



October 21, 2008

Transit Security to be Increased

Halifax Regional Council approved today the purchase and installation of a Mobile Surveillance System for all Metro Transit vehicles. An increase in the number of assaults on transit operators over the past year led Council to expedite the camera installation, which will improve security and safety for transit employees and passengers by deterring criminal activities from taking place and providing evidence for conviction should criminal activity occur.

"The safety of our operators and passengers must always be our top transit priority," said Mayor Peter Kelly. "Installing cameras now will increase security while allowing our transit operators to focus their attention on driving and transporting their passengers safely."

The Mobile Surveillance Cameras will cost approximately \$1.2 million, which includes installation, testing and ongoing support. Funding was obtained from existing Metro Transit budget lines in order to speed up the bus camera project.

The camera system installation is expected to take approximately twenty-six weeks and will begin in November 2008. The original plan to phase in the cameras over five years was revised following the latest assault incidents and meetings with the Transit Operators' Union, ATU, Local 508.

Metro Transit will work closely with ATU, Local 508 on installation details; passengers will also be advised prior to the operation of the cameras on buses. Metro Transit will also continue to work closely with Halifax Regional Police on security matters.