

REVISED

North West Community Council
August 9, 2012

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council



SUBMITTED BY: _____
Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit

DATE: July 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Transit Service for Lucasville Road Area

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the May 24, 2012 North West Community Council meeting, Item 13.2.2 Transit Service for Lucasville Road and area. North West Community Council approved the following motion:

- Inquire with Metro Transit as to why the Lucasville Road and area service was removed from the budget and the rationale behind the decision to remove the service; and
- Request that Metro Transit continue with plans to proceed with the transit service to Lucasville Road area.

BACKGROUND

On April 3, 2012 Halifax Regional Council approved Metro Transit's 2012-13 Annual Service Plan, including removal of the budget for Rural Community Transit expansions

The Rural Community Transit services are unlikely to generate sufficient ridership to meet Service Standards. Service Standards are intended to build upon the strong foundation established within today's transit system, and to take Metro Transit to the next level in terms of ridership, mode share, service guidelines and performance measurement of customer satisfaction. Service Standards were approved by Halifax regional Council as part of the Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan.

DISCUSSION

As part of Metro Transit's continued effort to provide efficient transit service to the residents of HRM, Rural Community Transit expansions were removed from the 2012/13 Capital Budget Plan. This includes transit service expansions to Lucasville, Cow Bay and Lawrencetown.

The Ridership Performance Service Standard for the Rural Community Transit service is 15 passengers per hour at A.M. and P.M. peak and 10 passengers per hour during off-peak. Metro Transit utilized population census information to define and project passenger information for transit service in the Lucasville Community area. Based on the census information staff has calculated an estimate of 5.4 passengers per hour for the Lucasville area. This figure would not meet the Ridership Performance service standard.

The high-level projected operating cost for Lucasville is approximately \$300,000 per year. This cost assumes a service frequency consistent with the Community Rural Service Standard, which is 60 minutes at peak and 120 minutes off-peak. The cost does not include weekend/holiday service as the Community Rural Service Standard only includes weekday service. This service would require approximately 1.5 buses. Each bus would have a capital cost of approximately \$450,000 – \$500,000. Using the estimated 5.4 passengers per hour and the average fare of \$1.66 for the month of June 2012 the estimated cost recovery is 11%. This is a high-level calculation and would be subject to detailed planning including the overall design of the services, scheduling and operational requirements for a final costing.

The Rural Community Transit project was removed from the capital budget plan based on council's approval of Metro Transit's 2012/13 Annual Service Plan. Therefore Metro Transit has no authority or direction to reinstate the plan for Lucasville Rural Community Transit service or continue forward with expansion of these services.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Metro Transit had published a mail out and an online survey for the Lucasville and surrounding area in September 2010. From this survey Metro Transit gathered information regarding origin destination questions.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A – Weekday Cost Per Passenger Chart

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Amy Power, Supervisor, Scheduling & Service Planning, 490-4636



Report Approved by: _____
Dave Reage, MCIP, LPP, Manager, Planning & Scheduling 490-5138

Appendix A

Weekday Cost per Passenger

Metro Transit currently offers a variety of transit services including Conventional and Urban Express, MetroLink, MetroX, and Community Transit. The chart below outlines the weekday cost per passenger for the service types based on fiscal year 2011/12.

