

## **September - November 2009 Website Update**

### **ATAC Meeting - September 23, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 1:15 by Fred Bishop, Chairperson.

Committee Members present: Fred Bishop (Chairperson), Pat Meagher (Superintendent, Special Services), Terri Zinck, (Administrative Support), Cathy Cranidge (Vice Chairperson), Joann Walsh, Todd Hacquoil, Murray Holman, Linda Pottie, Donnie Mullins, Lynn Demont.

Regrets - Gail Vaughan, Roy LeBlanc, Thomas Downey, Bill Moffatt

The minutes of the meeting held August 26, 2009 were approved.

Agenda -

1. Safety Issues on New Buses - A concern was raised regarding the step when getting on the new buses #371 - 374. The design had been changed a few years back to eliminate this step, but it is back on the new buses. Fleet will be advised of this concern. A concern about lack of lighting and grab bars on the new buses was also raised.
2. Upgrading of Radios on buses - There was a discussion regarding the possibility of upgrading the radios on the buses from a UHF system to a TMR system. This is currently being looked at with the Province. It was noted that this is an important safety issue on all buses.
3. Pickup/Dropoff Locations at QEII - An enquiry was made regarding the possibility of Access-A-Bus being able to do pickups/dropoffs at the Robie Street entrance to the Halifax Infirmary. This will be investigated further.
4. ALF Operator knapsacks blocking aisles - A concern was brought forward regarding the problems arising from Operators hanging their knapsacks on the fare box and also on the pole behind the operators seat. This will be brought up with Operations.
5. ALF Training sessions for potential users - It was discussed that it would be beneficial to hold periodic training courses for the Low Floor Buses so that potential users would feel more comfortable using these buses. It was suggested that this be done at community events in the future.

Reports -

No Show/Cancellation Committee - Nothing new to report.

Low Floor Committee - Meeting held and recommendations made. These will be brought forward at a later date. With regard to the survey recently carried out, it was noted that there were a lot of positive comments.

Public Relations - Letter has been sent to Councillor Jerry Blumenthal regarding funding for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary BBQ.

Eligibility Committee - A proposal has been sent to upper management of Transit. Still awaiting their comments.

Added Items -

1. AAB Stop MicMac Mall - It was noted that the stop at Micmac Mall is not marked "AAB only". It is only marked as a wheelchair accessible spot.
2. Seat Belts - It was noted the seat belts on the newer buses are not long enough and that the operators are using only the shoulder restraints which is not safe. Extenders have been ordered.
3. Oath of Confidentiality - The importance of this Oath was again discussed with the Committee.
4. Bus Ramp - It was noted that operators should not be on the ramp with wheelchair clients as this may exceed the 800 lbs limit and could result in damage to the ramp.

Meeting adjourned at 2:45 pm

Next Meeting - October 28, 2009 1-3 pm Metro Transit Training Room A

### **ATAC Meeting - October 28, 2009**

Meeting called to order at 1:00 pm by Cathy Cranidge, Vice Chairperson.

Committee Members present: Cathy Cranidge (Vice Chairperson), Terri Zinck (Administrative Support), Todd Hacquoil, Joann Walsh, Murray Holman, Linda Pottie, Donnie Mullins, Gail Vaughan, Roy LeBlanc, Thomas Downey, Bill Moffatt, Jim Leadon, Councillor Jerry Blumenthal, Phil Herritt (Superintendent, Vehicle Tracking and Communications, filling in for Pat Meagher)

Special Guests - Eddie Robar, Manager Planning & Development  
Amy Power - Supervisor of Scheduling & Service Planning

Regrets - Fred Bishop, Lynn Demont, Pat Meagher

The minutes of the meeting held September 23, 2009 were approved.

A brief overview of the additions planned for the next five years was presented to the Committee stating that the focus will be on making the higher capacity routes more accessible and providing more service to these areas. The plan is to make the Route 52 accessible by next August.

A passive restraint system for wheelchairs will make boarding time much quicker on the new buses. The Bridge Terminal is expected to be completed by September 2010 and be fully accessible. An accessibility study is planned for next year which is in addition to the five year plan and it is anticipated that the ATAC Committee will be consulted once these meetings begin. It is hoped the Lacewood Terminal will be fully accessible by 2011 - 2012.

#### Agenda -

1. Signs on Access-A-Bus - Signs had been posted on AAB but had to be removed because they were blocking the operators view of the clients on the bus. It was also noted that only about half of the buses have sign holders. It was also suggested that the signage on the low floor buses should be modified so as to avoid confusion.
2. Follow up on stroller policy - A new stroller policy has been drafted and sent to management for approval. It is hoped to have the final draft for the next meeting.
3. Access-A-Bus/ALF Web Pages Update/Training Video - The Committee was advised that the local Community Colleges offering Audio Visual Training could be approached to assist with making training videos on how to use Access-A-Bus and Low Floor Buses. It was suggested that these videos could be on the HRM website as well as in the libraries for those who do not own a computer.

#### Reports -

No Show/Cancellation Committee - Nothing new to report.

Low Floor Committee - Recommendations have been sent to upper management, still awaiting reply.

Public Relations - A letter has been sent to the Union regarding the ATAC BBQ planned for next year for the 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Access-A-Bus.

Eligibility Committee - A proposal has been sent to upper management, still awaiting their comments.

Statistics from August/September were briefly outlined.

#### Added Items -

Bus Ramp Issues - More clarification required on this topic.

Metro Transit Staff Appreciation Award - Deferred to next meeting

H1N1 - Staff will be receiving both the H1N1 and Seasonal Flu vaccines in the very near future.

The Complaint procedure was reviewed.

Meeting adjourned at 3:00 pm.

November meeting cancelled.

No Meeting in December.