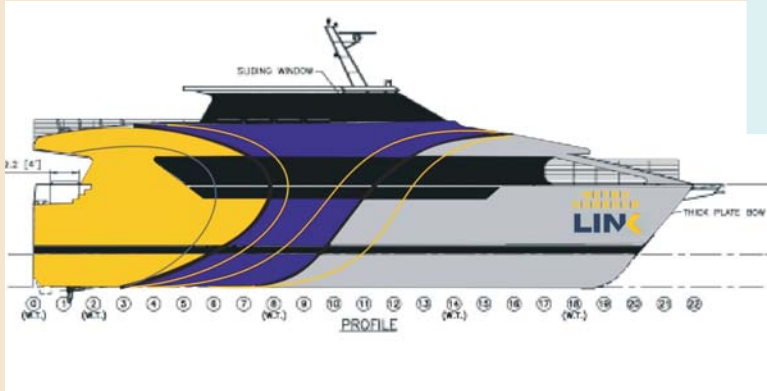


The Halifax HarbourLink Project

February 2006

The Project

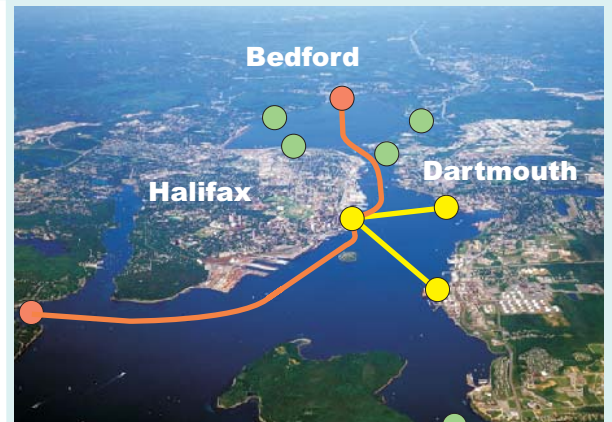


The evolution of high-speed, low-wake catamaran ferries for urban commuter travel means that longer routes within our harbour may now be serviced efficiently and reliably. Halifax Regional Municipality is currently considering a commuter high-speed ferry link between the existing Downtown Halifax Ferry Terminal and Mill Cove in Bedford. Purcell's Cove will be explored as a possible next stop for ferry service.

The preliminary service plan is for a 15 minute trip from Bedford to the downtown ferry terminal and a 10 minute trip from Purcell's Cove. The new terminals would be accessible from park-and-ride lots and be well connected to bus routes.

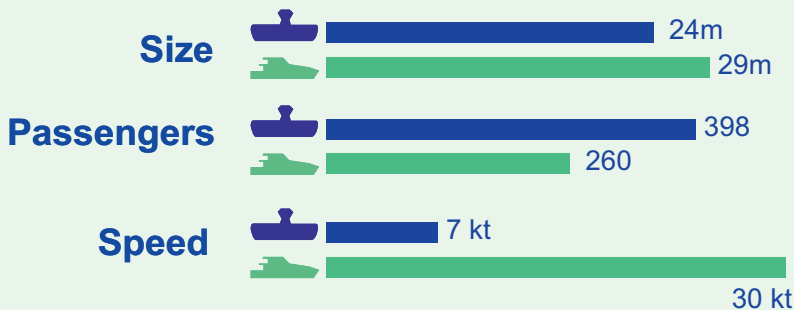
The Ferry Network

In addition to our existing network (shown in yellow), consideration is being given to developing two other routes (red). Other possible locations for future terminals (green) exist around the harbour.



- | Existing | Proposed | Longer Term |
|-------------|------------------|-------------------|
| ● Halifax | ● Mill Cove | ● Birch Cove |
| ● Dartmouth | ● Purcell's Cove | ● Wright's Cove |
| ● Woodside | | ● Shannon Park |
| | | ● Fairview Cove |
| | | ● Eastern Passage |

How the New Ferries Compare to our Current Ferries



Fast Ferry Demonstration

In October, 2005, we brought the Whaling City Express to Halifax Harbour from Massachusetts for some trial runs.

The vessel proved capable of making the trip from Bedford in under 15 minutes and demonstrated its low wake generation and exceptional manoeuvrability. The demonstration generated tremendous enthusiasm with the public and the media. The four runs that were available to the public were filled to capacity.

The Market Potential:

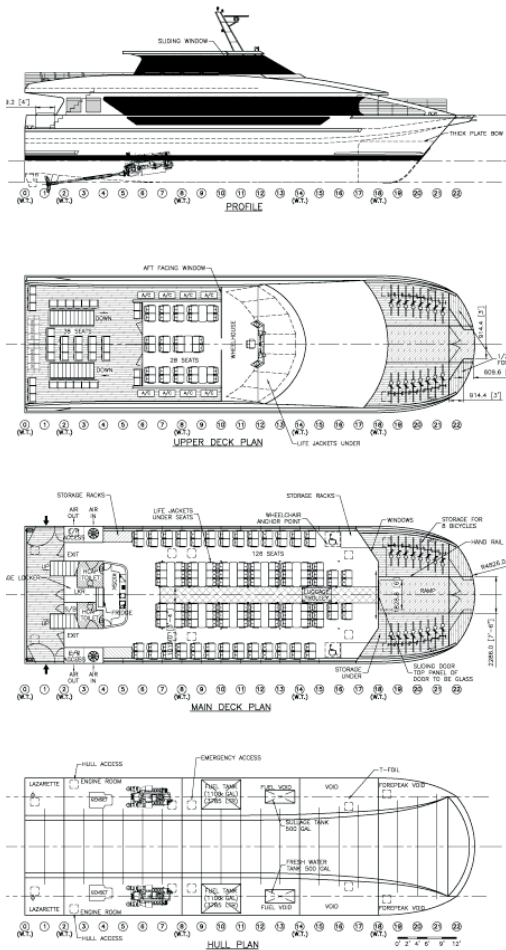
We've learned a number of interesting things from focus groups and market surveys conducted in 2005:

- The average Bedford resident makes three round trips to downtown Halifax every week
- Seven out of ten Bedford residents expressed interest in using a fast ferry regularly
- Six out of ten residents in Hammonds Plains and Sackville expressed the same interest

The Vessels:

The vessel shown below is a 29m catamaran designed in Australia by Crowther Design. Although this design may not ultimately be the one selected for use in Halifax Harbour, it does have the size and features we are looking for.

Although the vessel can operate at speeds of up to 30 knots, it is planned to be run at speeds of 26-27 knots. At that speed, it can come to a dead stop in two boat lengths. It has a maximum draft of 1.7 metres. The vessel can carry between 200 and 260 seated passengers depending on design features. There is inside seating on two decks and 38 seats outside at the rear of the upper deck. Up to 18 bicycles can be stowed on the bow.



The Benefits:

Halifax Regional Municipality's Regional Plan includes the goal of supporting alternatives to single-occupancy vehicle trips and implementing opportunities for enhanced transit service.

With their quick trip times, ferry routes from Mill Cove and Purcell's Cove both have great potential to attract people who currently make commuting trips downtown by car through congested areas such as the Bedford Highway and the Armdale Rotary.

For a new ferry route to thrive, the terminal must attract a number of walk-up customers in addition to park-and-ride, passenger drop-offs and transfers from bus routes. At Mill Cove, potential for high volumes of walk-up traffic would be created by the current phase of the proposed Bedford waterfront development plan.

An expanded ferry network provides a unique opportunity to develop high-speed, high-capacity transit links without the concern or cost of leasing rail lines or managing schedule delays inherent with commuter rail or bus transit.

Other features of an expanded ferry network include:

- Bringing development and activity to the waterfront
- Providing an important link in emergency situations or when weather conditions close or damage land routes
- Delivering the safest mode of urban transit

In other cities...

Fast ferry networks are becoming increasingly popular.



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