



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 25, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Shawn Cleary

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Lindell Smith

STAFF: Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Colin Taylor, Solicitor
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
David Perusse, 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 of the Transportation Standing Committee was called to order at 1:07 p.m.
and adjourned at 1:59 p.m.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of June 20, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

The Transportation Standing Committee requested that Information Item No. 2: Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan (MFTP) Corridor Routes Review dated June 21, 2019 be brought forward for a presentation and discussion at the meeting to be held on September 26, 2019.

The Transportation Standing Committee agreed to change the order of business to have Item No. 17 – Public Participation be the first order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

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

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received regarding item 12.1.2 and this correspondence had been distributed to all members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations - None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 2018/19 Fourth Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated May 15, 2019
- A staff presentation dated July 25, 2019

Patricia Hughes, Manager Planning and Scheduling, provided a presentation on the 2018/19 Fourth Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Report, including the annual year end report and together with Mike Spicer, Manager Transit Operations, responded to questions from the Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive a quarterly report and presentation from staff on the 2018/19 Fourth Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicators and forward them to Halifax Regional Council for information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Amendments to By-law U-100 - Halifax Transit Fare Strategy 2019

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 11, 2019
- A staff presentation dated July 25, 2019
- Correspondence from Elizabeth Owen, Lyn Thomson, Bill VanGorder, Joanne Bealy, Nova Scotia Health Authority and Judith Meyrick.

Marc Santilli, Manger Technical Services gave an overview of the Halifax Transit Fare Strategy 2019 and the proposed amendments to By-law U-100.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt By-law U-105, the purpose of which is to amend Schedule 1 of By-law U-100, the User Charges By-law, establishing changes to the existing fare structure and fares as set out in Attachment C to this report.**
- 2. Direct the CAO to begin planning a Student Transit Pass pilot program by meeting with HRCE and CSAP officials to discuss potential partnership opportunities, program details, timelines, logistics, marketing and costs.**
- 3. Direct the CAO to prepare a report investigating the feasibility of implementing a fee for access to Halifax Transit Park & Rides.**

Discussion ensued with Committee members noting that an enhanced cheaper service should be given only to those with the deepest need rather than being broad based and that more research was required to establish income levels of transit user seniors before considering whether to eliminate the senior fare category.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

That the motion be amended to add the following to section 1 and to add section 4:

- 1. ...subject to retaining the senior fare category and increasing the senior's fare proportionate to the proposed increases to the general fare, and subject to identification of funding for funding the pilot program for the age at which children ride for free.**
- 4. Request a supplementary report that shall include but not be limited to detailed study on income levels of seniors who are regular bus users, cost of a free transit for seniors program, and costs of increasing the fare while adopting an enhanced seniors low income pass program.**

The motion before the Standing Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt By-law U-105, the purpose of which is to amend Schedule 1 of By-law U-100, the User Charges By-law, establishing changes to the existing fare structure and fares as set out in Attachment C to this report, subject to retaining the senior fare category and increasing the senior's fare proportionate to the proposed increases to the general fare.**
- 2. Direct the CAO to begin planning a Student Transit Pass pilot program by meeting with HRCE and CSAP officials to discuss potential partnership opportunities, program details, timelines, logistics, marketing and costs.**
- 3. Direct the CAO to prepare a report investigating the feasibility of implementing a fee for access to Halifax Transit Park & Rides.**
- 4. Request a supplementary report that shall include but not be limited to detailed study on income levels of seniors who are regular bus users, cost of a free transit for seniors program, and costs of increasing the fare while adopting an enhanced seniors low income pass program.**

In responding to a question of clarification, Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit, noted that it would be a challenge to financially accommodate both a retained senior fare category and a youth free transit program pilot.

Councillor Mason suggested the following further amendment which was considered friendly by the Standing Committee:

That the motion be further amended to change the addition to section 1 and add a section 5:

- 1. subject to retaining the senior fare category and increasing the senior's fare proportionate to the proposed increases to the general fare**
- 5. Identify funding for the youth free transit program pilot prior to implementing the pilot.**

The motion before the Standing Committee now reads:

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt By-law U-105, the purpose of which is to amend Schedule 1 of By-law U-100, the User Charges By-law, establishing changes to the existing fare structure and fares as set out in Attachment C to this report, subject to retaining the senior fare category and increasing the senior's fare proportionate to the proposed increases to the general fare.**
- 2. Direct the CAO to begin planning a Student Transit Pass pilot program by meeting with HRCE and CSAP officials to discuss potential partnership opportunities, program details, timelines, logistics, marketing and costs.**
- 3. Direct the CAO to prepare a report investigating the feasibility of implementing a fee for access to Halifax Transit Park & Rides.**
- 4. Request a supplementary report that shall include but not be limited to detailed study on income levels of seniors who are regular bus users, cost of a free transit for seniors program, and costs of increasing the fare while adopting an enhanced seniors low income pass program.**

5. Identify funding for the youth free transit program pilot prior to implementing the pilot.

MOTION TO AMEND WAS PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt By-law U-105, the purpose of which is to amend Schedule 1 of By-law U-100, the User Charges By-law, establishing changes to the existing fare structure and fares as set out in Attachment C to this report, subject to retaining the senior fare category and increasing the senior's fare proportionate to the proposed increases to the general fare.**
- 2. Direct the CAO to begin planning a Student Transit Pass pilot program by meeting with HRCE and CSAP officials to discuss potential partnership opportunities, program details, timelines, logistics, marketing and costs.**
- 3. Direct the CAO to prepare a report investigating the feasibility of implementing a fee for access to Halifax Transit Park & Rides.**
- 4. Request a supplementary report that shall include but not be limited to detailed study on income levels of seniors who are regular bus users, cost of a free transit for seniors program, and costs of increasing the fare while adopting an enhanced seniors low income pass program.**
- 5. Identify funding for the youth free transit program pilot prior to implementing the pilot.**

MOTION, AS AMENDED, WAS PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – June 20, 2019

The following motion was approved in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of June 20, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.2 PROPERTY MATTER – *Private and Confidential Report*

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A private and confidential staff report dated June 25, 2019

The following motion was approved in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated July 25, 2019; and**
- 2. That the July 25, 2019 private and confidential staff report not be released to the public.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.3 PROPERTY MATTER – *Private and Confidential Report*

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A private and confidential staff report dated June 25, 2019

The following motion was approved in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Approve the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential staff report dated July 25, 2019; and
2. That the July 25, 2019 private and confidential staff report not be released to the public.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION - NONE

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair called three times for speakers and there were none.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 26, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 1:59 p.m.

Judith Ng'ethe
Legislative Assistant