **NWTAC Minutes on the Web Site**

The NWTAC Minutes starting with January, 2003 are now available on the HRM web site.

6.2 **Proposal from Resident re Route 83**

An e-mail was received by Councillor Johns from Brad Rodgers and passed on to the Committee for consideration. Mr. Rodgers asked about the possibility of diverting Route 83 through Berry Hills/Wilson Lake.

Eddie Robar advised that Kenny Silver was asking for input from the Committee. The Committee agreed that they would like to see a map of the area and have staff provide a few scenarios with regard to provision of such a service.

The Clerk was asked to respond to Mr. Rodgers as to the status of his request.

6.3 **Proposal from Resident for Service to NSCC Campus on Leeds from Bedford**

An e-mail was received by Councillor Goucher from Debra Spence and passed on to the Committee for consideration. Ms. Spence asked about the possibility of improved service to the NSCC Campus on Leeds from Bedford and suggested a possible new route.

Discussion took place on Ms. Spence's request and suggestion. Ms. Spence could take the 82 and then the 9 to the Campus and consideration could be given to having the 82 run up and down Agricola Street.

Eddie Robar agreed to respond to Ms. Spence in this regard.

6.4 **Transit Priority Signals**

HRM has temporary approval for the priority signal at the Macdonald Bridge. Changes in the Act will allow transit priority signals for other areas of HRM as well for the Showcase proposal. It was hoped there would not be any barriers should the Showcase proposal go ahead.

6.5 **“Wherever Life Takes You” - Promotion of Transit**

Ron McKinnon referred to the slogan from CUTA - “Wherever Life Takes You”. He asked that Promotion of Transit be put on the agenda for the next meeting.

7. **NEXT MEETING DATE**

Wednesday, January 21, 2004.

8. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Sandra M. Shute  
Legislative Assistant