



## REGULAR BUSINESS

### MEETING OF THE ST. JOHN'S TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

A meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission was held on Thursday, October 31, 2019 commencing at Noon at the Metrobus Transit Centre, 25 Messenger Drive.

Present at the meeting were:

Ian Froude	Chair/Councillor
Shawn Skinner	Vice Chair
Colleen Galgay	Commissioner
Kirsten Morry	Commissioner
Paul Walsh	Commissioner
Dave Lane	Commissioner/City Councillor
Hope Jamieson	Commissioner/City Councillor
Kevin Breen	City Manager
Judy Powell	General Manager
Linda Ryan	Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Derek Coffey	Deputy City Manager, Financial Management
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#### I. PROCEDURAL

- The Chair called the meeting to order.
- L. Ryan recorded the minutes of the meeting.

#### II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

- The Vice Chair moved that the agenda for this meeting date be approved as circulated; Commissioner Walsh seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Walsh moved that the minutes of the regular business meeting of the Commission held on October 31, 2019 be approved; Commissioner Galgay seconded the motion.

#### III. BUSINESS ARISING

##### 1. Terms of Commissioners—Update

- The request to extend the terms of appointment for Commissioners Walsh and Morry to a second two-year term has been made to the City.
- Commissioners may serve two (2) consecutive two-year terms, up to a maximum of four (4) years.

##### 2. Replacement Vehicle for Community Bus Service—Update

This item was previously discussed during an in camera meeting.

##### 3. Metrobus/GoBus Review—Dillon Report

- A presentation was made by Dennis Kar, Dillon Consulting at a special meeting of the Commission on October 29<sup>th</sup> to review the report and provide input; the final report was made to members of St. John's City Council at City Hall on October 30<sup>th</sup>. The report offers a comprehensive review of the city's conventional and para-transit systems and its operating environment, in addition to public feedback, five-year strategic analysis and suggestions for continuous improvement.
- The report has been referred back to the Commission for its recommendations to the Council on priorities and timelines for improvements to help increase transit ridership locally and the sustainability of the GoBus service.

**3. Metrobus/GoBus Review—Dillon Report (Continued)**

- The challenge for the Commission will be to achieve improvements outlined in the report (reduced travel time, increased frequency, extended service hours, shorter distances to transit stops, more accessible service, new technologies and industry trends, etc.) with current budgetary restraints.
- An Implementation Review Sub-Committee was struck whose mandate is to prioritize the recommendations contained in the Dillon Report and recommend same to the Commission. Members of the committee are:
  - Chair Froude
  - Commissioner Paul Walsh
  - Commissioner Kirsten Morry
  - Metrobus General Manager Judy Powell
- Future focus will be on growing a transit culture, increasing ridership growth through service improvements and recognizing the connection between transit and climate change.

**ACTION:**

- The Chair, together with Commissioners Lane and Jamieson will, in their role as City Councillors, write an information "Letter to the Editor" pertaining to the results of the report, sharing the key points and next steps. A meeting will be arranged with Kelly McGuire, Public Relations and Communications Officer at the City of St. John's to discuss same.

**IV. NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Financial Statements—September, 2019**

- The financial statements for September, 2019 were tabled and discussed.

**2. Executive Summary—September, 2019 (Regular)**

- The Executive Summary for September, 2019 was tabled and reviewed. The following items were discussed:

**• Stroller Policy**

—Given the number of recent incidents involving strollers on the buses since introduction of the new policy, the Chair asked that this policy be made clearer to the public.

—Commissioner Jamieson suggested that a graphic be used to convey and/or reinforce that customers must hold onto their children when riding Metrobus.

**3. Service Request—Costco**

- This item was referred to Implementation Review Sub-Committee of the Commission.

**4. Holland—Plants at Transit Stops (Note: Article link sent with agenda)**

- Due to time constraints, this item was deferred. The Chair asked that if members are interested in bringing this item forward, it can be added to the agenda for the November business meeting of the Commission.

**5. GoCard Sales**

- GoCard sales will become aligned with m-Card sales effective January 1, 2020—all m-Card outlets will start selling (as opposed to just reloading) GoCards; MVT and onboard sales will cease.

- D. Power, Manager of Accessible Services will communicate this item to GoBus users.

**6. Salt Truck—From City**

- Metrobus will receive a retired salt truck from the City to salt the parking lot at the Messenger Drive transit facility.

## **V. OTHER (Information/Community)**

### **1. Operator Training Program—New Recruits**

➤ Interviews were completed and four (4) candidates commenced the month-long Transit Operator Training Program.

### **2. Thanksgiving Food Drive**

➤ VOCCM Cares Foundation and Metrobus, in partnership with Sobeys stores, hosted the Annual Thanksgiving Food Drive in St. John's metro and surrounding areas in support of the Community Food Sharing Association.

➤ This year's campaign was held October 4<sup>th</sup>—14<sup>th</sup> and involved collection of food donations by schools and organizations.

### **3. Coats for Kids**

➤ Metrobus again partnered with VOCCM in the "Coats for Kids Campaign", an annual clothing drive, providing families in need with winter clothing free of charge.

➤ The program ran from September 17<sup>th</sup>—October 30<sup>th</sup>.

### **4. Climate Change March**

➤ Commissioner Jamieson informed that a second Global March for Climate Change will be held on Friday, November 29<sup>th</sup>. Thousands of people are expected to again walk from Memorial University to Confederation Building.

➤ She suggested that Metrobus again provide free transportation to Climate March participants as it did for the previous March.

#### **ACTION:**

➤ The Commission agreed to provide free transit rides on the day of the March between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM for all Metrobus customers.

## **VI. ADJOURNMENT**

➤ There being no further regular business to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:40 PM.

➤ Regular business meetings of the Commission are normally held on the last Thursday of each month. Special meetings are called as needed.

➤ The next regular business meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2019 at the Metrobus offices, 25 Messenger Drive.

Respectfully submitted,

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Ian Froude  
Chair

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Linda Ryan  
Administrative Assistant

LMR