

Re: Item 9.1

HALIFAX

October 1, 2025



Halifax Regional Police/ RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment

Violence Occurring on Halifax Transit Buses and Terminals

Background

- On March 3, 2025, the BoPC requested an Information Report regarding violent incidents related to HRM Transit from 2022-2024
- Specifically, the board requested information related to:
 - The number of Halifax Transit reported violence events in 2022, 2023 and 2024;
 - The number of violent events in each of the three years involving attacks on Halifax Transit operators;
 - The number of times in each of the three years that Halifax Regional Police and Royal Canadian Mounted Police Halifax Regional Detachment responded to issues of transit violence on buses, ferries
- HRP and RCMP HRD collaborated with Halifax Transit to ensure information and data was provided by all three agencies to support this request

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Halifax Transit Data

Overview

- Documented incidents from 2022, 2023, and 2024 were reviewed by Halifax Transit staff and placed into three categories: verbal incidents, physical incidents and racial incidents
- Verbal and physical incidents were further broken down into the following three subcategories:
 - Passenger to operator
 - Passenger to passenger
 - Passenger to supervisor



Verbal Incidents

- Verbal incident = an interaction between two parties which is escalated in nature but does not lead to any type of physicality
- Verbal incidents can unfold due to many factors
- Examples of verbal incidents which have been captured in Halifax Transit data include:
 - Fare disputes
 - Passengers who are disruptive and need to be addressed by the transit operator
 - Incidents when mobile/terminal supervisors address passengers for their conduct on transit property (e.g., drinking/vaping/smoking/cursing)

Verbal Incidents Per Year

Verbal Incidents	Passenger to Operator	Passenger to Passenger	Passenger to Supervisor	Totals
2022	73	57	11	141
2023	122	83	20	225
2024	171	133	36	340
Totals	366	273	67	706

- A large number of verbal incidents are in the passenger to passenger category. These incidents could be the result of general disagreements between the parties, or from an altercation prior to boarding a bus or ferry
- While there has been a steady increase in verbal incidents in all three categories, the largest number of incidents reflected in the data is in the passenger to operator category

Physical Incidents

- Physical incident = an interaction between two parties which is escalated and becomes physical in nature
- Examples of physical incidents which have been captured in Halifax Transit data include:
 - Fare disputes
 - Disputes on buses or in terminals where groups of passengers have a dispute and it becomes physical and violent
 - Intoxicated passengers who have been addressed by transit operators or supervisors, and the passengers will react negatively

Physical Incidents Per Year

Physical Incidents	Passenger to Operator	Passenger to Passenger	Passenger to Supervisor	Totals
2022	30	78	5	113
2023	38	115	5	158
2024	41	111	8	160
Totals	109	304	18	431

- When compared to the number of verbal incidents, there are fewer physical incidents captured in the data from Halifax Transit. However, physical incidents have the potential of more serious consequences
- Passenger to passenger incidents account for the majority of physical incidents. Like verbal incidents, sometimes these incidents stem from previous disagreements

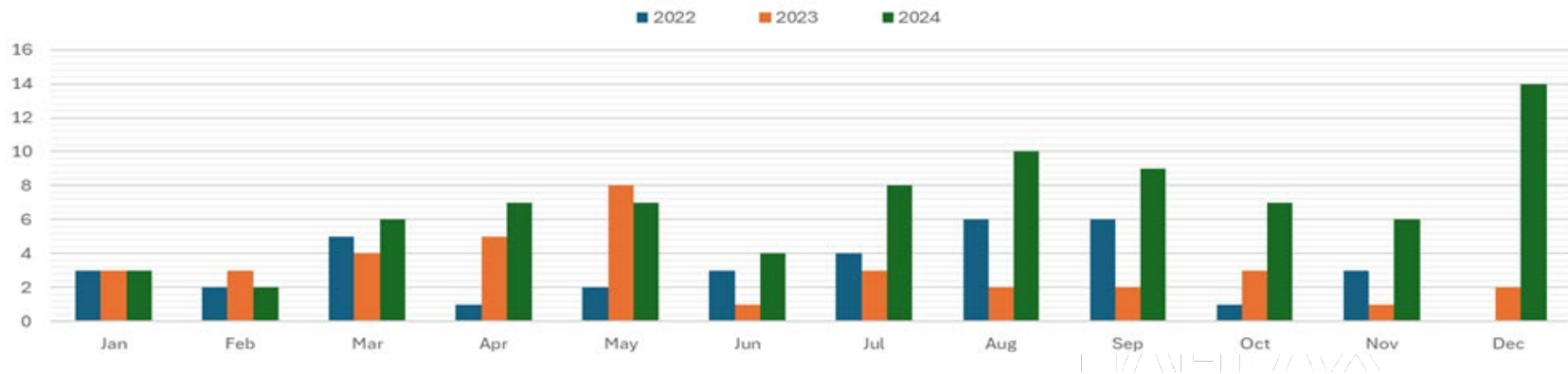
Incidents involving youths

	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025 (YTD)
Disruptive Passenger	89	157	284	446	542	243
Fare Dispute	2	0	1	19	35	14
HRP Request	1	3	2	3	9	4
Intoxicated	6	1	3	35	8	10
Medical Issue	2	1	2	1	0	1
Passenger Assistance	9	15	10	74	30	36
Total	109	177	302	578	624	308

- There has been an increase in incidents involving youths over the last five years
- Between 2022-2024, there were a total of 1,504 incidents involving youths captured in data from Halifax Transit

Racial Incidents

- Racial incidents = comments made by a passenger to a transit operator, supervisor or another passenger



- There was a total of 36 racial incidents captured in Halifax Transit data in 2022, 37 incidents in 2023 and 83 incidents in 2024

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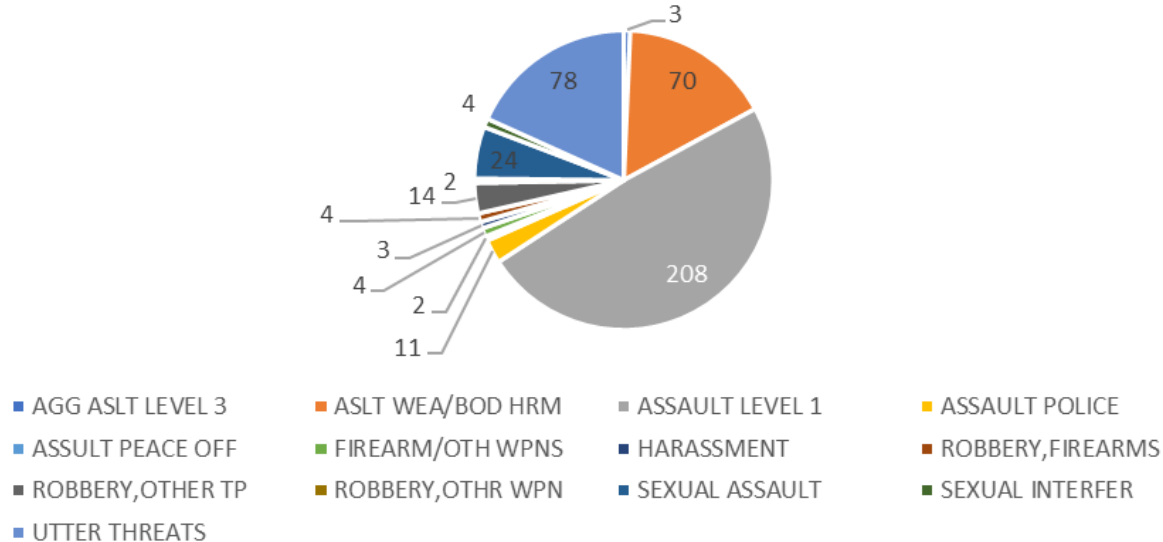
Halifax Regional Police/ RCMP Halifax Regional Detachment Data

Methodology

- The data provided in this section is a joint submission by HRP and RCMP HRD and therefore covers all of the municipality
- 'Violent incidents' include assault, possession of weapons, sexual assault/interference, robbery, uttering threats and harassment when referencing the data provided by police
- For the purpose of this report, a robust search methodology was developed, and the following methods were used to identify incidents:
 - Searching by location code of transit bus/ bus shelter/ bus terminal
 - Mapping out incidents and geo-fencing those which were reported within 10 metres of a bus shelter
 - Ferry terminals were searched by address

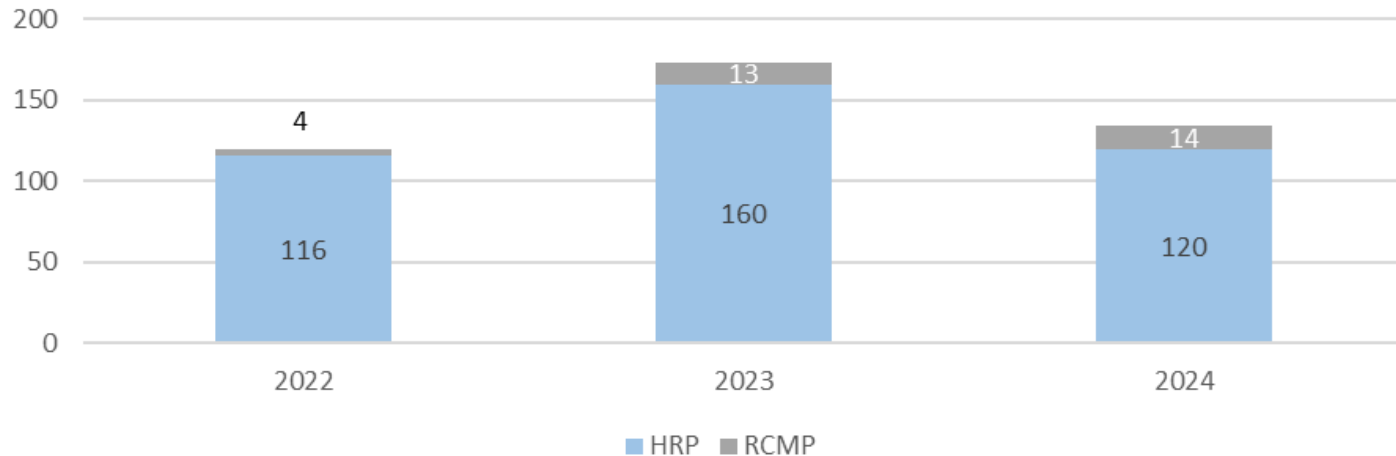
Violent Incidents on HRM Transit/ Transit Shelter or Terminals, 2022-2024

- Between 2022-2024, there were 427 violent incidents which occurred on HRM transit, at transit shelters or terminals that were reported to either HRP or RCMP HRD



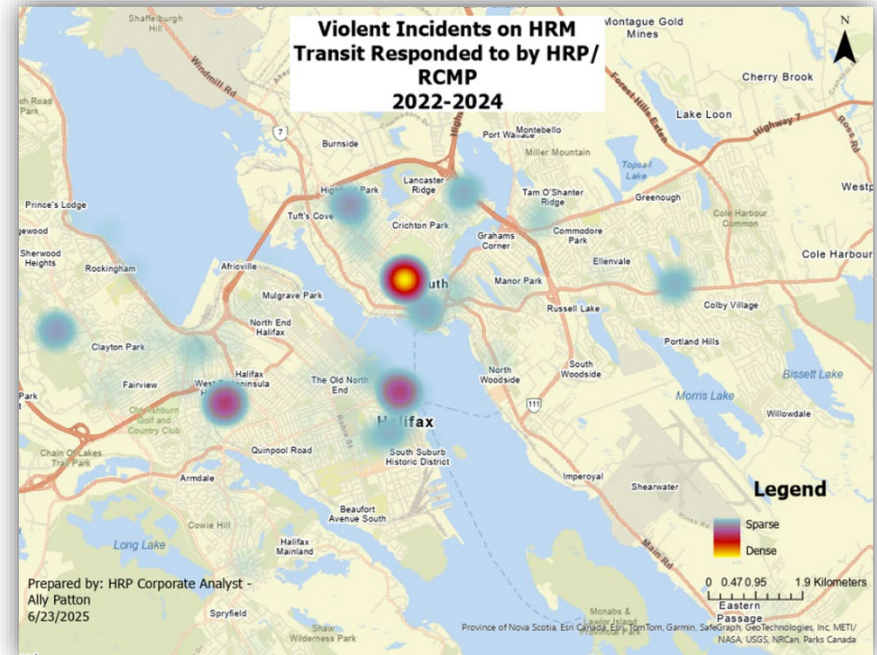
Violent Incidents on HRM Transit Responded to by Policing Agency

- HRP responded to 93% or 396 of the 427 total incidents
- RCMP HRD responded to 7% or 31 of the 427 total incidents



Violent Incidents on HRM Transit responded to by HRP/ RCMP HRD 2022-2024

- Within HRP jurisdiction, the majority of violent incidents occurred in the Dartmouth area
- 90 incidents occurred at the Bridge Terminal during 2022-2024
- There has been a growing number of incidents within RCMP HRD jurisdiction, with 14 incidents in 2024



Number of Hate Crimes and Hate Incidents which HRP responded to either on transit buses or at bus shelters between 2022-2025 (YTD: June 30, 2025)

Years	Hate Crime	Hate Incident	Grand Total
2022	8	7	15
2023	5	9	14
2024	2	5	7
2025 YTD		2	2
Grand Total	15	23	38

- Between 2022-2024, HRP responded to 15 hate crimes and 21 hate incidents that occurred on transit buses, bus shelters or transit terminals
- There are no records of any hate crimes or hate incidents occurring on buses, at bus shelters or transit terminals in RCMP HRD jurisdiction during that period

Questions?

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