

ATAC Annual General Meeting - May 2007

The Annual General Meeting of Access-A-Bus was held on May 23, 2007 at the Dartmouth North Community Centre. The meeting was called to order by Gary Russell, Chairperson.

Committee members in attendance were as follows. Lynn DeMont (Vice-Chairperson), Marcia Guy (Secretary), Lynn Eyland, Todd Hacquoil, Catherine Macintosh, Peggy Brown, Gwen MacLachlan, Cathy Cranidge, Shauna MacEachern, Bill Moffatt , Councilor Gary Meade and Larry Hilton (Access-A-Bus Supervisor).

The meeting was attended by approximately 75 people.

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of May 25, 2006 were approved.

The Lloyd Sampson Award was presented to Larry Hilton, Access-A-Bus Supervisor.

The following were elected to the ATAC Committee:

Fred Bishop

Gail Vaughan

George Herbert

Mary Ann Jones

The minutes of this meeting will be posted in May 2008.

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

Annual Report 2007

The Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) is an independent body providing feedback to Metro Transit on the accessible transportation services it operates within the Halifax Regional Municipality. ATAC provides expert advice, suggestions and recommends policy changes, while monitoring the daily operation of accessible transportation. ATAC exists to improve accessible transportation as provided by Metro Transit, with the ultimate aim of promoting and providing a more inclusive society. The committee works to ensure that disabled persons and their interface with transportation services are as seamless and congenial as possible.

During the 2006 ATAC Year Gary Russell continued as Chairperson, Lynn DeMont as Vice-Chairperson and Marcia Guy was elected as Secretary, together with nine other members elected to bring a wide variety of expertise on a broad range of issues and critical overviews of policies and procedures that govern Metro Transit as it relates to accessible transportation.

As in previous years the committee continued to develop and implement the goals of the previous committee and also ongoing long term goals.

Several meetings were held with various HRM and Metro Transit Section Heads where ideas and suggestions were submitted to improve the Access-A-Bus Service.

At this time I would like to thank Lynn DeMont who serves as Vice-Chairperson and Marcia Guy as Secretary. I would also extend thanks to Todd Hacquoil for his tremendous input into the Low Floor Bus changes and his input into establishing new Low Floor Bus Routes and the improvements that he has recommended to the HRM Access-A-Bus Website and my thanks also to the other members of the Committee.

Special thanks are extended to Larry Hilton, Supervisor of Access-A-Bus for his guidance during the year to the committee. My thanks are also extended to Councillor Gary Meade as liaison person with Halifax Regional Municipality City Council. With the valuable assistance provided by the above mentioned individuals, the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) has had another successful year.

The work done by ATAC over the past year would not have been possible without the dedicated co-operation of the Committee Members and Metro Transit Staff.

Highlights and Accomplishments of ATAC for 2006-2007

- A. Number of current clients using Access-A-Bus is approximately 1650.
- B. Improvements are still being made to the new telephone system installed last year.
- C. The revised Late Cancellation/No Show Policy introduced last year has been very successful and has reduced the number of violations to the system to less than half.
- D. The 25th Anniversary Celebrations for Access-A-Bus were held in August at the Halifax Forum Complex in the form of a Barbeque. The event was attended by approximately 275 people.
- E. There were four new Access-A-Bus Operators added to the system this past year and one new bus. Several buses were replaced.
- F. Eligibility Requirements and the Registration Process are currently under review for new users and existing users and changes to the system will be gradual over the next few years.
- G. Accessible Low Floor Bus Service (ALF) will be offering once again a free service during the month of July.
- H. Improvements are being planned for the Dartmouth Bus Terminal to make the platforms wheelchair accessible.
- I. Just a reminder that the Holiday Booking Window is still in affect. An extra day will be added to the day before the holiday when a holiday falls on a Friday or a Monday.
- J. Effective July 1st the fourteen day booking policy will be changed to 8 days.
- K. The HRM Access-A-Bus Website has been fully updated to April 2007.
- L. Improvements are presently in progress to improve the information provided on the site as to

accessible low floor routes and wheelchair access.

M. During 2007 there will be seven (7) new ALF Routes introduced.

N. Effective Jan 15, 2007 the route 56, the new Dartmouth Crossing, Mic Mac Mall and Penhorn Mall Route was introduced.

O. Effective February 18, 2007 the route 15 was made accessible for service to York Redoubt, Purcells Cove Road, Mumford Terminal and Bayers Road.

P. Effective February 18, 2007 the Route 51 was made accessible for service from the Bridge Terminal, Windmill Road and Princess Margaret Boulevard.

Q. Effective February 18, 2007 the Route 53 was made accessible for service to the North End Dartmouth, Wyse Road, Victoria Road, Bridge Terminal and Highfield.

R. The Route 52 for Bayers Lake Business Park, Lacewood Terminal, Mumford Terminal, Chebucto Road, North Street, Bridge Terminal and Highfield will be made accessible in late 2007 or early 2008.

S. The Route 88 for Northgate Development, Sackville Terminal and Cobequid Terminal will be an accessible route when the Northgate Development is open for business.

T. A new accessible route will be started in August 2007 to service Mount St. Vincent University when the U Pass comes into use.

ATAC hopes that these improvements to the system and new routes will improve service for all Access-A-Bus clients. Further information will be available on the HRM Access-A-Bus Website as they become available.

Access-A-Bus started service in 1981 and the year 2007 is its 26th year of service.

Your committee looks forward to serving you in 2007-2008 with the momentum built up over the past year.

Respectfully submitted

Gary C. Russell

Chairperson

Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee

2006-2007 Committee Members

Gary Russell, Chairperson
Gwen Maclachlan
Lynn DeMont, Vice-Chairperson
Murray Holman
Marcia Guy, Secretary
Cathy Cranidge
Todd Hacquoil
Bill Moffatt
Catherine Macintosh
Shauna MacEachern
Peggy Brown
Councillor Gary Meade
Lynn Eyland

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