



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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission was held on Thursday, August 26th, 2021 at Noon at the Metrobus Transit Centre, 25 Messenger Drive.

Present at the meeting were:

Paul Walsh	Chair
Debbie Hanlon	Vice Chair/City Councillor
Kirsten Morry	Commissioner
Lynn Zurel	Commissioner
Tolulope Akerele	Commissioner
Jamie Korab	Commissioner/City Councillor
Derek Coffey	Deputy City Manager, Financial Management
Kevin Breen	City Manager
Judy Powell	Metrobus General Manager
Joan Mahon	Administrative Assistant

Absent: Maggie Burton Commissioner/City Councillor

I. PROCEDURAL

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 pm.
- J. Mahon recorded the minutes of the meeting of this date.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

➤ **AGENDA**

It was moved by K. Breen and seconded by D. Coffey that the agenda for this meeting date be approved.

➤ **MINUTES**

It was moved by Commissioner Zurel and seconded by Vice Chair Hanlon that the minutes of the July 22nd, 2021 regular business meeting of the Commission be approved as distributed.

III. BUSINESS ARISING

1. COVID-19 - Update

- The General Manager reported that the mask mandate was lifted by the province on August 10th but our recommendation was to continue wearing masks on board of public transportation and in our facility. Our buses can now carry a standing load of passengers but because people cannot maintain a six-foot distance, masks are to be worn. In light of the decision made by MUN and other businesses this was the right decision.
- Ridership is at 75% of pre-pandemic levels with GoBus carrying 65% - 70%.
- We are in the process of preparing for a full service to resume after Labour Day – September 7th, 2021.
- Commissioner Akerele questioned if there has been a change in mask compliance. There has not been a lot of change. If there is a mask mandate in place, most riders will comply. We have received positive emails with regards to our policy for wearing masks on board the buses.

2. RFP – PARATRANSIT SERVICE CONTRACT

➤ The General Manager noted that the Evaluation Committee met to discuss the bids which were received for the Paratransit Service Contract. There were some questions which were discussed with Rick Squires, Manager of Supply Chain at the City. Clarification questions will be sent to the bidders with the response date of August 31st, 2021. An update will be given to the Commission after the responses are received.

3. Paratransit Eligibility Update

➤ This item will be carried forward to the next Commission meeting on September 30th, 2021 as the Manager of Finance, J. Hussey, is currently on vacation.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Statements - July, 2021

- Chair Walsh questioned on a percentage basis what impact is the high price of fuel having? The General Manager responded that if things continue as they are – there will be an overage of approximately \$200,000 by year end.
- Commissioner Zurel questioned the time line of when the Pension Committee would be in receipt of (1) the recommendation of the fee structure and (2) the valuation report. A meeting will be set up for early September.
- The Employee Climate Survey project for Maintenance and Administration will be forwarded to the Commission upon completion.
- It was noted that the community bus is currently under repairs in preparation for September where we will require a full fleet for the expected demand on service.

2. Electrification Plan

- A draft of the Statement of Work and Deliverables was forwarded to the Commission. The National Research Council of Canada (NRC) would complete the study at an estimated cost of \$100,000.00. Edmundo Fausto, Sustainability Coordinator with the City of St. John's, is confident that the application to the Federation of Canadian Municipalities (FCM) for 50% of the funding will be successful. The remaining 50% will be a Commission expense. As the Commission is favorable of this action – it will be brought forward to be included in the 2022 budget.
- City Council has approved electric charging stations for various facilities in the St. John's area. Four units have been approved for the Metrobus facility for passenger vehicles.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further regular business to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:25 pm.
- Live streaming of the public meeting ended immediately followed by an in-camera business meeting of the Commission.
- The next regular business meeting of the Commission will be held at in the **Training Room at Metrobus, 25 Messenger Drive** at Noon on September 29th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Walsh
Chair

Joan Mahon
Recording Secretary