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Info Item No. 2
Transportation Standing Committee
June 23, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Dave Reage, Director Halifax Transit

DATE: June 08, 2016

SUBJECT: **Information Report: Allowing Access-A-Bus Users to Ride Conventional Transit System Free of Charge**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the July 25, 2015 Transportation Standing Committee Meeting of the Whole, Item 9.3.2.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 69(1) of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter provides the legislative authority for the Municipality to provide a public transportation service. The following report conforms to the Charter.

BACKGROUND

During the Transportation Standing Committee meeting of July 25, 2015, Councillor Mason requested a staff report on the possibility of Halifax Transit allowing registered Access-A-Bus users to utilize the conventional transit system free of charge, including information on the potential benefits and impacts.

DISCUSSION

Registration with the Halifax Transit Access-A-Bus service does not currently include free ridership privileges with the conventional transit system. A number of initiatives to mitigate the impact of increasing demand are under consideration, including incentives to migrate paratransit users to the conventional service where there is spare capacity to accommodate a considerable proportion of travel needs. In order to best understand the financial and operational impacts of all measures under examination to the Access-A-Bus service model, they are best considered under the wider scope of a holistic review. Halifax Transit has committed to conduct a holistic review of the Access-A-Bus paratransit service as a component of the Annual Business Plan for 2016/17. The subject of this report has been incorporated into the scope of the all-inclusive review and will be part of the larger discussion when the intended review is complete in autumn 2016.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications associated with the recommended approach in this report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

There has been no community engagement associated with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Transportation Standing Committee may choose to ask for a separate report for the July Meeting, ahead of the universal review of the Access-A-Bus paratransit service option analysis and final conclusion.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCfinance/index.php> then choose the appropriate Transportation Standing Committee meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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