

**Item No.10.2.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 26, 2013**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original signed *for.*  
Councillor Bill Karsten, Chair, Audit and Finance Standing Committee

**DATE:** February 13, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Metro Transit Planning Process for a New Five-Year Strategic Framework

**ORIGIN**

A report, dated January 23, 2013, before the Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

This recommendation is in accordance with the Audit and Finance Standing Committee's Terms of Reference section 3.2.6:

Review, as required, any other policies, procedures, forecasts, reports or process as agreed to mutually by the Municipality's CAO and the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Audit and Finance Standing Committee recommends Halifax Regional Council approve the Metro Transit planning process for a new Five-Year Strategic Framework.

## **BACKGROUND**

Staff from Metro Transit presented to the January 30, 2013 meeting of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee as a part of the 2013 budget process. In addition, staff provided background information on their proposed Five-Year Strategic Framework.

Staff requested that a recommendation be forwarded to Regional Council to provide direction and allow them to begin the planning process for the new Five-Year Strategic Framework.

## **DISCUSSION**

During the Audit and Finance January 30, 2013 budget process presentation by Metro Transit, the above recommendation was included with the budget presentation. Metro Transit staff provided information on the Metro Transit Five-Year Strategic Framework. More detail on this item can be found in the attached report and presentation.

In 2009, the Metro Transit Five-Year Strategic Operations Plan – Taking Transit to the Next Level was adopted by Regional Council to provide direction for improving transit service over the period of 2010/11 to 2014/15. As the timeframe for this existing plan is approaching completion, and new ideas about the future direction for public transit are beginning to emerge, staff are proposing that preparation of the next five-year strategic framework begin at this time.

It is anticipated that development of the five-year strategic framework will take approximately one year. The timing of this planning process will allow for some coordination with the ongoing RP+5 Regional Planning process, as there are opportunities for the two initiatives to inform each other. The previous five-year plan was completed by external consultants, guided by staff; however, preparing the plan internally will allow the staff who plan/manage the system on a day-to-day basis to be more directly involved in creating the plan, and will have the added benefit of reducing costs.

Members of the Audit and Finance Standing Committee supported the motion to move the Metro Transit's proposed Five-Year Strategic Framework to Halifax Regional Council.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The completion of the Five-Year Strategic Framework is projected to cost approximately \$175,000. Staff have confirmed that budget requirements for this project prior to the approval of the 2013/14 Capital Budget can be accommodated within the approved 2012/13 Metro Transit Operating Budget. The remainder of the funding required to complete the Five-Year Strategic Framework will be proposed as part of the 2013/14 budget approval process in Project Account No. CMU01095 – Transit Strategy.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Five-year Strategic Framework will include an extensive community consultation process.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

**ATTACHMENTS**

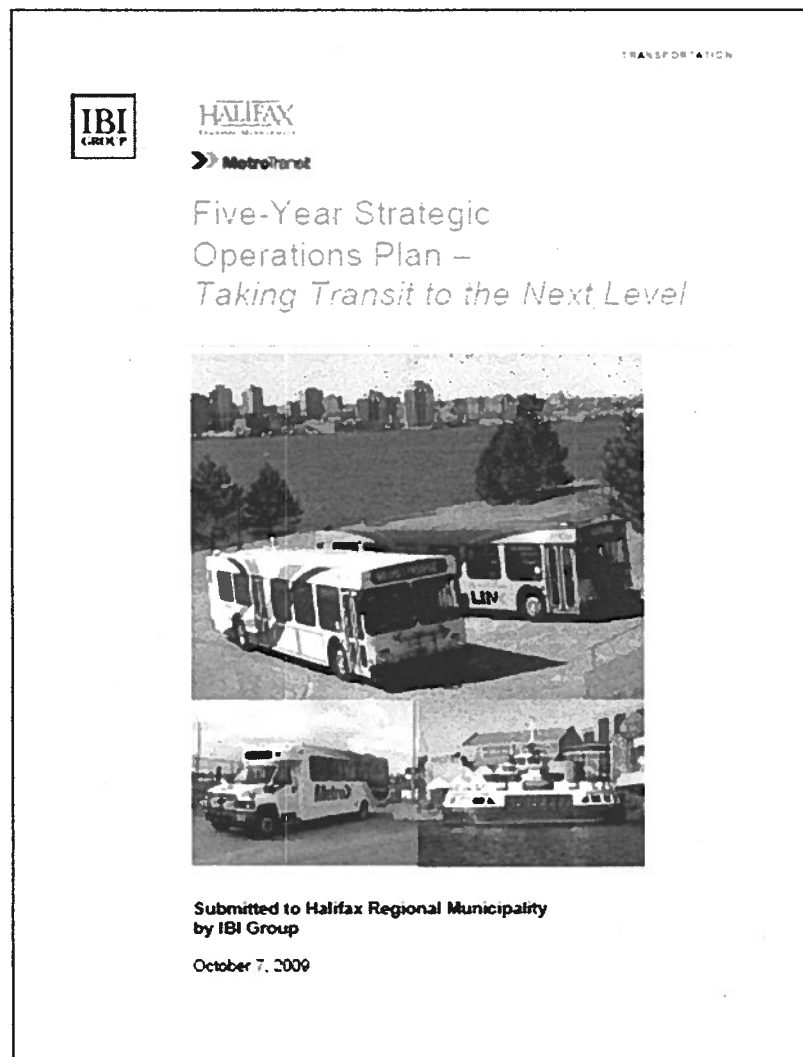
1. Metro Transit – Audit and Finance Committee Presentation Slides, January 30, 2013
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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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# Priority Initiatives - Transit Strategic Framework



# Five-Year Strategic Growth Plan

- To be completed internally
- One year process
- In conjunction with RP+5
- Two rounds of public consultation
  - Stage I - Values questions
    - Ridership vs Coverage
    - Connections vs Direct
  - Stage II - Detailed service planning
- Recommendation to begin work