

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 8, 2006

PRESENT: Mr. Phil Cox, Chair,
Mr. Bill Chaffey, Vice-Chair
Mr. Alain Bourgeois
Mr. Alastair Lawrie
Mr. Ron McKinnon
Mr. John Merrick
Mr. Gunther Seyffarth

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns

STAFF AND
OTHERS: Mr. Edward Robar, Metro Transit
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	Call to Order	4
2.	Approval of Order of Business and Additions/Deletions	4
3.	Approval of Minutes - January 18, 2006 and February 15, 2006	4
4.	Business Arising Out of the Minutes	4
4.1.	Status Sheet Items	5
4.1.1	Transit Study Update	5
4.1.2	MSVU Shelter	5
4.1.3	Pedestrian Walkway Sackville Area Near Highway 101	5
4.1.4	Cobequid Community Health Centre	5
4.1.5	Transportation Committee Update	6
4.1.6	Amendment to the NWTAC Terms of Reference	6
4.1.7	NSCC Transit Service	6
5.	Consideration of Deferred Business - None	6
6.	Reports	6
6.1	Copies of Draft Reports for the NWCC (<i>to be circulated</i>)	6
7.	New Business/Added Items	7
7.1	New Business	7
7.1.1	Commonwealth Games - Transit Service	7
7.1.2	Count Down Traffic Lights	7
7.2	Added Items	7
7.2.1	New Terminal in Sackville	7
7.2.2	Route 185	8
7.2.3	Acadia Lines	9
7.2.4	Cobequid Park and Ride	9
7.2.5	ECO Pass	9
7.2.6	New Bedford Rink - Transit Service	9

North West Transit Advisory Committee

Minutes

3

March 8, 2006

- 8. Next Meeting Date - April 19, 2006 9
- 9. Adjournment 10
- 1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 7:06 pm in the Program Room, Bedford Library.

2. APPROVAL OF ORDER OF BUSINESS AND ADDITIONS/DELETIONS

- Additions:**
- 7.2.1 New Terminal in Sackville - Mr. Alastair Lawrie
 - 7.2.2 Route 185 - Mr. Cox
 - 7.2.3 Acadia Lines - Mr. Eddie Robar
 - 7.2.4 Cobequid Park and Ride - Mr. Eddie Robar
 - 7.2.5 ECO Pass - Mr. Ron McKinnon
 - 7.2.6 New Bedford Rink - Transit Service - Mr. Phil Cox

Deletion: 7.1.2 Traffic Lights

Mr. Phil Cox arrived at 7:07 pm and assumed the Chair.

The agenda was **approved as amended**.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 18, 2006 and February 15, 2006

January 18, 2006

In regard to Item 7.1.1 raised at the January 18, 2006 meeting regarding the lateness of the Route 85, Mr. John Merrick submitted a stats sheet for two Route 85 runs in October 2005 regarding lateness. Mr. Robar advised that the Route 85 running times have been adjusted.

Change: Change *would* to *could* in first bullet on page 6.

MOVED BY Mr. Bill Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Alain Bourgeois that the minutes of January 18, 2006 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

February 15, 2006

Correction: Item 4.1.1 should include a motion for the information to be received by

March 15, 2006 (the information has been received).

Emphasis should be *emphasize*.

Change: Page 4: *Paying to Receiving*

MOVED BY Mr. Bill Chaffey, seconded by Mr. Alain Bourgeois that the minutes of February 15, 2006 be deferred to the April meeting and that the omitted motion be included. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Item

4.1.1 Transit Study Update

Mr. Chaffey advised that the ridership survey information from Metro Transit was received well in advance of the requested time frame. He added that he will be able to provide more of an update at the next meeting (April 2006).

Mr. Alastair Lawrie suggested that a notation be included on the 2004 slides to indicate that both the Federal and Provincial Governments did contribute some funding for the SHOWCASE program (Metro Link Buses/Infrastructure) that year.

Mr. John Merrick suggested that CUTA be spelled out so that anyone reading the graphs will know that CUTA stands for the *Canadian Urban Transit Association*.

Mr. Robar advised that he will forward the revised graphs to the Legislative Assistant who will then distribute the information to the Committee via e-mail for final review. Once approved by the Committee, the graphs will be added to the report going forward to the North West Community Council.

4.1.2 MSVU Shelter

Mr. Phil Cox thanked Metro Transit for the new MSVU shelter to be installed at the requested location on the Bedford Highway.

Mr. Robar responded to a request by the Committee indicating that he will provide written confirmation of the MSVU Shelter (on letterhead) for the April 2006 meeting.

4.1.3 Pedestrian Walkway Sackville area near Highway 101

A report regarding this issue is being forwarded to the North West Community Council.

4.1.4 Cobequid Community Health Centre

The Committee requested this item be deferred until Councillor Johns is available to comment on whether or not the North West Community Council is taking any action on the matter as a result of the report previously forwarded from this Committee.

In response to the Committee's request for verification on whether there is space for a bus to turn around at the front of the health facility, Mr. Robar commented that a training bus will be sent to the facility.

Mr. Cox requested that clarification be obtained as to where the private driveway is located (is it a public street up to the end of the bulb and then private from there in?).

Mr. Cox expressed concern that there will be paid parking at the health facility.

4.1.5 Representation on the Urban Transportation Committee

An e-mail response from Mr. Dave McCusker, Regional Plan, indicated that the draft Terms of Reference for the Urban Transportation Committee does include a representative from the North West Transit Advisory Committee. However, the Urban Transportation Committee has not yet been struck.

4.1.6 Amendment to Terms of Reference

A report regarding this issue is being forwarded to the North West Community Council.

4.1.7 NSCC Campus - Transit Service

Mr. Robar responded to the Committee that Bedford/Sackville residents will be able to travel to the new NSCC Woodside Campus via an augmented Route 60 service (fifteen minute service if the resources are available). He added that the campus will partially open this fall and will be fully operational in 2007.

Mr. Cox requested that the matter remain on the status sheet as there is concern that it may be over an hour trip from Bedford/Sackville to the NSCC Woodside Campus. He also requested confirmation of the opening dates.

Mr. Robar will provide the information for the April meeting.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS

6.1 Copies of Draft Reports for the NWCC

Copies of reports being sent to the North West Community Council were circulated for review. The issues being covered in the reports are in relation to status sheet items: 4.1.1 Transit Study Update, 4.1.3 Pedestrian Walkway Sackville area near Highway 101 and 4.1.6 Amendment to Terms of Reference.

7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS

7.1 NEW BUSINESS

7.1.1 Commonwealth Games - Transit Service

An e-mail response from Mr. Geoff Wright, Project Manager, Metro Transit, indicated that at this point it is too early in the process to provide a presentation to the Committee on this matter. A presentation will be made, date to be determined, to the North West Transit Advisory Committee once the planning process is more underway.

7.1.2 Count Down Pedestrian Traffic Lights

Mr. John Merrick requested this item be deleted during the approval of the agenda. See page 3, Item 2.

7.2 ADDED ITEMS

7.2.1 New Terminal in Sackville

Mr. Alastair Lawrie advised that the new Sackville Metro Link saves him forty minutes of commuter time per day and there has been positive feedback from other commuters. Mr. Lawrie expressed the following concerns:

- Lack of adequate parking at the new terminal. He indicated the parking lot is full everyday and people are parking on the gravel area near Wheaton's.

Mr. Robar advised that HRM is in the process of purchasing additional land to expand the

parking area. A design plan has been drafted for the parking lot addition.

- A security guard at the new terminal has been informing people that seats (benches) would be installed inside the terminal.

Mr. Robar responded that there are no seats planned for the terminal. He added that there may be vending machines installed but there will not be a coffee shop. Mr. Seyffarth commented that there are some people who cannot stand for long periods of time and if they miss their connection they may have a long wait, therefore, some seating should be provided.

- Concern was expressed with the Walker Road connector access. Are there plans for a signal of some sort as there is traffic backed-up on the Beaver Bank Road due to the difficulty getting onto the Old Sackville Road from the new terminal.

Mr. Cox advised that staff may want to consider an intersection box as there is only one lane exiting right or left and you have to wait for the person in front of you to turn before you can exit. This causes traffic to back up and by the time traffic clears the light has changed.

Mr. Alain Bourgeois added that drivers are being aggressive to get through that intersection.

Mr. Robar advised that HRM Traffic Services is reviewing this matter. The Committee suggested an e-mail be sent to Mike Filiopone, Traffic Services, regarding this concern.

Mr. Robar further confirmed that the Metro Link bus is able to trip the lights at Wright Avenue, Akerley Avenue, Windmill Avenue in Dartmouth and possibly in future the Beaver Bank Road light.

Mr. Robar, in response to a request from the Committee, confirmed that he will provide the Sackville Metro Link survey information for the next meeting. Mr. Lawrie further commented that now that the Metro Link service is popular and gaining in popularity, it is time to work out the "bugs" such as the signal lights, traffic congestion and improving the intersection.

MOVED BY Mr. Alastair Lawrie, seconded by Mr. Gunther Seyffarth that the North West Transit Advisory Committee request an Information Report from HRM Traffic Services in regard to the access and egress for vehicles, including buses, at the new Metro Link Terminal in Sackville specifically in regard to traffic congestion at the intersection of the Old Sackville Road, Walker Connector Road, and the Beaver Bank

Road. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Cox further advised that the last rush hour Route 185 Metro Link does not connect with any routes going to the Cobequid Terminal or the Glendale Drive area.

7.2.2 Routing for the 185

Mr. Cox requested clarification for the routing of the 185. He explained that on one trip the Route 185 travelled on Market Street and on another trip it travelled on Brunswick Street.

Mr. Robar advised that Metro Transit was trying to determine which route would be the best route for the 185 to utilize. He added it appears that the Brunswick Street route will probably be the standard.

Mr. Cox further advised that the curb lane in Burnside is not being utilized. He explained that using the curb lane outbound makes a difference in commuter time.

Mr. Robar advised that the non-use of the curb lane may be just a learning curve for the drivers.

Mr. Robar advised, in response to Mr. Alain Bourgeois, that changes will be made in the Route 185 schedule so that it will arrive earlier in Sackville to meet up with the Routes 83 and 87.

7.2.3 Acadia Lines

Mr. Robar advised that Acadia Lines will not be utilizing the Sackville Terminal as they are concentrating on the Burnside area (Highfield Park). Acadia Lines may consider service to Sackville at some future time.

7.2.4 Cobequid Park and Ride

Mr. Robar advised that congestion at the Cobequid park and ride has been alleviated. The upper lot was actually empty on this date. This is due in part to the new Metro Link service/terminal.

7.2.5 ECO Pass

Mr. Ron McKinnon advised that the Ecology Action Centre's (EAC's) TRAX Program is apparently working with Metro Transit to explore the potential for a workplace transit pass

program. The Committee agreed to have Ms. Stephanie Sodero, EAC's TRAX Program, present on the ECO Pass at the April meeting.

7.2.6 New Bedford Rink - Transit Service

Mr. Phil Cox commented that transit service for this new complex should be reviewed now so that any recommendations to be made to the North West Community Council may be forwarded in a timely manner.

Mr. Lawrie requested that the North West Transit Advisory Committee receive concept plans from Metro Transit (once Metro Transit receives the plans) for any new development in the areas serviced by the North West Community Council. The concept plans would enable this Committee to review and comment in regard to transit service during the pre-development phase in order to provide timely recommendations to the North West Community Council.

Mr. Robar advised that he would provide a copy of the concept plan for the rink development for the April meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 19, 2006

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:47pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant