

Item No. 7.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
January 14, 2014

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit

DATE: December 19, 2013

SUBJECT: Integration of Transit Routes 401 & 370

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the October 22, 2013 Regional Council meeting, Item 11.4.1.

Moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman, that Halifax Regional Council request a staff a report on the possibility of having the local community transit service (route 401) integrate a scheduled stop-over transfer rendezvous at the Park & Ride terminal at Porters Lake.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

There is no Legislative Authority associated with this information report.

BACKGROUND

On April 30, 2013 Halifax Regional Council approved Metro Transit's 2013-14 Annual Service Plan including recommended service adjustments. The approved service adjustments included new Porters Lake MetroX service from a new Park & Ride location on Inspiration Drive to the Bridge Terminal in Dartmouth and Albemarle Street in downtown Halifax. Metro Transit's 2013-14 Annual Service Plan did not include adjustments and budget for Community Transit Route 401 to integrate with Route 370 MetroX at the new Park & Ride.

DISCUSSION

Metro Transit has implemented three MetroX routes as of August 2009 including the recent implementation of Route 370 Porters Lake MetroX service effective November 18, 2013.

Route 370 MetroX provides direct service from the new Park & Ride in Porters Lake on Inspiration Drive near exit 20 off highway 107 to the Bridge Terminal and downtown Halifax. Route 370 service is comparable to Route 330 Tantallon MetroX in that Route 330 provides service from the Park & Ride at Hubley Centre at exit 5 off Highway 103, both routes provide weekday service only with several peak trips, a midday trip and evening trip; whereas Route 320 Fall River/Airport MetroX provides service all day 7 days per week.

MetroX Routes 370 and 330 both service rural areas of HRM, these rural areas are further supported by another transit route; Route 401 in Porters Lake and Route 33 in Tantallon. Route 33 Tantallon provides service to the Hubley Centre. However it should be noted Route 33 Tantallon provided service to the Hubley Centre prior to Route 330 implementation in August 2009 and was not extended to connect with Route 330. Route 401 does not provide service to the Porters Lake Park & Ride as the route does not travel on William Porter Connector and would require a route and schedule adjustment to service the Porters Lake Park & Ride.

Given that Routes 330 and 370 are comparable staff has reviewed the potential for passenger transfers since 2009 between Route 33 and Route 330 to determine the projected transfers between Route 370 and Route 401. Since August 2009 implementation of Route 330 our annual Passenger Count data indicates there is little potential of transfers between Routes 33 and 330. The Route 33 Passenger data table below indicates the number of potential passengers who could transfer between Route 33 and Route 330 during the A.M. Peak and reverse in the P.M. Peak. Based on this experience, when a MetroX Park & Ride is available passengers typically take advantage of this and are unlikely to utilize two infrequent bus routes that will require a transfer. Likewise based on past experience passengers typically do not back track in their travel therefore transfers are also unlikely in that particular situation.

Route 33 Passenger Data

Passenger Data	2009		2010		2011		2012		2013	
	6:45a	7:35a	6:45a	7:35a	6:45a	7:35a	6:45a	7:35a	6:45a	7:35a
A.M. Trips										
Passengers arriving at Hubley Centre who could transfer to Route 330	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
P.M. Trips	5:27p	6:22p	5:27p	6:22p	5:27p	6:22p	5:27p	6:22	5:27p	6:27p
Passengers departing Hubley Centre who could transfer from Route 330	3	1	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0

Integrating the schedule for Route 370 and Route 401 would be possible for specific A.M. and P.M. peak trips, however it would shift the departure and arrival times for other trips in the Route 401 schedule; as a result the schedule would vary from the existing schedule, which was created through community engagement.

If the schedules were integrated it would be possible to provide a connection at the Porters Lake Park & Ride for the first two Route 401 trips departing from Seaforth to Portland Hills Terminal with the Route 370 trips departing at 5:53am and 7:55am.

During the P.M peak hours connections could also be provided for the first two P.M. Route 401 trips from Portland Hills Terminal with the Route 370 arriving at 4:35pm and 6:35pm at Porters Lake Park & Ride

The Route 401 Passenger data table below identifies the number of passengers travelling between Seaforth to/from Lakeview Plaza and those boarding/departing at Lakeview Plaza; the table indicates on average for years 2012 and 2013 5 or less passengers per year per trip would have the option of transferring between Route 401 and Route 370.

Route 401 Passenger Data

Passenger Data	2012				2013			
	547am		727am		547am		727am	
A.M. Trip Time *	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off
Description								
Seaforth to Lakeview	2	0	4	0	1	0	0	0
At Lakeview Plaza	6	0	0	1	4	0	3	0
P.M. Trip Times *	427pm		623pm		427pm		623pm	
Description	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off	On	Off
At Lakeview Plaza	0	2	1	5	0	5	0	2
Lakeview to Seaforth	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	1

**Existing departure times*

Integrating Route 370 & Route 401 is possible to a limited extent as stated in this report. However, based on past experience it is unlikely to generate significant ridership and would subsequently increase travel time for those passengers travelling between Seaforth and Lakeview Plaza to Portland Hills Terminal. The high-level projected operating cost for this service adjustment is approximately \$10,300 per year subjected to detailed scheduling and service planning.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications with this report.

Appendix A

Existing Route 401 Porters Lake Community Transit Schedule

To Grand Desert						To Dartmouth					
Portland Hills Terminal	East Preston	Hwy 7 & Partridge River	Lakeview Shopping Plaza	Grand Desert	Seaforth Back Road	Seaforth Back Road	Grand Desert	Lakeview Shopping Plaza	Hwy 7 & Partridge River	East Preston	Portland Hills Terminal
Monday to Friday						Monday to Friday					
-	-	-	-	545a	547a	547a	550a	600a	615a	622a	635a
640a	653a	700a	715a	725a	727a	727a	730a	740a	755a	802a	815a
822a	835a	842a	857a	907a	909a	909a	912a	922a	937a	944a	957a
1003a	1016a	1023a	1038a	1048a	1050a	1050a	1053a	1103a	1118a	1125a	1138a
350p	405p	412p	427p	437p	439p	439p	442p	452p	507p	514p	532p
546p	601p	608p	623p	633p	635p	635p	638p	648p	703p	710p	728p
742p	757p	804p	819p	829p	831p	831p	834p	844p	859p	906p	924p

No service Saturday or Sunday

Appendix B

Proposed Integrated Route 401 Porters Lake Community Transit Schedule

To Grand Desert							To Dartmouth						
Portland Hills Terminal	East Preston	Hwy 7 & Partridge River	Exit 20 Park & Ride	Lakeview Shopping Plaza	Grand Desert	Seaforth Back Rd	Seaforth Back Rd	Grand Desert	Lakeview Shopping Plaza	Exit 20 Park & Ride	Hwy 7 & Partridge River	East Preston	Portland Hills Terminal
Monday to Friday							Monday to Friday						
-	-	-	-	-	529a	531a	531a	534a	544a	547a	605a	612a	625a
630a	643a	700a	707a	709a	719a	721a	721a	724a	734a	737a	755a	802a	815a
822a	835a	842a	-	857a	907a	909a	909a	912a	922a	-	937a	944a	957a
1003a	1016a	1023a	-	1038a	1048a	1050a	1050a	1053a	1103a	-	1118a	1125a	1138a
401p	416p	423p	440p	442p	452p	454p	454p	457p	507p	510p	528p	535p	553p
601p	616p	623p	640p	642p	652p	654p	659p	702p	712p	715p	733p	740p	758p
803p	818p	825p	-	840p	850p	852p	852p	855p	905p	-	920p	927p	945p

No service Saturday or Sunday

Appendix C

Route 370 MetroX Porters Lake Schedule

To Halifax			To Porters Lake		
Porters Lake Park & Ride	Bridge Terminal	Albemarle St	Albemarle St	Bridge Terminal	Porters Lake Park & Ride
Monday to Friday			Monday to Friday		
538a	610a	625a	-	-	-
553a	625a	640a	-	-	-
625a	700a	715a	-	-	-
655a	730a	745a	-	-	-
725a	800a	815a	-	-	-
755a	830a	845a	-	-	-
238p	310p	325p	-	-	-
408p	440p	455p	-	-	-
-	-	-	145p	200p	230p
-	-	-	315p	330p	400p
-	-	-	345p	400p	435p
-	-	-	415p	430p	505p
-	-	-	445p	500p	535p
-	-	-	515p	530p	605p
-	-	-	545p	600p	635p
-	-	-	620p	635p	710p

No service Saturday or Sunday