

**NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
MARCH 19, 2003**

PRESENT: Bill Chaffey, Acting Chair
Gunther Seyffarth
Troy Mitchell
Alastair Lawrie
Ron McKinnon
Alastair Lawrie

REGRETS: Councillor Brad Johns
Phillip Cox

STAFF: Mr. Eddie Robar, Schedule Coordinator, Transit Services
Sherrill Murphy, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 7:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - FEBRUARY 19, 2003 MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Seyffarth, seconded by Mr. Lawrie that the minutes of February 19, 2003 be approved, as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

The following matter was added to the agenda:

- Presentation re Ferry - Eddie Robar

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Commuter Rail Committee Update

There was no report available relative to this matter. This matter will remain on the agenda.

4.2 Proposed Park and Ride in Upper Sackville Area

Mr. Silver is to meet with Councillor Johns regarding this matter. This matter is to remain on the agenda.

4.3 Transit Service to the Halifax International Airport

Mr. McKinnon indicated that Councillor Johns had made a presentation to Council. No response has been received from the Halifax International Airport nor the Utility and Review Board to letters forwarded by Mr. Silver in this regard. This item will remain on the agenda.

4.4 Transit Service to Bayers Lake Business Park

No further update is available with regard to this matter. No direct access presently exists and there are no plans developed to provide for a direct access from Sackville. Transit Planning staff are aware of the desire for this service. The Transit budget includes monies for a Strategic Study.

A brief discussion regarding a light rail line ensued. Note was made that light rail lines are on

a fixed line, but not as expensive as a subway. The suggestion was made that a dedicated bus way area would be a good way to test the impact of a light rail line.

4.5 Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion

Note was made that this was of particular concern to the Chair and it was agreed that the matter be kept on the agenda.

Mr. Robar noted that Transit staff would look at an adjustment to the routes to alleviate the problem. There is little room for expansion.

The Park and Ride at Downsview is down due to construction. Parking has been relocated behind the terminal, however, it is not well signed. Staff is to look into this.

4.6 Status of Beaver Bank Bypass

The situation regarding the Beaver Bank Bypass remains unchanged.

4.7 Traffic Problems - Intersection of Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street and Spring Garden Road and Summer Street

Mr. Robar advised that a time study to determine what delay buses are experiencing is part of the solution to this problem.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the banning of parking on Barrington Street during rush hour similar to Quinpool Road. Brunswick Street is the only real possibility for an alternative to running buses on Barrington Street during rush hour. Another possible solution is to have Barrington Street one way during rush hour with a second street operating in the opposite direction.

4.8 Proposed Bus Shelter - Fenerty Road

Mr. Robar advised that this bus shelter is included in the budget for the coming year. Council is presently reviewing the budget and staff will know in the near future if this shelter is to be funded in this budget year.

4.9 Route 87 and Highfield Park

Responding to concern regarding a missed connection with the Route 87 at Highfield Park, Mr. Robar indicate that the most reasonable resolution to that problem was an alteration in timing. He went on to note that the Route 87 only goes into Highfield Park to drop off

passengers who originate in Sackville at the Convergys Call Centre. The Route 87 does not pick up at this location.

Mr. McKinnon noted that if this is the case, the signage should advise riders that of this. Mr. Mitchell noted that the signage on Victoria Road does indicate that the stop is a drop off only for Route 87. He went on to suggest that education is required with regard to this matter.

A brief discussion regarding the capacity and frequency of service ensued and it was agreed that Capacity and Frequency of Service would be added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Committee.

4.10 Route 80 on Sunday

Note was made that the articulated bus should be running on Sunday. Mr. Robar advised that the articulated bus is used on two different runs.

4.11 Crosswalk Button - Sunnyside

Mr. Robar noted that a response has been received from Mr. Koutroulakis in this regard.

5. NEW BUSINESS

5.1 Park and Ride at Beaver Bank

There is no update available regarding this matter.

5.2 Corporate Discounts

It was agreed that this matter be deferred until next month.

5.3 May Schedule changes

Mr. Robar briefly reviewed the May schedule changes with members of the Committee.

5.4 August U Pass Effects

Mr. Robar gave a brief presentation regarding the U Pass noting that this information would be made available to the public in the near future.

The key components of the presentation were:

- What is U Pass

- Impact on Ridership
- Service Adjustments

A copy of the presentation is on file.

5.5 Presentation re Ferry Service

Mr. Robar gave a presentation regarding the Ferry Service which he had presented earlier to a Transportation Symposium. A copy of the presentation is on file.

6. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be held on April 16, 2003.

The following items are to be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.

Vandalism is a Crime Signage - Local Shelter - Ron
Free service for New Year's Eve Gap - No Service to Sackville

With reference to schedule adjustments to Route 82 (i.e. change to five minutes before the ½ hour), Mr. Robar indicated that he was working on the problem.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

Sherryl Murphy
Legislative Assistant