



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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**Item No. 4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 25, 2012**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council  
Original Signed by Director

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit

**DATE:** August 31, 2011

**SUBJECT:** Response – Petition to Reconsider Route 15 Service Adjustments  
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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

This report originates from the August 7, 2012 Regional Council meeting, Item 10.2.1 Councillor Mosher submitted a petition containing 139 signatures requesting that the proposed service adjustment plan for 2012-13 for HRM Transit, which includes removing service after 8:00p.m. seven days a week for the #15 bus, be reconsidered and to keep service after 8:00p.m. for #15.

#### **BACKGROUND**

On April 3, 2012 Halifax Regional Council approved Metro Transit's 2012-13 Annual Service Plan including recommended service reductions. The approved service reductions included removal of service on Route 15 Purcell's Cove after 8:00pm seven nights per week.

Service reductions represent service where ridership does not meet the approved service standards, or where service is deemed to be redundant. In some cases, the adjustments were proposed to improve the performance of the service 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 are fundamental to the operation of transit service. Service Standards provide an analytical and objective means for planning, monitoring, adjusting and evaluating the service in order to provide an effective and efficient transit service.

## **DISCUSSION**

As part of Metro Transit's continued effort to provide efficient transit service to the residents of HRM, ridership performance is reviewed on an annual basis to ensure the Ridership Performance Service Standards are met.

Route 15 Purcell's Cove is classified as a Local Route. The Ridership Performance Service Standard for a Metro Transit Local Route is 15 passengers per hour during weekday evening hours, 6:00p.m. to 12 midnight, and all day on weekends. Route 15 Purcell's Cove has a Ridership Performance of 10 passengers per hour during the weekday evening hours, 13 passengers per hour on Saturday and 12 passengers per hour on Sunday. While these figures do not meet the Ridership Performance service standard for evenings and weekends, Metro Transit's recommended service reduction was to remove the trips after 8:00 p.m. rather than after 6:00 p.m. on weekdays and all day on weekends. This will provide an opportunity for Route 15 to meet the service standard by removing the worst performing evening trips only.

Reinstating Route 15 Purcell's Cove service after 8:00 p.m. seven days per week is outside of the Halifax Regional Council approved Annual Service Plan. This would have operational and resource implications and is not funded in the 2012-13 operating budget. The estimated cost to reinstate the Route 15 Purcell's Cove evening trips seven days per week is \$43,500 annually.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications if the status quo is maintained for this route.

## **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**

No Community engagement required as this report is providing information only to Halifax Regional Council.

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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: Amy Power, Supervisor, Scheduling & Service Planning, 490-4636

Original Signed

Report Approved by:

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Dave Reage, MCIP, LPP, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, 490-5138