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Item No. 3
Halifax Regional Council
June 12, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY:

Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit

DATE: May 18, 2012

SUBJECT: Response – Petition for Full Transportation Services to East Preston

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the October 25, 2011 Regional Council meeting, Item 9.2.2. Councillor Hendsbee submitted a petition with approximately 197 signatures requesting:

- Full transportation services to be provided by Metro Transit Services to East Preston along Highway #7, Brooks Drive up to East Preston Church parking lot and to include Lower Partridge River Dr.
- That service begin at 6:00 A.M. until 11:30 P.M time frame on weekend and holidays.
- Enact legislation that would service the community of East Preston located on the Eastern Shore, which is a historical part of the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BACKGROUND

Metro Transit currently provides Community Transit Service, known as Porter's Lake Community Transit, beginning at Portland Hills Terminal to Porter's Lake and Seaforth. This service travels Cole Harbour Rd., Ross Rd., Highway #7, to East Preston, Brooks Dr., Upper Partridge River Rd., Highway #7 to Porter's Lake and onto the community of Seaforth.

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 to service Porter's Lake and extend service to Seaforth as amended in the report to meet operational requirements:

Option 6 – Community Representatives' Proposed Service Modified

- Approximately 110 minute frequency
- Service span of 5:45am (first Seaforth AM trip) to 10:03 (last AM trip) am and 3:50pm (first PM trip) to 7:42pm (last PM trip)
- 6.5 round trips per weekday
- All trips service Seaforth
- Route adjustments to service Ross Road and Cole Harbour Road to Portland Hills Terminal

Halifax Regional Council approved the August 16, 2011 report and service adjustments to the Porter's Lake Community Transit Service were implemented November 21, 2011. Porter's Lake Community Transit Service is provided weekdays only.

DISCUSSION

East Preston is a rural service area therefore the area is serviced by Community Transit Service. The existing Community Transit Service currently provides service to Highway # 7 and Brooks Drive.

No changes to the Porter's Lake Community Transit Service or any new service in the East Preston area were included in Metro Transit's 2012/13 Annual Service Plan which was approved by Halifax Regional Council on April 3, 2012. Rural Community Transit expansions are not included in the 5 year budget plan.

The high-level projected operating cost for such a service is approximately \$452,000 per year. This cost assumes a service frequency consistent with the Community Rural Service Standard, which is 60 minutes at peak and 120 minutes off-peak. While the cost does include weekend/holiday service, it should be noted that the Community Rural Service Standard only includes weekday service. This service would require approximately 1.6 buses. Each bus would

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