

**ACCESSIBLE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
ANNUAL REPORT
APRIL 2011**

As Chairperson I am writing this report on behalf of the Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). First thing I would like to do is thank each of the ATAC members for their commitment to improving accessible transportation for all disabled users. I would also like to thank Pat Meagher, Accessible Transit Manager, Antonio Feijoo, Supervisor Accessible Services, Terri Zinck, Administrative Support and Ann Brothers, Administrative Assistant, for their commitment to helping this Committee achieve its mandate to service the disabled community.

Unfortunately the ATAC year began with the sudden passing of Fred Bishop on May 25 2010. Fred served as Chairperson of the ATAC Committee for two years and he will be missed by all committee members.

This was an active year with the Access-A-Bus 30th Anniversary BBQ held in September. Many Access-A-Bus clients were able to attend this function to enjoy food, music and door prizes and fun was had by all.

The Consultants, IBI Group, completed the Access-A-Bus Strategic Plan which was recently approved by Halifax Regional Council. This report set out recommendations to enhance specialized transit service.

Implementation of the recommendations made in the IBI Access-a-Bus Strategic Plan has begun with the Access-A-Bus service boundary being extended from 610m to 1000m from a fixed route bus stop as well as Personal Care Attendants (as identified during the registration process) are not charged a bus fare while travelling on Access-A-Bus.

Metro Transit introduced seven (7) new Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Bus Routes, the 8(Waterfront) 22 (Armdale) 52 (Cross Town) 57 (Russell Lake) 58(Woodlawn) 62(Wildwood) and 65 (Astral). With the addition of these new ALF Routes, Metro Transit now has over 50% of the bus routes ALF. Please watch for additional ALF routes in the near future.

It is hoped to have the booking window reduced to 48 hours and have confirmed trip times by early summer. Another major change that will happen at the same time is the introduction of a pick-up window. This will mean that instead of being given a specific pick-up time, the client will be given a pick-up window of thirty (30) minutes. The client must be ready for pick up at their prearranged pick up spot during the pick-up window.

Plans for the new Dartmouth Bridge Terminal have been approved by Halifax Regional Council and construction will begin shortly with expected completion to take approximately one year. This new bridge terminal, which will be fully accessible, will enhance the existing ALF service and allow for transferring at the bridge terminal for disabled users .

Metro Transit is currently undergoing a Universal Accessibility Study being conducted by IBI Group. This study will look at the overall accessibility of all the Metro Transit services and evaluation of the overall processes and products, communication, policies and practices for accessible customer service. We look forward to these recommendations and the improvements that this should bring to Metro Transit.

In closing, I would like to say this committee has worked hard over the past year to ensure that the users of the accessible transportation service have been well represented with MetroTransit.

Cathy Cranidge
Chairperson

2010 Committee Members

Terry Cousineau	Suzanne McConnell
Murray Holman	Gary Russell
Todd Hacquoil	Bonita Shepherd
Linda Pottie	Joann Walsh
Roy LeBlanc	Mel Larsen
Cathy Cranidge	
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal	

