



REGULAR BUSINESS

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

A meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission was held on Thursday, January 25, 2018 commencing Noon at the Metrobus Transit Centre, 25 Messenger Drive.

Present at the meeting:

Wally Collins	Chair/Councillor
Colleen Galgay-Johnston	Commissioner
Shawn Skinner	Commissioner
Dave Lane	Commissioner/City Councillor
Ian Froude	Commissioner/City Councillor
Kirsten Morry	Commissioner
Judy Powell	General Manager
Linda Ryan	Administrative Assistant

Absent:

Paul Walsh	Commissioner
Kevin Breen	City Manager

I. PROCEDURAL

- The Chair called the meeting to order. L. Ryan recorded the minutes of the meeting.
- The Chair welcomed Kirsten Morry to the Commission.

II. AGENDA/MINUTES

- Commissioner Skinner moved that the Minutes of the Regular Business Meeting of the Commission on December 14, 2017 be approved as distributed; Commissioner Galgay-Johnston seconded the motion.
- Commissioner Lane moved that the agenda for this meeting date be approved as circulated; Commissioner Froude seconded the motion.

III. BUSINESS ARISING

1. Metrobus Facility Tour and Presentation

- On Tuesday, January 23rd, Councillors and City Managers K. Breen and D. Coffey attended a one-hour tour of the transit facility, followed by a one-hour informational presentation by the General Manager.
- The exercise was intended as an overview of Metrobus operations to familiarize members in anticipation of a Metrobus Review petitioned by the newly formed City Council.
- The session was well received although currently, there is no consensus respecting the review's focus. It was agreed, however, that GoBus is a necessary piece of the review in consultation with community stakeholders.
- A follow-up session was suggested to define the terms of reference, accompanied by working principles and schedule of dates.

ACTION: The General Manager and D. Coffey will meet with the City Manager and Councillors Lane and Froude to determine how best to proceed regarding this item.

IV. NEW BUSINESS

1. Financial Statements

➤ The financial statements for the months of November, 2017 and December, 2018 were tabled and discussed.

2. Update on 30-Foot Vicinity Buses

- Delivery of the new low-floor, medium-duty 30-foot Vicinity buses is delayed by several weeks. In December, 2017, Maintenance Manager M. Dinn and Foreman D. Russell performed an inspection of the new buses at Grand West Transportation Group's City View Bus Sales facility in Mississauga, Ontario. A few issues were noted by Metrobus staff at the time; among them, the installed seats were not those specified in the tender. All other issues have since been addressed. Wait time on the replacement seats from the manufacturer is a factor in the delay.
- Metrobus is expected to acquire the new buses in February, 2018.
- The 30-foot buses will be introduced to the overall fleet and utilized on lower-demand routes within the transit system.
- Each bus can accommodate up to 27 seated passengers and standees with multiple wheelchair positions.
- The commercial service life of the Vicinity Bus is 10 years.

Backgrounder:

- Canadian bus manufacturer Grande West Transportation Group Inc designs, engineers and manufactures mid-size multi-purpose transit buses.
- The Vicinity bus is built following the same quality standards used in its heavy-duty models and costs significantly less than a regular 40-foot transit bus.
- After vigorous testing and proven performance results, the Vicinity bus is a more cost-effective, reliable, low-floor accessible vehicle for medium duty transit use. It burns less fuel and emits fewer harmful emissions.
- Until the introduction of the Vicinity bus in 2011, feasible options (particularly chassis construction with high-strength steel) suitable for a smaller bus were limited or non-existent in the North American marketplace.

3. Committees of the Commission and Vice Chair Position —Appointments

➤ Members were requested to consider the committees on which they would like to serve.

Current committees of the Commission are:

- Finance
- Pension
- Accessibility
- Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) Transit Board Members:
The CUTA Board Members Committee provides a forum for municipal decision-makers to exchange ideas and best practices on public transit. The Committee identifies current and emerging municipal issues of concern to the industry and provides assistance in resolving them.

➤ The Vice Chair position is also currently vacant.

V. OTHER (Information/Community)

1. GoBus

- The GoBus information package has been redesigned to be more user friendly.
- Promotional material was posted onboard GoBus vehicles to advertise the new online booking and notifications systems.
- The GoBus notifications system was launched on January 15th, 2018.
- There was discussion surrounding GoBus and rising costs associated with demand for increasing service levels.

2. Travel Training

- Plans are underway for the development of a Travel Training program.
- Travel Training is a program designed to enable improved understanding and confidence to use transit services safely and independently, based on individual needs and abilities.

2. Travel Training (Continued)

- The goal is to promote independent travel of older adults and people with disability by providing access to information, training and support to use regular transit services whenever possible.
- The Manager, Accessible Transit Services met with staff from the Autism Society to receive information on their Transitions Program, which includes some travel training, and discuss possible partnership opportunities.
- School students in grade six (6) and beyond also will be considered for this program.

3. Marijuana Legalization

- Commissioner Skinner inquired if we there has been education, training and/or consultation about marijuana use in the workplace.
- The General Manager informed that select staff members have participated in employer training programs with respect to this item. Supervisors will receive training on recognizing signs of use.
- The General Manager also has had discussions with industry representatives on matters surrounding this topic that include: medical versus recreational marijuana , new rules for legalized marijuana, the impact on the workplace and human safety, and the rights of the employer and employee, among others.
- As part of the legislation leading to the legalization of marijuana, the Canadian Urban Transit Association (CUTA) is advocating for the development of a clear regulatory framework to ensure appropriate measures are in place to protect public safety. Advocacy includes random drug and alcohol testing for all transit employees.
- In future, this will be a particularly challenging matter in the workplace.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further regular business to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM followed by the In Camera Business Meeting.
- The next regular business meeting of the Commission will be held on Thursday, February 22, 2018 at Noon in the Board Room of the Metrobus Transit Centre.

Respectfully submitted,

Wally Collins
Chair

Judy Powell
General Manager