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Chebucto Community Council
June 11, 2007

TO: Chairman and Members of Chebucto Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

DATE: May 24, 2007

SUBJECT: Bus Service - Stoneridge

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Chebucto Community Council meeting of November 6, 2006, item 4.1.4.

BACKGROUND

At the Chebucto Community Council meeting on November 6, 2006, Councillor Mosher requested the Legislative Assistant to contact the General Manager Metro Transit for an update on the previous report regarding operating regular transit service/route to the Stoneridge area.

DISCUSSION

The Stoneridge subdivision is located off Northwest Arm Drive and is accessed at the intersection of Northwest Arm Drive and the Bay Road and a connection via Walter Havill Drive to the Stanley Park Subdivision. There is also a walkway connection to the Stonehaven subdivision which is adjacent to this development.

Metro Transit currently operates two routes in the area; route 6 Stonehaven and route 14 Leiblin Park. Metro Transit Service Standards state ninety percent of residential development in the area served by public transit should be within 500 metres of a local bus route. The Stoneridge subdivision and surrounding development fall within this standard.

When Metro Transit staff reported to the Chebucto Community in February (2006), the lack of a street/bus connection to the surrounding neighbourhoods was an issue that restricted Metro Transit's ability to operate service in the Stoneridge Subdivision. At this meeting, Councillor Mosher advised the Stoneridge area would be connected to Stanley Park via Walter Havill Drive. Staff advised that in addition to this connection, Kelly Drive should be completed to allow the bus serving the Quarry Road area to be extended via Walter Havill Drive to Stoneridge.

Metro Transit's Service Standards provide a tool to review the transit service to ensure residents have consistent access to public transit. Using the walkway connections, this subdivision is within accepted transit walk distances of existing transit service in the Stonehaven and Osborne Drive areas.

Road connections between existing neighbourhoods and new subdivisions like Stoneridge are sometimes restricted because of concerns from local residents and the lack of connections greatly reduce Metro Transit's ability to provide future transit service. An option to the Kelly Drive connection would be to have a connection that is restricted to buses only. This would permit the transit to effectively serve the area without creating traffic short cutting issues for area residents.

The connection of Kelly Drive is critical because it would facilitate extending the route 6 Stonehaven. Extending the route 14 Leiblin Park is not recommended because it would make the route less direct for passengers travelling beyond this area and require removing service from the Herring Cove Road. Because the route 6 Stonehaven ends in the Stonehaven subdivision, service could be extended with less impact on existing passengers. Any plan to extend this route should also consider changing the route 14 Leiblin Park to ensure the extension does not create unnecessary service duplication.

Extending the route 6 Stonehaven will require some lead time to effectively plan and budget for the change. Metro Transit's current 2007/08 operating budget does not include the extension of

the route 6 Stonehaven. When a decision to connect Kelly Drive is finalized, Metro Transit would be in a position to develop a plan to implement the extension, subject to funding approval through a future year's budget process.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

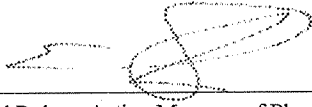
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES


There are no recommended alternatives.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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