



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

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

A meeting of the St. John's Transportation Commission was held on Thursday, May 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at Noon. The meeting was streamed live via Webex.

Present at the meeting were:

- |                  |                              |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Paul Walsh       | Chair                        |
| Debbie Hanlon    | Vice Chair/City Councillor   |
| Jamie Korab      | Commissioner/City Councillor |
| Kirsten Morry    | Commissioner                 |
| Maggie Burton    | Commissioner/City Councillor |
| Lynn Zurel       | Commissioner                 |
| Tolulope Akerele | Commissioner                 |
| Kevin Breen      | City Manager                 |
| Judy Powell      | Metrobus General Manager     |
| Joan Mahon       | Administrative Assistant     |

Absent: Derek Coffey Deputy City Manager, Financial Management

**I. PROCEDURAL**

- The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:04 pm.
- J. Mahon recorded the minutes of the meeting of this date.

**II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA/MINUTES**

➤ **AGENDA**

An addition was made by The General Manager to the New Business portion of the agenda - #4 RFP GoBus Service Contract.

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

➤ **MINUTES**

It was moved by Vice Chair Hanlon and seconded by K. Breen that the minutes of the April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular business meeting of the Commission be approved as distributed.

**III. BUSINESS ARISING**

**1. COVID-19—Update**

- We are currently in Level 2 of the Covid-19 pandemic and maintaining a 60% ridership level. Changes are not expected to be seen in ridership levels until post-secondary schools reopen in September.

**2. Transit Priority System**

- The General Manager noted that City Council approved the reactivation of the pedestrian recall features. As stated in the City of St. John's Minutes of Regular Meeting – May 17<sup>th</sup>, 2021 "That Council direct staff to implement Option 2 by returning operation of signals outside the boundary and inside the "core" would remain on pedestrian recall. The "core" would be defined by a line starting at Springdale Street and Water Street then following Springdale Street, LeMarchant Road, St. Clare Avenue, Campbell Avenue, Ropewalk Lane, Empire Avenue, Stamps Lane, Freshwater Road, Elizabeth Avenue, Rennie's River, Portugal Cove Road, Rennie's Mill Road, Military Road, Cavendish Square, and ending at Cavendish Square and Duckworth

## **2. Transit Priority System – cont'd**

Street. An exception to this core area would be at the intersection of Harvey Road/Long's Hill/LeMarchant Road which would be switched back to the normal timing plan to facilitate transit priority operations.”

- In order to educate the public on the queue jump feature at Freshwater Road and Stamp's Lane, City Council has installed a sign to notify the public of the process.
- Commissioner Morry questioned if there have been improvements on schedule adherence because of the queue jump measure. The General Manager advised that schedule improvements have been noticed. The operators are very appreciative of this measure.

## **3. On-Demand Software – Update**

- The General Manager advised that work continues with the Purchasing and Legal Departments at the City to finalize the contract with Via Mobility. The date to have the system in place has been postponed from August 1<sup>st</sup> to late August.

## **IV. NEW BUSINESS**

### **1. Financial Statements — April, 2021**

- The financial statements for the month of April, 2021 were tabled and reviewed.

### **2. Executive Summary (Regular) — April, 2021**

- The Executive Summary for the month of April, 2021 was tabled for members' information.
- The Chair questioned the following:

- “Community bus not in service – currently using a vicinity bus – the steering shaft needs replacing.”

The General Manager reported that the steering shaft is an expensive repair which is why the bus is not in service. As long as the Vicinity Bus is available, that will be utilized. If the Vicinity Bus is re-deployed into the fleet, the steering shaft will have to be replaced but the bus is essentially at the end of its useful life.

- “Awaiting approval from Steri-Koni for Sovereign Equipment to do recall on safety links for all ramps” and “Wheelchair ramp flooring replacement – 2012-2014 models”, are these issues compromising the use of some of the buses from an accessibility point of view?

The General Manager advised that the ramp repairs are preventative measures so they are still able to be used. The safety link repairs are ongoing. A local company has been approved to complete the repairs.

- K. Breen questioned the GoBus Eligibility Assessment denials and if there is an appeal process in place. The General Manager advised that there have been two appeals – one was overturned and the other one had the decision upheld.

- As per Commissioner Burton's request with regards to the percentage of assessments that have had their ridership status changed and Commissioner Korab's request as to the percentage of clients that use paratransit in the winter months and switch to Metrobus in the summer months, the General Manager will obtain the information from D. Power, Manager, Accessible Transit Services and forward it to the Commission.

**Action:** Donna Power, Manager, Accessible Transit Services, will attend the Regular Commission meeting on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to update the Commission on the assessment process as she is on vacation in June.

### **3. Smart Card System Upgrade - Update**

- The General Manager advised that the upgrade has been delayed due to Covid travel restrictions. The service provider has to do testing onsite.

### **4. RFP GoBus Service Contract**

- The service contract is in the process of being finalized. The current service provider is MVT Canadian Bus Inc. which ends December 31, 2021. The RFP should be released shortly (either the end of this week or early next week). The goal is to have the RFP closed by July 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2021 and the bidder chosen and notified by the end of the summer.

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### V. OTHER (Information/Community)

### VI. ADJOURNMENT

- There being no further regular business to discuss at this time, the meeting adjourned at approximately 12:20 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 via Webex on June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

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Paul Walsh  
Chair

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Joan Mahon  
Recording Secretary