



P.O. Box 1749  
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**Item No. 5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 16, 2011**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director  
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Ken Reashor, P. Eng., Director of Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** June 13, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Response – Petition to Maintain Beaver Bank Community Transit Service  
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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

November 30, 2010 Halifax Regional Council meeting, Item 9.2.2. Councillor Dalrymple submitted a petition containing 1340 signatures in protest of the reduction or elimination of the community bus service in Beaver Bank and urging Council not to take away any of the current trips.

**BACKGROUND**

On May 25, 2010 Halifax Regional Council approved Metro Transit's 2010-11 Annual Service Plan including recommended service efficiencies. The approved service efficiencies included Beaver Bank Community Transit service.

Service efficiencies represent service where ridership does not meet the Council approved service standards, or where service is deemed to be redundant. In some cases the adjustments were proposed to improve the performance of the routes in order to meet the service standards.

Service standards were approved by Halifax Regional Council as part of the Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan. Service standards are intended to build upon the strong foundation established within today's transit system, and to take Metro Transit to the next level in terms of ridership, mode share, service guidelines and performance measurement of customer satisfaction.

On September 14, 2010 Halifax Regional Council expressed concern with the recommended service efficiencies and request staff to meet with the affected Councillors and representatives from their communities to review options for specific service adjustments.

On September 14, 2010 Halifax Regional Council approved the following motion:

1.     Defer consideration of this matter pending a meeting of Metro Transit staff, Councillors Adams, Hendsbee, and Dalrymple, and representatives from their respective communities, to develop a strategy and plan to maximize community transit and further that Route 3, Manors be included in this discussion with involved Councillors being part of the discussion.
2.     Direct staff to prepare a Council report relative to the outcome of these discussions, including Finance input, and the potential impact on any future community transit routes in HRM.
3.     That any changes to Community Transit be held in abeyance until the above report comes back to Council.

On October 28, 2010 Information Report, Community Transit & Route 3 Manors Service Options, was deferred until January 11, 2011. At the January 11, 2011 Committee of the Whole staff was directed to bring back another report addressing several points.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Community Transit recommendation report submitted for the August 16, 2011 meeting of Regional Council, recommends Halifax Regional Council implement Options 3 and 4 for Beaver Bank 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.

## **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**

Meeting held at Metro Transit with Councillors and community representatives on Friday, October 1, 2010. As a result of those discussions the service options were outlined for Beaver Bank Community Transit, Porter's Lake Community Transit and the pilot project Sambro Community Transit.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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: Amy Power, Supervisor, Scheduling & Service Planning, 490-4636

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Reage, A/Manager, Service Development, 490-5138

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

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