



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 25, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Outhit, Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice-Chair
Deputy Mayor Mason
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Richard Zurawski

GUESTS: Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Tony Mancini
Councillor Steve Adams

STAFF: Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Colin Taylor, Solicitor
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Outhit, Chair called the meeting to order in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 26, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the minutes of July 26, 2018 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS

Additions:

15.1 Councillor Nicoll - Transit Access for Youth

15.2 Councillor Zurawski – Transit Changes in District 12

The Transportation Standing Committee agreed by consensus to move agenda Items 18 - Public Participation and 12.1.3 - Alternative Options – Route 15 Purcells Cove to take place after item 11 – Information Items Brought Forward.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Access-A-Bus Span of Service and Support Persons

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated September 12, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council direct Halifax Transit to remove existing weekday time of day restrictions on Access-A-Bus usage, and provide service to registered clients for a minimum service day of 6:00 am to 12:00 am from Monday to Friday.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 2018/19 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated August 15, 2018
- A staff presentation dated October 25, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Transportation Standing Committee receive a staff presentation on the 2018/19 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report.

Patricia Hughes, Manager of Planning and Scheduling, provided a presentation on the 2018/19 First Quarter Halifax Key Performance Indicator Report.

In response to questions from the Transportation Standing Committee, Hughes provided commentary on increases in U-pass ridership, revenue, and general ridership over the first quarter of 2018/19.

Councillor Cleary suggested that the motion be amended to forward the staff information report and presentation to Halifax Regional Council as an information item. The proposed amendment was deemed friendly.

The motion before the Transportation Standing Committee now reads:

THAT Transportation Standing Committee receive a staff presentation on the 2018/19 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report and forward to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Alternative Options – Route 15 Purcells Cove

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated August 8, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to implement routing and peak period service for the Route 415 as described in the approved Moving Forward Together Plan.

Patricia Hughes, Manager of Planning and Scheduling and Erin Blay, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects provided clarification respecting further declines in ridership for the Route 15, and continued levels of service for the community contemplated in Routes 415 and 25.

In response to questions from the Transportation Standing Committee, Hughes and Blay noted that data collected indicates that ridership for the Route 15 increases in the summer and declines in other parts of the year. Hughes advised that this is not enough to sustain the route.

Hughes clarified that the proposed extension of night service for the route 15, contemplated as option B in the August 8, 2018 staff report would likely pose challenges meeting ridership guidelines. Further, Hughes advised that the addition of new service, outside of the Urban Transit Service Boundary in contrary to the Regional Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.2.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff memorandum dated October 25, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the update from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as submitted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Councillor Nicoll - Transit Access for Youth

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A Councillor request for consideration form dated October 25, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of

1. Implementing a Transit Pass Program similar to Kingston, Ontario's that would provide a bus pass to all high school students along with orientation sessions at schools; and

2. Increasing the age that children ride free until from five to sixteen as part of the fare strategy.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15.2 Councillor Zurawski – Transit Changes in District 12

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A Councillor request for consideration form dated October 25, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Zurawski, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the Transportation Standing committee ask Halifax Transit staff for:

- 1. Direction regarding possible short-term solutions in transit routes (in the next few months) issues that residents of District 12 presented to staff at the public open house meeting of Oct 23, 2018 at the Canada Games Centre; and;**
- 2. Prepare a staff report to identify longer term solutions to those constituent concerns regarding the changes in transit routes as identified at the October 23, 2018 meeting and emails and correspondence and 311 requests submitted since the route changes came into effect August 20, 2018.**

Councillor Zurawski provided background information respecting concerns raised by constituents at a recent public meeting in District 12 respecting recent changes to transit services that have affected travel time, ability to travel within the municipality, and employment.

Dave Reage, Director of Halifax Transit, offered to meet with the area Councillor to discuss the issues raised by the community and discuss measures to address some of the concerns that have been raised.

The motion was **withdrawn** with the consent of the Transportation Standing Committee.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Anne Gillies of Purcells Cove, provided commentary with respect to the proposed alternative options for the Route 15 bus service in Purcells Cove. Gillies disagreed with the recommendation in the staff report to alter the service noting that it will decrease public transportation access to and from the area, for both residents and visitors. Gillies provided further commentary regarding a lack of time for residents to read and comment on the report and encouraged the Transportation Standing Committee to not support altering the current service.

Audet Murphy, of Purcells Cove, spoke in opposition to the alternative options for the Route 15 bus service in Purcells Cove. Murphy advised that from a strategic perspective, altering transit access to Purcells Cove will have a detrimental effect on providing public access to the area, especially to the new wilderness park that will open in 2019. Murphy advised that there is a strong seasonal demand for the Route 15 and it should be considered when contemplating service changes.

Jeffery Grantham, of Purcells Cove reiterated points raised by the previous speaker with respect to the restriction of transit service to the area and encouraged the Transportation Standing Committee to maintain the current Route 15 as is. Grantham noted several attractions in the area such as parkland, nature trails, and York Redoubt that could suffer if the current transit access is altered.

Allan Ruffman, of Furgesons Cove, provided a historical overview of transit services in the Purcells Cove area advising that there has been a government sanctioned transportation link connecting Purcells Cove to Halifax for the past 119 years. Ruffman advised that bus service has been provided to the area for the past 80 years, both privately and publicly, 48 of which have been provided by the Municipality. Ruffman provided further detail of the historical significance of transit service in the area and noted opposition to the staff recommendation to discontinue the Route 15 bus service. Ruffman concluded by advising that a reduction in transit service will be detrimental to the community as well as the region.

Sue Molloy, of Purcells Cove, reiterated the points raised by previous speakers in relation to restricting public access to the area by altering the Route 15 bus service. Molloy provided further commentary regarding the negative impacts that service changes may have on those that are dependent on public transportation.

Kathleen Paul, of Purcell's Cove, reiterated points raised by previous speakers in relation to the restriction of public access to Purcells Cove given the proposed alterations to the Route 15 bus service. Paul noted that the staff recommendation will negatively impact low income residents, particularly single mothers. Paul advised that the Transportation Standing Committee consider this when considering the matter.

Nathan Brett, of Prucell's Cove, reiterated the points raised by previous speakers respecting the proposed alteration of the Route 15 transit service in Purcells Cove.

Audet Murphy, read a letter read on behalf of **Andy MacCallum**, of Ferguson Cove, which spoke in favour of maintaining the current Route 15 bus service as is.

Linda Christiansen-Ruffman, of Furgesons Cove, spoke in support of maintain the Route 15 Transit Service in Purcells Cove. Christiansen-Ruffman noted reliance on the bus due to vision loss advising that it is an affordable method of transportation for those that cannot drive. Christiansen-Ruffman noted that many people in Furgesons Cove work outside of peak hours and advised that the restriction of service is very detrimental to the poor and the working poor.

Councillor Outhit called three times for further speakers, there were none present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 29, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:02 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant