

➤➤➤ Fare Increase Scheduled for July 1, 2009

Approval was received during preliminary transit funding discussions, as part of the 2009-2010 budget process at Regional Council on Tuesday, March 3rd, for Metro Transit to increase the fare of bus, ferry and Access-A-Bus services, effective, July 1st, 2009.

This increase will include cash fares, Metro passes, MetroLink passes and tickets for adults, seniors, children and students.

This is the first fare increase introduced since January 2005. The latest increase is required to offset rising operating costs and future growth. Over the past four years, Metro Transit's service has grown by more than 60 percent. Despite this new price increase, Metro Transit still offers one of the lowest transit fare structures for cities of comparable size across Canada.

Additional information will be made available through our Metro Transit Retail Outlets; the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000; and on our transit homepage at www.halifax.ca/metrotransit closer to the July 1st, 2009 implementation date.

	Cash	MetroPass	10 Tickets
Adult	\$2 ²⁵	\$70 ⁰⁰	\$18 ⁰⁰
Children <small>age 5-15</small> Senior <small>age 65 & up</small>	\$1 ⁵⁰	\$52 ⁰⁰	\$13 ⁰⁰
Student <small>full-time with valid photo I.D.</small>	\$2 ²⁵	\$64 ⁰⁰	\$18 ⁰⁰

	Cash	MetroLink Pass	With transit ticket, MetroPass, Upass or transfer
Adult	\$2 ⁷⁵	\$85 ⁰⁰	+50 [¢]
Children <small>age 5-15</small> Senior <small>age 65 & up</small>	\$2 ⁰⁰	n/a	+50 [¢]
Student	\$2 ⁷⁵	n/a	+50 [¢]

➤➤➤ The RBC Multicultural Festival

The RBC Multicultural Festival is the largest multicultural festival of its kind in Atlantic Canada. This family-oriented festival is an opportunity to celebrate our cultural diversity through music and dance performances, children's activities, workshops, arts & crafts, food and cultural displays. The Pop-Rock Concert and Festival take place at Alderney Landing, Dartmouth. Extended ferry and bus service will be provided.



➤➤➤ Explore Georges Island Tickets Now on Sale!

Parks Canada and the Offshore/Onshore Technologies Association of Nova Scotia (OTANS), in partnership with Metro Transit ferry service are pleased to launch the second "Explore Georges Island" event taking place from 10 am to 5 pm on Saturday, June 13 and 9 am to 5 pm on Sunday, June 14, 2009.

Located in the heart of Halifax Harbour, Georges Island National Historic Site of Canada once played an important role in the defence of Halifax. "Explore Georges Island" will provide visitors with the unique opportunity to explore the island, learn about its rich military past and enjoy the spectacular harbour views!

While Georges Island is not currently open to the public, Parks Canada will be moving ahead with work to install basic infrastructure on the island as necessary first steps towards the future opening of the island for public use and enjoyment.

"Explore Georges Island" is supported by the Waterfront Development Corporation, The Nova Scotia Department of Tourism, Culture and Heritage and Metro Transit. Tickets are available in advance only on a first come, first served basis through Ticket Atlantic outlets or online at www.ticketatlantic.com or by phone at 902-451-1221.

For further information please go to www.otans.com/events.

➤➤➤ HRMListens.com Contest - Update

Thank you to everyone who participated in Metro Transit's HRMListens.com survey. We received an overwhelming 8,000 + responses and are currently sorting all the information for future transit projects. Contest winners have been contacted and are redeeming their prizes.

➤➤➤ Clean Air Day

Clean Air Day, June 3rd, is a celebration of environmentally-friendly activities that promote clean air and good health across Canada. It is a great opportunity to make environmentally-friendly lifestyle choices, for you, your family and your community.

➤➤➤ Cyclists Get a Free Ride! (May 30 to June 8, 2008)

Board any Metro Transit Ferry or bike-designated route bus (Routes # 56 Dartmouth Crossing, #72 Portland Hills, #159 Portland Hills, #165 Woodside, or #185 Sackville) with your bicycle and travel for free during Bike Week. Please visit the MetroLink site for instructions on how to use the bike racks.

➤➤➤ Transit Surveillance Cameras

Metro Transit is well into the installation process of new surveillance cameras on its bus fleet to ensure greater security for its passengers and operators. Installation is on schedule with over 175 buses (over 1/2 completed) as of May 1st. As individual buses are equipped with cameras, decals are being posted on the bus to advise passengers of the presence of cameras, as required by privacy laws.

www.halifax.ca/metrotransit



May 2009

BE PART OF THE SOLUTION



TAKE TRANSIT

➤➤ MetroTransit www.halifax.ca/metrotransit

- Clean Air Day, June 3, 2009

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Route & Schedule Adjustments Effective May 24, 2009

Route #3 Manors

- Route 3 will be removed from Summer St. and travel as follows: Joseph Howe Manor to Mumford Terminal will travel straight on University Ave, (r) Robie St. (r) Spring Garden Road and resume regular routing. Mumford Terminal to Joseph Howe Manor, will travel straight on Spring Garden Rd, (l) Robie St. (l) University Ave. and resume regular routing.

Route #60 Eastern Passage

- First morning trip from Shearwater at 5:33am has been adjusted to 5:28am

Route #41 Dartmouth – Dalhousie

- Seasonal service suspended - to be reinstated in August 2009

Route #42 Lacewood – Dalhousie

- Seasonal service suspended - to be reinstated in August 2009

Route #56 Dartmouth Crossing & Route #72 Portland Hills

- Introduction of new designated bike routes. These routes are fully accessible for cyclists, guaranteeing bike racks on all buses serving these routes

Bridge Terminal Update

Plans are moving ahead for the expansion of Metro Transit's Bridge Terminal, one of our busiest transfer points, situated adjacent to the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge and Sportsplex in Dartmouth. As many passengers are very aware, the existing terminal can no longer accommodate the growing needs of our service. It currently serves 18 transit routes and over 17,000 passengers daily on a very congested platform area. The grade of the terminal site slope has prevented us in past from being able to adapt to allow all buses to load and unload at the platform; and from making it fully accessible. This expansion is a crucial "piece of the puzzle" in order to allow Metro Transit to provide increased service throughout all of HRM.

Why expand the existing Bridge Terminal rather than look for a new site?

Suitable alternate sites for the new terminal were considered, but none were determined as acceptable. Our transit terminal needs to be located near the entrance to the Macdonald Bridge, situated on Faulkner Street, to the left of the Bridge Tolls as you enter Dartmouth. However, this site was determined not suitable for a number of reasons including that it would have meant locating a major transit terminal in the middle of an established residential area. Another consideration was, being physically set back from Wyse Road, it would have posed more visibility and security concerns at night; the configuration requirements would have resulted in significant delays to buses entering and exiting from the Terminal; it would severely impact and disrupt other traffic around the Bridge Tolls and Wyse Road/Nantucket intersection; and would have required Wyse Road to have been widened for a transit priority lane on the west side to allow buses to get back on the Bridge. There would also have been a

significant additional taxpayer cost to purchase the land.

Why use Common Land for public transit?

In November, 2008, the Nova Scotia Legislature amended the Municipal Government Act to allow the expansion of the existing Bridge Terminal onto a maximum 6 acres of the adjacent Dartmouth Commons Land. Currently, Metro Transit does not have plans to use the full 6 acres granted. The new Terminal expansion will take up approximately 2 1/2 to 3 acres along Nantucket Avenue, above the existing Bridge Terminal. Work continues with the Dartmouth Commons Master Plan group and public to acknowledge the important use of Common Land for the purpose of improving public transportation. There is certainly no more efficient, higher volume use of "common land" for the public than to designate it as a transit terminal where many people can access the facility.

Over the past year, Metro Transit planners have met with the HRM Harbour East Committee, HRM Areas Councillors and the committee for the Dartmouth Common Master Plan, which involved one public meeting in April 2009; with another scheduled for May 2009. Meetings have also been held with the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, Dartmouth Sportsplex and Dartmouth High School. There are no residences located directly adjacent to the new Terminal expansion on Nantucket Avenue, as it is surrounded on all sides by commercial properties or Common Land.

Timelines:

Timing is important to allow us to build as quickly as possible, so that we may accommodate the much in-demand expansion of Metro Transit's existing service. A tender will be issued

by the end of May for the design/construction of the Terminal, with construction to continue over the summer and fall, and the full completion of the new Terminal anticipated for winter 2010.

Highlights:

- Efficient terminal layout, designed to significantly decrease delays for buses & passengers accessing the terminal, particularly during peak service hours
- Enhanced Safety and Security measures
- Fully enclosed, heated/air conditioned terminal waiting area
- Fully accessible to allow for Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Routes and mobility-challenged passengers
- 16 bus bays, eight of which will accommodate articulated buses
- Passenger access to buses from the curb, rather than in active bus lanes
- Environmentally conscious design & construction
- Enhanced active transportation connections to nearby properties
- Attractive landscaping & design

More updates on the expansion will be available as the project progresses on our website at www.halifax.ca/MetroTransit/bridgeterminal-expansion or through our HRM Call Centre at 490-4000.