

HALIFAX REGIONAL SCHOOL BOARD
Report on Student Transportation Recommendations by the
Millwood and Sackville High Families of Schools Boundary Review Committee
Map Exchange 6 and Map Exchange 7

PURPOSE: To provide information to the Governing Board in response to the transportation recommendations by the Millwood High and Sackville High Families of Schools Boundary Review Committee concerns regarding student transportation affecting areas noted as Map Exchange 6 and Map Exchange 7 in the committee report.

BUSINESS PLAN GOAL: N/A

BACKGROUND: At the October 23, 2013 Halifax Regional School Board meeting, the following motion was carried:

That staff prepare a report in response to the transportation recommendations by the Sackville High and Millwood High Boundary Review proposal (Document #13-03-1397) referred to on Page 5 Map Exchange 6 and Map Exchange 7, by the November Regular Board meeting.

The recommendations from the Boundary Review Committee Report were as follows:

Map Exchange 6: Sackville Heights Elementary to Sycamore Lane Boundary Review Committee Recommendation:

Streets Affected:

Douglas Avenue	Dorothy Drive
Lois Drive	Irene Avenue
Jennifer Court	Davis Street
Hillside Court	Old Beaver Bank Road
Downsview Drive	Touchstone Court
Rosebank Drive	Gloria Avenue (east of Beaver Bank Road)
Sackville Drive (from Beaver Bank Rd. to Old Beaver Bank Rd.)	
Beaver Bank Connector (east side north of Old Sackville Rd.)	
Beaver Bank Rd. (east side from Sackville Dr. to Glendale Dr.)	

“Concerns were expressed for the elementary students residing in this catchment for their safe passage to Sycamore Lane. There are no sidewalks on many of these streets and students would be required to walk along and cross busy streets and intersections of Sackville Dr, Beaver Bank Rd, and Glendale Dr. It was felt strongly by the committee that students from this area should be provided courtesy bussing to Sycamore Lane and A.J. Smeltzer.”

Map Exchange 7: Cavalier Drive to Smokey Drive Boundary Review Committee Recommendation:

Streets Affected:

Moore Drive	Boutilier Drive
Tedbury Court	Wagner Drive
Imlah Drive	Hughes Drive
Yeadon Drive	Sunnyvale Court
Hillsdale Court	Woodhill Street
Beaver Bank Road (west side from Glendale Dr. to Millwood Dr.)	

“These students were previously bussed to Cavalier Drive. They will be less than 2.4 km from Smokey Drive School. It is the strong belief of the community and supported by the boundary review committee that the students in this exchange be given courtesy bussing on existing routes to provide safe passage to Smokey Drive Elementary. The Traffic Impact Statements for the intersection of Millwood Dr and Beaver Bank Rd demonstrate the risk to safety for students crossing at this intersection.”

Courtesy Bussing:

The Halifax Regional School Board [Student Transportation Policy F.005](#) allows for courtesy bussing within the procedures section 2.0 as follows:

2.1 Courtesy bussing may be extended to students who reside within the qualifying distances and may be transported to school if there is room on the bus.

2.1.1 The bus will not alter times or routing to accommodate students being transported as a courtesy.

2.1.2 First consideration would be given to the youngest students. The Halifax Regional School Board will work with individual schools where necessary.

2.1.3 When additional spaces are required for those outside the qualifying distances, those courtesy students closest to school will no longer be able to ride the bus.

CONTENT:

As the contracted service provider for student transportation, Stock Transportation staff reviewed the recommendations from the Millwood and Sackville High Schools Boundary Review Committee and provided a summary of what actions, if any, can be implemented to accommodate the proposed recommendations for courtesy bussing.

1) Bell Schedules

Given the requirement for a broader student transportation review to accommodate all Millwood and Sackville High Schools boundary revisions approved by the Governing Board, Stock has been permitted by Halifax Regional School Board (HRSB) to consider revisions to some bell schedules within the Sackville High Family of schools to seek opportunities for bus route efficiencies, with final approval by HRSB. The start of day bell times in this family range from 8:00 to 8:30 a.m. Allowing consideration of a later starting bell time up to 9:00 a.m. at some locations can offer more options for courtesy

service. This review has been applied to schools affected by Maps 6 and 7 and continues for the remainder of both Millwood and Sackville High School catchment areas.

2) Map 6: Sackville Height Elementary to Sycamore Lane

The list of current students enrolled within the Map 6 catchment area has been reviewed by Stock. At this time, based on the current enrolment information and provided there are not any significant enrolment changes, it is anticipated that the recommendation for courtesy bussing of students in this designated map area (including students attending A.J. Smeltzer Junior High School) can be accommodated for the morning and afternoon runs for the 2014-15 school year.

It is important to emphasize the fact that courtesy bussing is not a permanent transportation commitment. If circumstances change regarding transportation infrastructure, or additional spaces are required for those requiring mandatory transportation, students receiving courtesy bussing may no longer be able to ride the bus. When additional spaces are required for those outside the qualifying courtesy distances, those courtesy students closest to school will no longer be able to ride the bus.

3) Map 7: Cavalier Drive to Smokey Drive

The list of students enrolled within the Map 7 catchment area has been reviewed by Stock. At this time, based on the current enrolment information and provided there are not any significant enrolment changes, it is anticipated the recommendation for courtesy bussing of students in this designated map area can be accommodated for the morning and early afternoon dismissal runs for the 2014-15 school year.

Given current enrolment information, courtesy bussing cannot be provided to the students dismissed at the second dismissal time from Smokey Drive, without an increased cost to provide another bus. Stock continues to review alternate bell times in this Family of Schools to seek greater flexibility with bus run assignments.

It is important to emphasize that providing courtesy bussing is not a permanent commitment. If circumstances change regarding transportation infrastructure, or additional spaces are required for those requiring mandatory transportation, students receiving courtesy bussing may no longer be able to ride the bus. When additional spaces are required for those outside the qualifying courtesy distances, those courtesy students closest to school will no longer be able to ride the bus.

COST:

With the exception of the late dismissal time at Smokey Drive Elementary, the courtesy runs requested by the Millwood/Sackville Boundary Review Committee can be accommodated without any additional cost to the Board.

FUNDING:

N/A

TIMELINE: September 2014 for the 2014-15 school year.

Students in Maps 6 and 7 who qualify for courtesy bussing will be notified by Stock Transportation in August 2014.

APPENDICES: Appendix A: Map 6
Appendix B: Map 7

RECOMMENDATIONS: It is recommended the Governing Board receive this report for information.

COMMUNICATIONS:

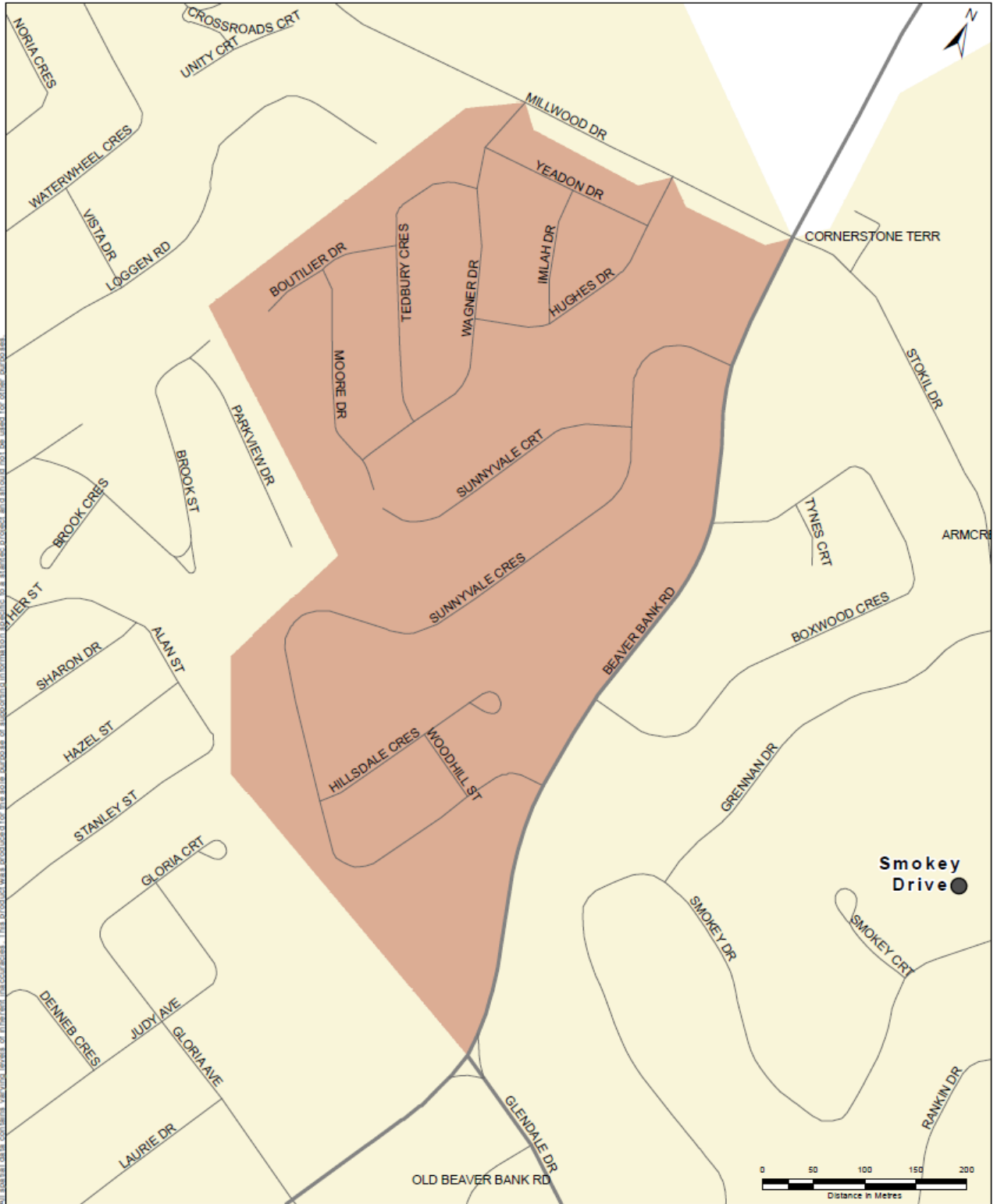
AUDIENCE	RESPONSIBLE	TIMELINE
School Principals, SAC at affected schools	Director, School Administration	Following Board receipt of Report
Stock Transportation	Director, Operations Services	Following Board receipt of Report
HRSB web site	Coordinator, Communication	Following Board receipt of Report
Students (Families) qualifying for courtesy bussing	Stock Transportation	August 2014

From: For further information please contact Ron Heiman,
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To: Senior Staff: November 4, 2013
Board: November 27, 2013


Filename: [\\columbia\departments\Facilities\Heiman-Sheehan-Fagan\Reports\Board Reports](#)
Date last revised: November 18, 2013

Appendix B



PREPARED BY:	K Taylor
REVIEWED BY:	J Heseltine
CLIENT:	

Millwood/Sackville Families of Schools Boundary Study
Cavalier Drive to Smokey Drive

FIGURE NO.:	7
DATE:	Feb 20, 2013
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