

GENERAL MANAGER'S REPORT

May 18th, 2022

1. COVID Update

No change to public health guidelines. Ridership in April was approximately 99% of April 2019 ridership. GoBus ridership was approximately 65 - 70% of 2019.

2. Stop Announcements

A meeting was held with the CNIB to further explore BlindSquare technology. We are waiting for updated pricing and details on whether the technology can meet all of our requirements for an onboard stop announcement system.

3. Radio System

The agreement with NTV for use of their tower is drafted and should be signed this week. The move of the radio system will take place June 17th – 22nd, 2022.

4. Electrification Plan

The required Non-Disclosure Agreement with CUTRIC (Canadian Urban Transit Research & Innovation Consortium) has been signed. We are waiting for details on the data required by CUTRIC and next steps.

5. Goulds Detour

There are currently six areas of construction in the Goulds impacting service that have started in the past few weeks with some of them expected to last well into the fall. Traffic is reduced to one lane and at times, traffic will not be able to get through at all. Due to the delays and unpredictability of travel through the areas, a detour has been put in place that unfortunately means bus stops on the main road between Walsh's Lane and Doyle's Road will not be serviced. It isn't ideal, but it makes it predictable for our customers instead of constant changes daily or weekly which would be confusing throughout the next several months.

As the areas of construction conclude over the coming months, we will adjust the detour when feasible to reduce impact. Due to the detour and traffic, we are recommending that customers take an earlier bus to make their connections as the bus cannot always maintain schedule.

6. Free Bus Pass Program for Income Support Recipients

The contract with the Province has been signed at the annual cost of \$2.1 million. It will be expanded to include seniors receiving the GIS benefit and youth in care. A media event was held at Metrobus on May 9th with The Honourable John Abbott, Minister of Child, Seniors and Social Development making the announcement along with Councillor/Commissioner Ian Froude. Kelly Heisz from the Seniors Resource was also invited to speak.