

Town of Riverview

COUNCIL REPORT FORM



Presented to: Mayor and Town Council

Presented by: Colin Smith, CAO

Date: August 12, 2019

Subject: Codiac Transpo Route Options with Additional Operating Budget

BACKGROUND

Current Status

Back in June, Council gave direction to Codiac Transpo to use the additional transit funds in the General Operating budget to increase frequency on Route 81 and add an additional run on Route 80 and to begin those changes in September of 2019.

I wanted to provide Council an update on this particular matter, as we received notice from Codiac Transpo in July that they are not able to increase the Town's transit operating services levels starting on September 29, 2019. They are dealing with a staff shortage challenge due to a high volume of vacancies because of extended leaves and there is a lengthy timeframe required to recruit replacements. Codiac Transpo cannot implement any new services for its entire network at this time and is focused on maintaining its existing services. Codiac Transpo is focused on recruitment at this time to fill the vacancies and has indicated that they will be able to implement that Town's new services for January 12, 2020.

June Council Meeting

At the May 13, 2019 Regular Council Meeting, Codiac Transpo presented two transit options for Council to consider on how it could allocate the additional operating budget Council had included in the 2019 budget for transit services. The two options were:

- **Option 1:** Redesign route options within Riverview (i.e. Four routes: 30 minute service between Riverview Place and Moncton; Sussex route and Pine Glenn route; and additional runs on Route 80). This option is based on the route options developed by Codiac Transpo in its previous route review analysis it completed for the Town a few years ago.
- **Option 2:** Increase Frequency on existing Routes (30 minute frequency on Route 81 and additional run on Route 80).

Codiac Transpo's presentation on the options is attached.

Codiac Transpo indicated that Option 1, if approved, could not be implemented until 2020 due to the time needed to amend bus stop signage, route maps, etc. Furthermore, this proposed route design would be more effectively implemented when the Town owns a third bus and even has a fourth bus so that the two routes in Riverview are run at the same time instead of an alternative format.

The appeal of Option 2 is that it can be implemented this year and there are no amendments to the routes that are needed. This option simply increases frequency on the existing routes. Increasing frequency is always seen as the most effective way to increase transit ridership. So, if Option 2 was implemented, it would be a good test case for Riverview to see if simply more frequency results in more riders or simply makes the existing riders happier because they have more options.

Due to the simplicity of implementing Option 2, it is the CAO's recommendation that Council approve the implementation of Option 2 effective September 2019 and that we request that Codiac Transpo monitor the status of the Town's ridership over that time period to see what its impact has on the Town's ridership. Hopefully with that information and the establishment of the Federal and Provincial Infrastructure program for transit, the Town would be able to take advantage of that program to purchase a new bus and at that time Council could decide if Option 2 is being successful or that it should consider implementing the new route model outlined in Option 1.

Codiac Transpo provided some update information on ridership for the Town's current routes as was requested by Council.

- With limited data samples, Codiac Transpo indicated that route 81 has an average of around 290 passengers a day with a high count of 358 passengers on one day.
- Route 80 has an average of 22 passengers a day with a count as high as 64 on one day.

CONSIDERATIONS

Legal: N/A

Financial: \$150,000 operating budget. Both options presented would have an anticipated annual cost in the range of \$150,000.

Policy: N/A

Stakeholders:

-residents; business community; recreation users. The users were consulted back in 2015 and the proposed routes address key feedback elements the Town received at that time.

Strategic Plan: Planning for the Future – investing in public transit

Interdepartmental Consultation: Codiac Transpo.

Communication Plan: does Council want to do any public consultation on these proposed route options or do you want to pilot one option and see what impact it will have on service. This item is on Council's

agenda at a regular council meeting, as the CAO will not be in attendance at the next committee of the whole meeting, and he has been working with Codiac Transpo on this file.

Recommendation of Staff

For Information purposes