



GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

April 21st, 2022

COVID Update

No change to public health guidelines. Ridership in March was approximately 92.5% of March 2019 ridership. GoBus ridership was approximately 65% of March 2019.

Stop Announcements

Information and budget estimates have been received from two vendors and are waiting for updated pricing and information from the CNIB on the BlindSquare technology. We are reviewing the information to prepare a summary for the Commission on details of the systems with a request for approval to proceed with an application for funding.

Radio System

A meeting was held on April 7th between all service providers involved in moving the radio system to the NTV tower on Shea Heights. The actual move to the new tower will take place June 17th – 22nd, 2022.

Via Software – GoBus

Staff continue to work with Via on outstanding issues with the software. Two staff from Via were at the MVT office April 18th- 19th to provide support to staff and observe the outstanding software issues. Many software issues have been addressed but a few important ones remain which they are working on. The number of taxis using the software has increased from 4 to 5.

Cyber Insurance

In 2021, the City purchased a cyber insurance policy which extended to Metrobus to provide protection against claims due to cyber attacks. We were recently notified by the City that they have been unable to renew the policy or purchase a replacement policy. The cost was approximately \$3,000.

2001 Buses

In 2000, the Commission ordered ten 40-foot Nova buses. Prior to delivery in 2001, our service requirements had changed and we only needed six of the buses. Codiac Transpo in Moncton purchased the extra four and is currently retiring two of these units. As we are in need of parts for 2001 buses, and with parts becoming more challenging to source due to the age of the buses, we are purchasing the two buses for \$1 each (plus shipping costs). The buses contain many valuable parts, including a relatively new engine and two transmissions, and will reduce the repair costs for the six we currently have in our fleet. One of our 2001 units currently requires about \$100,000 in repairs. Most of the required parts will be obtained from the two Moncton buses.

Electrification Plan

Myself and Edmundo Fausto, the City's Sustainability Coordinator, had a virtual introductory meeting with CUTRIC (Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium) who is the consultant hired by Infrastructure Canada to assist transit systems with the completion of electrification plans. It was a productive meeting with CUTRIC outlining their experience and the overall approach to the project. The next steps are to complete the scoping exercise for the project and begin data collection.