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Halifax Regional Council
April 1, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Paynter, P. Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation

DATE: March 24, 2003

SUBJECT: Petition - Route 12 Flamingo

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the March 17, 2003 Halifax Regional Council meeting, Councillor Russell Walker submitted a petition requesting the route 12 Young Street not be replaced with the route 18 universities and route 35 Flamingo.

BACKGROUND

The recent Strategic Transit Study identified a Crosstown Route and improved connections between Mainland North, Mount Saint Vincent University, and the Peninsula Universities as important service improvements.

The Study concluded realigning the transit routes was more cost effective than maintaining the existing routes and overlaying new service like the Crosstown route. This realignment is intended to enhance Metro Transit's existing radial route structure where transit routes connect local areas to "Focal Point" Transit Terminals. From these Terminals frequent service would operate to a variety of trip destinations throughout the transit service area.

DISCUSSION

Anytime transit service is adjusted, some existing users must change their travel pattern and determine which route will best meet their travel needs. Staff reviewed the addresses provided by the people signing the petition and are unable to identify a single origin or destination that appears to be of concern. The addresses given by the people were from Fairview, Clayton Park, Peninsula Halifax, Spryfield and even Dartmouth. Because route 12 Flamingo operates between downtown Halifax, Flamingo Drive and the Bayers Lake Park many of the residents signing the petition appear to be transferring to/from the route 12 Flamingo to complete their trip.

In May (2003) the route 12 Flamingo will be replaced by other transit routes but the May changes will not eliminate transit service from any street currently served by route 12 Flamingo. For example:

- Route 52 Crosstown will increase service to the Bayers Lake Industrial Park.
- The combined frequency of routes 35 Flamingo and 18 Universities will add service on Flamingo Drive. These routes will also reduce the peak travel time between Flamingo Drive and Downtown and provide an all day direct connection to the Hospitals and Universities.
- Route 52 Crosstown will offer more frequent service with more destinations for Peninsula Halifax residents. The route 52 Crosstown does operate on different Peninsula streets but serves many of the same neighbourhoods.

In developing this change staff offered a variety of opportunities for the public to provide input. These included flyers on the bus explaining the change and asking for comments, attending Community Council and other meetings, and submitting stories and advertisements in Neighbourhood papers. During this consultation process very few comments were received.

Staff concede that the proposed changes may not benefit every person's travel needs, but the more frequent service, more destinations, and providing more direct service to downtown, the Universities, and Dartmouth should improve the travel opportunities for many residents. The May service improvements including the Crosstown route are based on reassigning the route 12 Flamingo service to provide the resources required for the changes.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

 
Kenny Silver, P. Eng., Manager, Transit Planning & Development (490-6689)