



PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

## Item No. 3

**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 24, 2009**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
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Mike Labrecque, Director Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** February 24, 2009

**SUBJECT:** Extension of Transit Service to Russell Lake West

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

This report originates from a petition presented to Halifax Regional Council January 20, 2009.

#### BACKGROUND

Residents and employees of the Russell Lake West area signed a petition requesting the extension of transit service.

**DISCUSSION**

Metro Transit is currently at capacity at its 200 Ilsley Avenue transit centre and is unable to expand peak service in the 2009/10 fiscal year. Halifax Regional Council has approved the construction of a new transit centre in the Ragged Lake Industrial Park and it is scheduled to be operational in the 2010/11 fiscal year. This expanded facility will give Metro Transit the ability to expand services and maintain its fleet heading into the future.

Metro Transit has planned service increases for the Russell Lake West area in the 2010/11 fiscal year pending budget approval. The proposed service would provide all day service 365 days per year. Four additional peak vehicles are required to provide this service and therefore the 2010/11 fiscal year is the earliest possible date for the expansion of transit services to this area.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications with this report. However it is estimated that fulfilling this request will require introduction of a new route utilizing the following resources:

- 4 additional peak conventional transit vehicles - \$1.6 million in capital costs
- 32.5 hours of service daily (11,800 hours annually) - \$900k in additional operating costs annually

**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**

None

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

Report Prepared by : Eddie Robar, Manager Planning & Development, 490-6720



Report Approved by: Pat Soanes, General Manager Metro Transit 490-6608