



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

REGULAR BUSINESS

A meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission was held on Wednesday, September 29th, 2021 at approximately 1:30 PM 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
Maggie Burton	Commissioner/City Councillor
Derek Coffey	Deputy City Manager, Financial Management
Kevin Breen	City Manager
Judy Powell	Metrobus General Manager
Joan Mahon	Administrative Assistant

Absent:	Jamie Korab	Commissioner/City Councillor
	Debbie Hanlon	Vice Chair/City Councillor

I. PROCEDURAL

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:27 pm.
- J. Mahon recorded the minutes of the meeting of this date.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES

➤ **AGENDA**

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

➤ **MINUTES**

It was moved by D. Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Zurel that the minutes of the August 26th, 2021 regular business meeting of the Commission be approved as distributed.

III. BUSINESS ARISING

1. COVID-19 - Update

- The General Manager reported that ridership on both Metrobus and GoBus has increased to approximately 75% of pre-pandemic levels. The mask mandate has remained in place on board all buses.

2. Paratransit Eligibility Update

- Information was requested in the July Regular Commission meeting with regards to the eligibility status on the assessments for new and current users of GoBus. The original budget was \$297,000 to reassess all existing users along with new users at an average of 50 per month. At the end of August approximately \$50,000 of the budget has been used. The quantity of new applicants has declined. In terms of existing users – some were denied and some were changed to seasonal usage. We do see that the clients that need the service will go through the assessment process.
- Upon speaking with Donna Power, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, it was noted that in 2020 there were 479 new applications while 2021 has had 322. Prior to the assessment process it was closer to 600 new applicants per year. Active users in 2020 were 1,668 versus 1,412 in 2021. There have been 44% of the original accounts closed or assessed.
- Commissioner Burton commented that she is still not convinced that the cost benefit is in favor of keeping the program. She would like to have more time to see where the program goes as we don't have any non-pandemic statistics to see how many applications there are but she is not sure if she can support keeping the program.

3. GoBus Service Contract

- A memo was forwarded to the commission with regards to the GoBus Service Contract. The RFP was cancelled. MVT was contacted to ask if they were interested in an extension and a per ride quote to extend the contract for one year. The quote was \$29.48. The majority of the increase was fuel. They are agreeable to adding a clause to reopen negotiations based on savings due to the On-Demand software. Linda Bishop, Legal with the City, will work on the contract changes once the proposal is approved.

ACTION: It was moved by Commissioner Morry and seconded by D. Coffey to approve the extension of the paratransit contract for one year. The motion was carried unanimously.

4. On-Demand Software

- Discussions are ongoing with Via Mobility. We are presently waiting on hardware to arrive. The launch date currently is October 24th, 2021. We will be launching the On-Demand software and our updated fare collection system on the same date.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Executive Summary – August, 2021

- It was noted that the Community Bus repairs are now complete but is due to go back to the dealer for additional repairs. The vicinity bus was purchased for the Frequent Transit Network (FTN) which is due to go in service in January, 2022 will be used while the Community Bus is serviced. If funding is approved for the Community Bus was 2022 – a bus would need to be purchased. Discussions with the Province are necessary.
- Commissioner Zurel questioned the eligibility of the paratransit assessments – (a) are we satisfied with the service rendered on a timely basis or lack thereof, and (b) is there a plan to do more than what has been experienced? The General Manager responded that there is a plan to do more. D. Power has contacted them but because of Covid 19 clients are nervous along with the fact that the company we used moved during the summer and have staff issues. We anticipate that the assessments should speed up again and we will review on an ongoing basis.

2. Janitorial Services

- A recommendation was made to the Commission to accept the lowest bid by Philrobben Janitorial Limited.

ACTION: It was moved by D. Coffey and seconded by Commissioner Morry and carried unanimously to accept the tender bid from Philrobben Janitorial Limited.

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VI. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further regular business to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 1:45 pm.
- The next regular business meeting of the Commission will be held at Metrobus, 25 Messenger Drive at Noon on October 28th, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Paul Walsh
Chair

Joan Mahon
Recording Secretary