

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

October 20, 2004

PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair
Bill Chaffey, Vice-Chair
Alastair Lawrie
Gunther Seyffarth

ABSENT: Ron McKinnon
Troy Mitchell
Councillor Brad Johns

ALSO PRESENT: Mr. Edward Robar, Scheduling Coordinator, Metro Transit
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. in the Program Room, Bedford Library, 15 Dartmouth Road, Bedford.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR and VICE-CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair: **Mr. Phil Cox was nominated as Chair for 2005/06 and accepted the nomination.** The call was given for nominations for Vice-Chair: **Mr. William Chaffey was nominated as Vice-Chair for 2005/06 and accepted the nomination.** The meeting was then turned over to the Chair, Mr. Phil Cox.

3. PRESENTATION - NONE

4. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

Additions:	7.1	2005/06 Proposed Projects - Mr. Edward Robar
	7.2	Fenerty Road Bus Shelter - Mr. Gunther Seyffarth
	7.3	Seating Capacity on 80 Series Buses - Mr. Phil Cox
	7.4	BRT Update - Mr. Edward Robar
	7.5	Public Participation - Mr. Phil Cox
	7.6	Parking Spaces at New Park and Ride - Mr. Phil Cox
	7.7	Core Standards - Mr. Phil Cox

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 15, 2004

MOVED by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. Alastair Lawrie, that approval of the minutes of September 15, 2004, be deferred to the November 15, 2004 meeting pending clarification on Item 6.2.1 November - Extra Service.

Mr. Edward Robar will provide the revised information to the Legislative Assistant.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

6.1 STATUS SHEET ITEMS

The Committee advised the following items were to be removed from the Status Sheet:

1. Promotion of Transit

2. Terms of Reference
3. Bus Stop Before Bridge - Out of Service
4. August Schedule

The Legislative Assistant explained the purpose of the Status Sheet, now it is formatted, how items were added to it, the process for monthly updates and the process for items being removed. She clarified items to be removed would be noted in the minutes and would be immediately removed from the status sheet. Also, only those items with updates or requested for discussion by a member, will be placed on the active agenda. The Legislative Assistant encouraged all members to review the Status Sheet on a regular basis in order to bring forward long standing items for resolution.

6.1.1 Intersection of Spring Garden Road / Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road / Summer Street

Mr. Edward Robar suggested Mr. Geoff Wright, Project Manager with Metro Transit, attend the November meeting as he attends the Downtown Business Commission (DBC) meetings. Mr. Wright or another member of the DBC would be able to provide additional information on their concerns/plans.

6.1.2 Off Peak Service from Bedford-Sackville to Downtown and Service from Bedford-Sackville to Bayers Lake.

Mr. Edward Robar discussed items 6.1.2 and 6.1.3 together. He advised the 2005/06 Budget will not be ready until November. He further advised Mr. Silver has requested this Committee provide a priority list for Metro Transit to review in consideration of their 2005/06 budget.

The Committee raised the following priorities/concerns:

- ! Increased capacity on the 80 series buses is definitely a priority, especially for standing passengers on the highway runs (12 - 14 people standing).
- ! The low floor buses have reduced seating capacity as there are only 32 seats. Also, people do not like to sit sideways and the low floor buses have side seating. *Mr. Robar advised the new buses will have new seating configuration and will hold 38 people (seated).*
- ! The Committee agreed service from Bedford to Tantallon and Bedford to Bayers Lake should also be a priority.
- ! The 83 was supposed to have ½ hour service by November of this year. *Mr. Robar explained the 10 new buses did not arrive this fall but are expected by August 2005.*

Mr. Robar will bring slides to the November meeting regarding seating capacity, fleet size (break down between low floor and conventional).

The Legislative Assistant will contact all members of the North West Transit Advisory Committee to obtain their transit priorities “wish list” for 2005/06. Comments are to be sent to Chris Newson at 490-6732 or e-mail newsonc@halifax.ca by Wednesday, October 27, 2004. The Legislative Assistant will then compile the priorities list and forward it to Mr. Edward Robar and Mr. Ken Silver of Metro Transit for use with their 2005/06 Budget planning.

6.1.3 Improved Services - 2005/06 Proposed Budget

See Item 6.1.2 above.

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS / NEW BUSINESS

7.1 2005/06 Proposed Projects

Mr. Edward Robar advised he will forward revised information (corrected dates) September 15th's agenda item 6.2.1 November - Extra Service to the LA for inclusion in the September minutes.

7.2 Fenerty Road Bus Shelter

Mr. Gunther Seyffarth commented so far the shelter is working out well. He suggested a bench be installed as people are sitting on the cement while waiting for the bus. Mr. Robar commented shelters will be in before winter on the pads already poured in Sackville.

7.3 Seating Capacity on 80 Series Buses

This item was discussed in 6.1.2. Mr. Robar advised an overload comparison on bus capacity during September/October was done with results showing a little over 100 in 2003 to 230 in 2004. The Committee commented some drivers will not open the doors once the bus is full but some will still try to “squeeze” in more passengers.

7.4 BRT Update

Mr. Phil Cox advised this item has been covered in previous discussions this evening. See item 6.1.2 on page 4.

7.5 Public Participation

Mr. Phil Cox advised due to the capacity issue there are many people interested in attending the North West Transit Advisory Committee meetings. He asked if public were able to attend

the meetings. The Legislative Assistant advised all Board and Committee meetings are open to the public. She further advised the public may attend any meeting for information purposes but if they wish to address the Committee they must contact her to arrange to be added to the agenda. Also, advance notice of public attendance is preferable in order to ensure there will be seating available. Members of the public are not permitted to address the Committee unless they have permission from the Committee.

The Legislative Assistant further advised that Mr. Sandy Casey from Markham, ON has requested information on the Transit Advisory Committee regarding how it was formed, what the mandate is and how successful it has been as there is consideration of forming a similar Committee in Markham. Mr. Phil Cox as Chair of the NWTAC and Mr. Ed Robar have been able to provide comments as well to Mr. Sandy Casey.

7.6 Parking Spaces at New Park and Ride

Mr. Phil Cox asked if there would be more parking spaces at the new park and ride than there are at Cobequid. Mr. Robar advised there will be more spaces than the Cole Harbour Park and Ride. **He will provide the number of spaces at the November meeting.**

7.7 Core Standards

Mr. Phil Cox asked if the Core Standards addressed standing passengers. Also, he inquired if the Committee could get a copy of the Transit Study. Mr. Robar advised a copy of the report could be made available. He will bring a slide of the service improvements for the November meeting. Mr. Cox advised it will not be easy to have a fare increase if people are standing from Sackville to Halifax and the 80 routes continue to run late.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, November 17, 2004

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant