

NORTH WEST TRANSIT ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

JUNE 18, 2003

THOSE PRESENT: Phillip Cox, Chair
Bill Chaffey
Gunther Seyffarth
Ron McKinnon
Alastair Lawrie
Troy Mitchell

ALSO PRESENT: Eddie Robar, Transit Services
Sandra Shute, Legislative Assistant

Regrets: Councillor Johns

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1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Prior to the start of the meeting, Eddie Robar, Transit Services provided a tour of the Transit facility at 200 Ilsley Avenue, Burnside. There was also an Orion VII low floor transit bus on display from New York.

The meeting was called to order at 8:30 p.m. after the tour. A number of items on the Agenda were not dealt with due to lack of time and will appear again on the Agenda for the next meeting. These Minutes will deal only with those items dealt with.

2. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES - MAY 21, 2003**

MOVED by Gunther Seyffarth, seconded by Alastair Lawrie to approve the Minutes of meeting held on May 21, 2003 as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

As per Item 1 above, only certain items were dealt with. There was, however, one added item: Request for Bus Shelter - Cobequid and Glendale Inbound at Needs.

4. **BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

4.1 **Park and Ride at Downsview**

Staff of Transit Services indicated in late May that Downsview Mall had been contacted about the signage issue. Downsview indicated they received the signs but were unable to locate them. Downsview staff were supposed to look for them and respond.

The Committee was advised by Eddie Robar that the Park and Ride would return to its former location once construction is finished. Gunther Seyffarth, however, stated that in his opinion, there would be no room for the Park and Ride in that location. Gunther Seyffarth also indicated that the signs were still not put up.

It was agreed that Eddie Robar and Gunther Seyffarth would go for a site visit of the area in question.

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

Eddie Robar advised that Traffic Services, after receipt of the survey results, is trying to do something with the light sequence at Spring Garden and Barrington. Eddie Robar brought forward the Committee's suggestion about a box intersection. Scheduling plans are going to allow for an extra two minutes built into the timing for buses to get through the intersection.

The Clerk was requested to ask Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager of Traffic and Transportation Services to the September meeting to discuss this concern as well as others the Committee would have at that time.

4.3 Cobequid Park and Ride Congestion

The Clerk advised she checked with Development Services in Sackville. The developer of the apartment buildings has not applied for any permits as yet.

The Clerk had also provided a copy of the site plans. Discussion took place on the use of the commercial property on Cobequid next to the exit. Eddie Robar was asked to find out why the new stop sign was located where it is because the Committee felt that the buses should have the right of way.

4.4 Other Park and Rides

A member of Transit staff spoke with the people at Halifax Shopping Centre Annex about posting directional signage to the Park and Ride spaces at the rear of the lot and was denied. As to the Bayers Road Park and Ride, there was no information at this time.

4.5 Future Service for New Northwood Facility in Bedford

An announcement was made on June 12, 2003 as to the plans for the Duke Street area. It would include, as well as a seniors facility, such things as a tri-ice surface, 98 unit hotel, triple gym and artificial turf field.

4.6 Transit Service to Halifax International Airport

Kenny Silver had provided an e-mail regarding the Winnipeg Airport Transit Service. Winnipeg Transit serves the Airport because it is within the urban portion of the City. As such, they are able to provide a route that operates on low speed city streets. They would likely not be serving the Airport if it was further away from the urban centre and could only be accessed by a high speed arterial road network. The service is provided with regular transit vehicles because of the close location to the airport and the type of street the service operates on.

Ron McKinnon, having recognized the fact that this is a long-term proposal, referred to the last Minutes having stated that "the Airport has expressed some interest in it". He asked if it would be possible to have a representative from Zinck Bus Company at the next meeting.

The Terms of Reference for the Committee were then discussed. The Terms of Reference state: "*The purpose of the Committee is to act as an Advisory Committee to North West Community Council on matters relating to public transit services provided by the Halifax Regional Municipality.*"

It was noted that Zinck Bus Company goes from the airport to the downtown hotels via the 118 and it was suggested that if the proposed hotel is built on Duke Street in Bedford (Item 4.5 above), there might be an opportunity for Zinck's bus to stop there. This would mean that people in Bedford/Sackville could go to the hotel and get service to the airport from there. There was also a suggestion that people from the Enfield area might appreciate a Park and Ride at the airport in the future.

4.7 **Route 87 - Capacity and Frequency**

Eddie Robar circulated Load Information for Route 87 for a.m. peak and Sackville to Dartmouth and Dartmouth to Sackville at other times from August, 2002 to April, 2003. He remarked that they will be doing a recount over the summer and it will be interesting to see what the difference is with pickup and dropoff implemented.

5. **NEW BUSINESS**

5.1 **Morning Service - Route 84**

Phillip Cox questioned whether or not the second 84 leaving Downsview at 7:35 a.m. would be taken off and indicated that there have been problems with this service, or lack thereof, around the end of May.

In response, Eddie Robar advised that a bus shortage at that time was the problem and no buses were being taken off.

5.2 **Proposed Bus Shelter - Cobequid and Glendale Inbound at Needs**

On behalf of Councillor Johns, the Clerk put forward a request for a bus shelter at the above location. Eddie Robar agreed to put it on the bus shelter list.

6. **NEXT MEETING DATE** - Wednesday, September 17, 2003.

7. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m. with best wishes for an enjoyable summer from the Chair.

Sandra M. Shute
Legislative Assistant