

MINUTES – FEBRUARY 26, 2026

Meeting of the St. John’s Transportation Commission
Thursday, February 26, 2026 12:00 PM
In-Person at 25 Messenger Drive and via Zoom

REGULAR

In attendance:

Derrick Hutchens	Commissioner
Josh Smee	Commissioner
Franklin Onwa	Commissioner
Ron Ellsworth	Commissioner/Deputy Mayor
Kate Cadigan	Commissioner/City Councillor
Derek Coffey	Deputy City Manager, Finance & Corporate Services
Judy Powell	General Manager
Donna Power	Administrative Assistant

Regrets:

James Greey	Chair
Paul Canning	Commissioner

I. PROCEDURAL

The meeting was called to order at 12:03 PM. Commissioner Ellsworth chaired the meeting.

II. AGENDA

A request was made to add “Snow clearing at bus shelters” to the New Business section of the agenda.

MOTION: To approve the agenda as amended. Moved by Commissioner Cadigan; seconded by Commissioner Hutchens. Motion carried.

III. MINUTES

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the January 29, 2026 regular meeting as presented. Moved by Commissioner Smee; seconded by Commissioner Onwa. Motion carried.

IV. BUSINESS ARISING

Committees of Commission

The list of committees and membership was circulated at the last meeting. Each committee has sufficient representation, and the only vacancy currently is on CUTA's Municipal Transit Strategy Committee. Membership on this committee is not mandatory, but it does provide good opportunity to connect and learn from national colleagues. Commissioner Onwa expressed interest in joining the committee.

MOTION: To approve Commissioner Onwa's request to join the Municipal Transit Strategy Committee.

Moved by Commissioner Hutchens; seconded by Commissioner Smee. Motion carried.

V. NEW BUSINESS

1. Reports

Monthly reports were presented for the Commission's consideration.

i. General Manager's Report

The CNIB report reflects feedback from an accessibility review conducted by CNIB during their national conference in St. John's in August 2025. Part of the review included a ride-along with City staff, Councillors and Metrobus staff. Detailed recommendations from the report will be rolled into the Accessibility Plan.

ii. Executive Summary Report

The ridership data for January showed a significant decrease, likely attributable to the snowy weather. It is expected that February will also see lower ridership than anticipated. So far it doesn't appear there are fewer riders, but that riders are taking less trips.

With the recent snowstorms and heavy accumulation of snow on city streets, management was in communication with the city about the need to keep vehicles off the streets to allow for snow clearing. Metrobus staff also determined that service was not feasible, so service was suspended on Monday, February 23.

iii. Financial Statements for January 2026

No discussion.

2. Snow Clearing at Bus Shelters

With the increasing number of shelters, it has been challenging for staff to ensure all shelters are cleared in accordance with our policy. With the back-to-back storms, not all shelters had been cleared before the second storm hit, resulting in significant delays. Generally, shelters along core routes are done first, in the very early morning hours. For other areas, clearing is done after the City widens the street. Additional staff are asked to help with snow clearing when necessary, as was the case this week.

Glass at the front of bus shelters is frequently broken by city plows. Staff will be installing a Plexiglas panel over some shelters to test if it is a viable solution to protect against damage from snow clearing.

VI. OTHER

The next meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission will take place on March 26, 2026, at noon.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Business concluded at approximately 12:21 PM.

MOTION: To adjourn the February 26, 2026, regular business meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission.

Moved by Commissioner Hutchens. Meeting adjourned.