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North West Community Council  
February 23, 2006

**TO:** Chairman and Members of North West Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Labrecque".

Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** February 6, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Bus Service - Cobequid Health Centre

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

North West Community Council meeting of January 26, 2006.

#### BACKGROUND

At North West Community Council's meeting on January 26, 2006, a motion was passed recommending Metro Transit ensure there is direct transit service (i.e. door-to-door) available (inbound and outbound) to the new Cobequid Community Health Centre scheduled to open on February 20, 2006. In discussing this matter, Community Council noted that door-to-door service is needed for the convenience of the patients. Additionally, it was noted during the public participation session of the meeting, that the parking lot of the Centre may be a paid lot, therefore, more people will be relying on transit services.

Currently routes 82 Millwood, 84 Glendale, and 87 Downsview all operate on Cobequid Road past the entrance to the Health Centre. The walk distance from Cobequid Road to the Health Centre is within the Metro Transit walk distance guideline of 500 metres from a local route.

## **DISCUSSION**

Metro Transit staff met with the province and architects during the planning and construction of this facility. During these meetings, Metro Transit advised that the facility was within accepted transit walk distances and there were some issues with the driveway design that would make extending service challenging. The two main issues with accessing the driveway are the alignment, particularly with the driveway to Glendale/Duke Street and the difficulty of the bus exiting this driveway and turning left to Glendale Drive.

Staff did say that subject to the geometry of the driveway accommodating transit buses, there could be an opportunity to serve the site with a new route that would turn right from the driveway and serve the proposed development between Duke Street and the Magazine Hill By-pass Highway. However, until this development is well underway, Metro Transit would have no plans to implement such a route.

Public Transit is effective in serving multiple origins and destinations to meet the travel needs of all residents. Because passengers use public transit to reach a variety of work, shopping, and medical facilities, deviating service to operate “door-to-door” is not effective and generally discourages use by residents travelling beyond that location. Three out of four respondents to a recent Metro Transit passenger survey stated direct service would encourage them to make more trips by transit. Making the service less direct by deviating off street to provide door-to-door access increases the cost of transit while making it less attractive for residents to use.

Metro Transit does not support extending service closer to the Multi-Service Centre because the driveway is not designed for all day transit operation and the importance of maintaining the direct routes to ensure transit is an attractive alternative for residents travelling to all areas of Sackville. Metro Transit would plan to review this decision if in the future, a new route is operated on Glendale Drive to Duke Street.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications at this time.

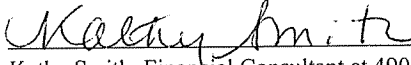
## **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

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.

Further information regarding the contents of this report may be obtained by contacting Ken Silver at 490-6689. Additional copies of this report and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Financial Review:   
Kathy Smith, Financial Consultant at 490-6153