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Item No. 4
Halifax Regional Council
August 16, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

Ken Reashor, P. Eng., Director of Transportation and Public Works

DATE: June 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Response – Petition to start Porter’s Lake Community Transit Service at 5:00 a.m.

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the March 15, 2011 Regional Council meeting, Item 10.2.1. Councillor Hendsbee submitted a petition containing 31 signatures requesting Metro Transit Bus service and the Community Transit bus that serves Porter’s Lake and the Eastern Shore Communities, to start service at 5:00 a.m. daily to allow residents the time needed to arrive on their job site.

BACKGROUND

In September 2009, Metro Transit conducted an on-line customer survey and on-board passenger survey. The survey was in response to a community request for earlier a.m. service from Porter’s Lake.

The survey questions included origin and destination, preferred time of travel, route connections and fare payment type. The survey results indicated the hours between 5:40 a.m. and 6:10 a.m. were the preferred time of travel during the a.m. peak. In consultation with Councillor Hendsbee and Metro Transit staff, it was determined that the first a.m. trip from Porter’s Lake would depart at 6:05 a.m. The revised Porter’s Lake scheduled was implemented on Monday, February 1, 2010.

DISCUSSION

On January 11, 2011, Committee of the Whole requested a report addressing several other points including the implementation of a service option for each Community Transit route selected by the district Councillor.

The Community Transit recommendation report submitted for the August 16, 2011 meeting of Regional Council, recommends Halifax Regional Council implement Option 6 for Porter’s Lake Community Transit as per the January 11, 2011 Committee of the Whole meeting. The report outlines the service efficiencies to the Community Transit service as per the Council-Approved Metro Transit 2010-11 Annual Service Plan as an alternative.

Pending direction from Halifax Regional Council on the future of Community Transit, implementing a 5:00 a.m. departure on the Porter’s Lake Community Transit service is possible, however, would also shift the departure times for all other a.m. trips. As a result, departure time would vary from those previously requested by the district Councillor and residents.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

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

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

On-line surveys conducted September 14 to 30, 2009 and on-board passenger surveys conducted September 22 to 24, 2009.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

August 16, 2011

Report Approved by: _____
Eddie Robar, A/General Manager, Metro Transit

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die Robar, A/General Manager, Metro Transit

Original Signed