



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 2**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 19, 2013**

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

Original Signed by Director

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

**DATE:** January 4, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Metro Transit Buses Deadheading via Chebucto Road

---

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Councillor Watts submitted a petition signed by 68 residents of Chebucto Road requesting Metro Transit to find an alternate route for 'dead-heading' buses due to safety and traffic concerns as the area is in a school zone. The residents requested a response from Metro Transit.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

There is no Legislative Authority associated with this information report.

**BACKGROUND**

Through communication with Councillor Watts it has been determined that the area of concern is Chebucto Road between Windsor Street and Oxford Street.

Metro Transit currently operates 166 'Out of Service' trips along this portion of Chebucto Road during weekdays, 30 on Saturdays, and 23 on Sundays.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the regional planning process all HRM roadways were given a classification. As part of this process, Regional Transportation Planning (now Strategic Transportation) classified Chebucto Road as an arterial roadway within the Regional Plan. HRM Traffic & Right of Way recognizes this classification based on the service function of the street and because Metro Transit currently operates regular bus service on this street, it is also suitable for deadheading buses. Metro Transit currently operates bus service and deadheads in school zones, and directly in front of schools throughout the HRM service area. HRM Traffic & Right of Way has not received any safety or traffic concerns regarding this practice.

The 166 weekday deadheading buses currently travelling along this portion of Chebucto Road can be looked at in the following groups:

Type A: 146 (88%) travel between the Armdale Rotary or Highway 102 and Peninsular Halifax start/finish locations (Scotia Square, Albemarle Street, Water Street, Dalhousie, or Summer Street). These trips could be re-routed to use Quinpool Road in both directions without incurring any additional cost.

Type B: 20 (12%) travel between Mumford Terminal and Peninsular Halifax start/finish locations. Re-routing these trips would cause an increase in non-revenue hours, and could affect current efficiencies in the system, possibly to the extent that additional vehicles would be required to maintain existing service. The true cost of re-routing these deadheads could not be determined without undertaking detailed scheduling of the change.

Of the 30 deadheads on Saturdays, 29 (97%) could be re-routed to use Quinpool Road in both directions without incurring any additional cost. Of the 23 deadheads on Sundays, 22 (96%) could be re-routed to use Quinpool Road in both directions without incurring any additional cost.

There is a risk with re-routing these deadheads to Quinpool Road that similar complaints will be generated from residents and business owners in this area.

The assessment that re-routing the Type A deadheads to Quinpool Road would be cost-neutral was done on a limited number of buses over a limited time period. In order to determine the full operational and budgetary impacts of this adjustment, Metro Transit would require a trial period of up to one year. In addition, Chebucto Road would remain available for Metro Transit to use for detours, special routings, new routes, etc. If council wishes to proceed the trial could be implemented May 20, 2013.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications with this report.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

---

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: Colin Redding, Transit Planning Technician, Metro Transit Planning and Scheduling, 490-6632  
Roddy MacIntyre, P.Eng., Transportation Engineer, Traffic & R.O.W. Services, 490-5525

Original Signed

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dave Reage, MCIP, LPP, Manager, Metro Transit Planning and Scheduling, 490-5138

---