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**Item No.**

**Halifax Regional Council  
November 18, 2008**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cathie O'Toole".

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Cathie O'Toole, Director Infrastructure & Asset Management

**DATE:**

**SUBJECT:** Five Year Transit Plan Update

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

On 8 April 2008, Council was presented with a five year approach to transit enhancements for Metro Transit to provide information for the 2008/09 Business Planning and Budget discussions.

**BACKGROUND**

Additional funding announced by Infrastructure Canada through the Transit Trust afforded the opportunity to implement several complimentary transit projects over the next five years. As a result, staff presented Regional Council with a revised 5 Year Capital Plan and Project Time lines for Construction and Operation of a number of important projects. Staff were requested to provide regular updates on the 5 year plan to Regional Council.

**DISCUSSION**

The following tables indicate progress to date and upcoming milestones for each of the projects identified in the 5 year transit plan. They are separated according to which Business Unit is currently assigned the file:

**Table 1: Projects Assigned to Infrastructure & Asset Management (IAM)**

Project Description	Project Activity to Date
Transit Garage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transit garage site approved by Regional Council on 30 September 2008</li> <li>• Project Manager assigned, September 2008</li> <li>• Request for Proposals for garage facility design and construction currently being drafted</li> </ul>
Rural Express	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Branding of service as Metro Express or MetroX is completed</li> <li>• Tender awarded for bus purchase 28 October 2008</li> <li>• Draft lease agreements with Crombie and Province for Tantallon Park &amp; Ride facility under review</li> <li>• Review of potential partnership for Musquodoboit Harbour Park &amp; Ride site</li> <li>• Opportunity for Highway 101 express route identified to reduce pressure on Sackville MetroLink</li> </ul>
<p><b>Important Note:</b>  <b>Information on typical delivery times for the type of buses planned for MetroX service led to the setting of a start-up date of May, 2009 for service to Tantallon. Unfortunately, the recent economic downturn has resulted in an announcement from GM that production at its truck chassis plant will be cut dramatically. This will result in delivery delays to all manufacturer's of this type of bus, including the firm to which the HRM bus tender was awarded in October. Accordingly, we have revised the start-up date for service to Tantallon to August, 2009.</b></p>	
Transit Corridor	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Request for Proposals for Consulting Services to be issued in December 2008</li> </ul>

<p>MetroLink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Extension of the dedicated transit lane on Windmill Road at Akerley Blvd. and construction of a queue-jump lane and transit signal at Wyse/Windmill are now complete</li> <li>• Additional opportunities for transit priority on key corridors are being evaluated</li> <li>• Signage has been placed during construction of transit priority features to aid in public comprehension (see Attachment Two)</li> </ul>
<p>Downtown Shuttle</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hybrid diesel/electric bus on display 16,17 June 2008</li> <li>• Public open house session in May, 2008 explored routing and operational alternatives</li> <li>• Hybrid diesel/electric bus tender closing on 17 December, 2008</li> </ul>
<p>Local Rural Transportation</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working with Visioning Committees to explore opportunities</li> <li>• Transit accommodation and additional parking included in design of Prospect Road Community Centre</li> </ul>
<p>HarbourLink</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Working towards refined business case, February 2009</li> <li>• Tender awarded for a new market survey - survey to commence in November 2008</li> <li>• Expressions of Interest for vessel design and build closed 24 September 2008 and reviewed by staff</li> <li>• Request for Expressions of Interest for conceptual design of Mill Cove terminal and expansion of Halifax terminal closed 8 October 2008 and under staff review</li> <li>• On-going discussions with Waterfront Development Corporation and Bedford Waterfront Visioning Task Group</li> <li>• Bedford Waterfront Urban Design Study RFP issued</li> </ul>

**Table 2: Projects Assigned to Transportation & Public Works (TPW)**

Project Description	Project Activity to Date
Service Expansion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 12 of 15 buses for service expansion received</li> <li>• Delivery of 3 additional buses for service expansion and 8 buses for replacement expected shortly</li> <li>• Service improvements scheduled for November 2008</li> <li>• Additional service improvements scheduled for February 2009</li> </ul>
Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Draft threat risk assessment for Metro Transit currently under staff review</li> <li>• Tender for security cameras for transit buses approved by Regional Council on 26 October 2008</li> </ul>
Fare Collection Technology	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fare collection technology will be reviewed in the Strategic Transit Study undertaken by IBI Consultants</li> </ul>

**Table 3: Projects Being Developed Jointly by IAM/TPW**

Project Description	Project Activity to Date
Terminal Upgrades/ New Terminals	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sportsplex Transit Terminal site relocation and MGA amendment request approved by Regional Council on 17 June 2008</li> <li>• Functional design plan completed for Sportsplex Transit Terminal and presented to Harbour East Community Council on 1 May 2008</li> <li>• Request for Proposals for Dartmouth Common Master Plan closing 7 November 2008</li> <li>• On-going discussions with land owners and community visioning committee on Penhorn Transit Terminal rehabilitation.</li> <li>• Preliminary planning for opportunity at Northcliffe Pool site and Burnside Wright Avenue site.</li> </ul>

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications at this time.

**FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

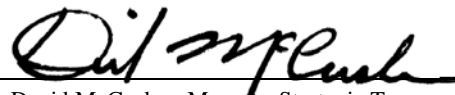
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment One: Transit Project Time lines Chart  
Attachment Two: Transit Priority Information Sign

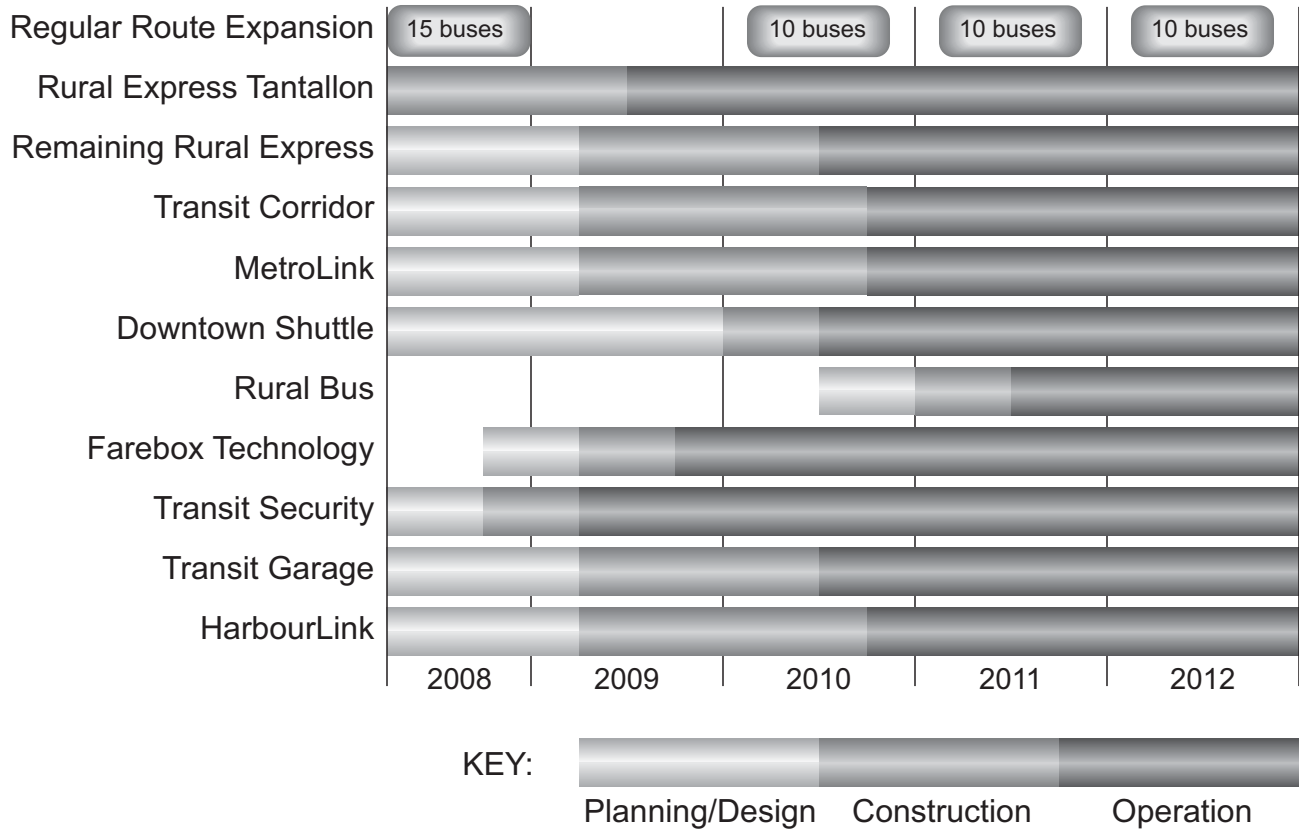
A copy of this report can be obtained online active transportation <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk active transportation 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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Report Approved by: David McCusker, Manager Strategic Transportation Planning 490-6696

## Attachment One: Updated Timelines for Five Year Transit Plan



## Attachment Two: Transit Priority Information Road Sign

