

MetroLink Service Timeline

October 2001	HRM submits Expression of Interest
December 2002	HRM makes the short list; chosen from amongst 48 submissions
May 2003	MetroLink Proposal approved by Regional Council
November 2003	Announcement of funding for eight showcase projects including HRM
July 2004	Signing of Federal Contribution Agreement with Transport Canada
July 2004	Public focus groups held; MetroLink vehicles ordered
Fall/Winter 2004/5	Development of on-street infrastructure, new terminals, and MetroLink fleet
Winter 2005	Formation of Public Advisory Committee
Spring/Summer 2005	Construction of infrastructure and terminals continues
Fall 2005	Launch of MetroLink service on Portland corridor
Winter 2006	Launch of MetroLink service on Sackville/Windmill corridor
March 2007	System monitoring complete and final report submitted to Transport Canada

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For updates on the status of our MetroLink service, please visit us on the web at www.halifax.ca/metrotransit or call us at 490-4000.

For more information about the Urban Transportation Showcase Program, visit <http://www.tc.gc.ca/programs/environment/utsp/menu.htm>

M | E | T | R | O
LINK

Introducing a new
Metro Transit service to
Halifax Regional Municipality

Welcome to MetroLink



Halifax Regional Municipality has created the MetroLink service in response to Metro Transit's Strategic Review and Transport Canada's Urban Transportation Showcase Program (UTSP). The UTSP is a five-year program designed to demonstrate, evaluate and promote effective strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from urban transportation.

Partnered with Transport Canada, our MetroLink service will test in real-life conditions how public transit may help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, smog, traffic congestion, infrastructure costs, and how it may meet other urban challenges. This new information will then be used to create an effective, integrated greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy for other urban centers across Canada by 2010.

Catch the Link Our new MetroLink service is scheduled to start along the Portland corridor by Fall 2005, and the Sackville corridor by Winter 2006.

Linking Communities

The two busy corridors served by the new MetroLink connect Cole Harbour and Sackville to downtown Halifax/Dartmouth. MetroLink offers limited-stop direct service, transit priority systems, ferry, bus, and bike path connections, park-and-ride lots, comfortable seating, air conditioning, wheelchair access and more. MetroLink routes are supplemental to Metro Transit's regular services, and will augment the Transit services already in place. HRM's Regional Plan recommends a new kind of bus travel, and MetroLink is one of the answers.

Features Why should I catch the Link? The MetroLink bus defines comfort and care, and delivers premium service for a premium price. The Link's limited-stop direct service connects you to your destination efficiently and expediently. High-backed upholstered seats with arm rests and foot rests cradle you in comfort, while air conditioning maintains a consistent and pleasant interior temperature. MetroLink lets you relax, free of interior or exterior advertising displays, while you prepare to reach your destination. Extra amenities in spacious new terminals contribute to your overall comfort. Need to go over some notes before you reach work? Making plans for your evening on the way home? Just want to relax? Catch the Link and get the most from your travel time.

Park 'n' Ride Combine the convenience of your own vehicle with the efficiency of MetroLink! Our new MetroLink terminals will offer spacious, security-monitored Park 'n' Ride lots where you can leave your vehicle while you catch the Link to your destination. The wheelchair accessible lots also include designated car pool parking spaces, and are a great way to integrate the flexibility of a vehicle with the expedience of MetroLink.

Accessibility The entire MetroLink fleet is low-floor and wheelchair accessible. We've designed the MetroLink service to fully integrate accessibility into its operations, including wheelchair accessible stops, auditory announcements, wheelchair accessible Park 'n' Ride lots, Braille plates on our InfoMasts, and interior stanchions marked for increased visibility. Metro Transit is dedicated to providing accessible service to all our patrons, and we welcome input on how increased accessibility can be incorporated into our MetroLink service.



Bike 'n' Ride What a great way to support active living: bike to work, or at least, to a MetroLink terminal. Easy-to-use bike racks mounted on the front of every bus allow you to take your bike with you, or facilities at the MetroLink terminals let you store your bike until you return. To make catching the Link even easier, existing bike paths are being extended and new paths are being built to connect with MetroLink terminals.

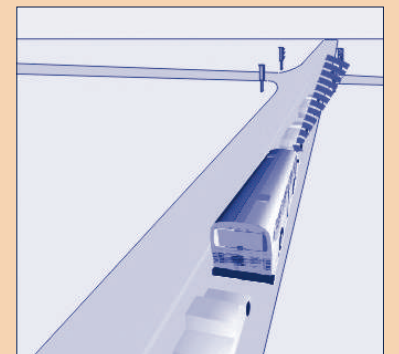
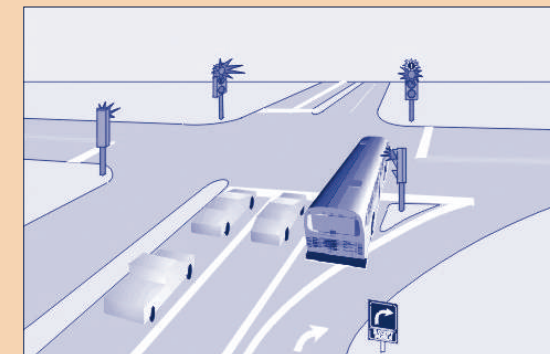
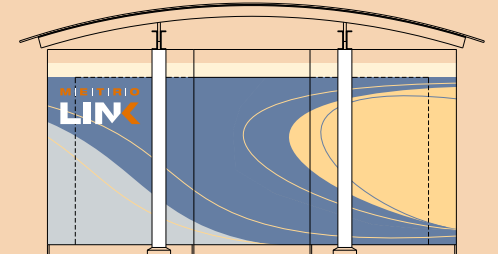


Eco-Benefits "If this bus wasn't in front of you, 40 cars would be." Once MetroLink begins its direct, limited-stop service between the urban core and Sackville and Cole Harbour, we expect to see a 750,000 kg reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2007. By leaving your car at home and catching the Link, you'll not only save money on parking, gas and maintenance, you'll be contributing to a healthier HRM and a healthier future for all of us.

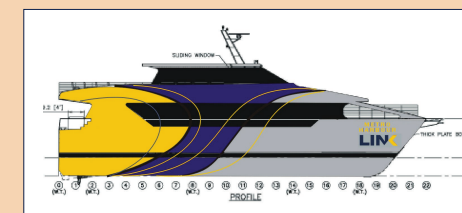


MetroLink Interior The custom-designed interior includes carpeted walls and ceiling for sound-dampening, task lighting, custom-upholstered high-backed seats with arm and foot rests, and plenty of room to relax. Heated in the winter and air-conditioned in the summer, this advertising-free zone encourages you to do more than just get from A to B. Your comfort is MetroLink's priority – so prepare to enjoy your trip.

MetroLink Shelter Our enclosed MetroLink shelters are illuminated by solar-powered lights, and clear side panels allow for full visibility from both inside and out. Benches and garbage/recycling receptacles will be provided. We want every part of your MetroLink journey to be as comfortable as possible – even the time you spend waiting for it to begin!



Transit Priority When a bus can be brought to the head of the queue using a bus-only lane or a free-flow right turn lane, a priority signal is used to allow the bus to enter the intersection in advance of the green signal and before other vehicles. When buses must remain in mixed traffic, they signal their approach to the traffic signal controller. The controller holds the light green in that direction to allow the bus to get through. These features have been installed at over 14 intersections to allow MetroLink buses more direct progress.

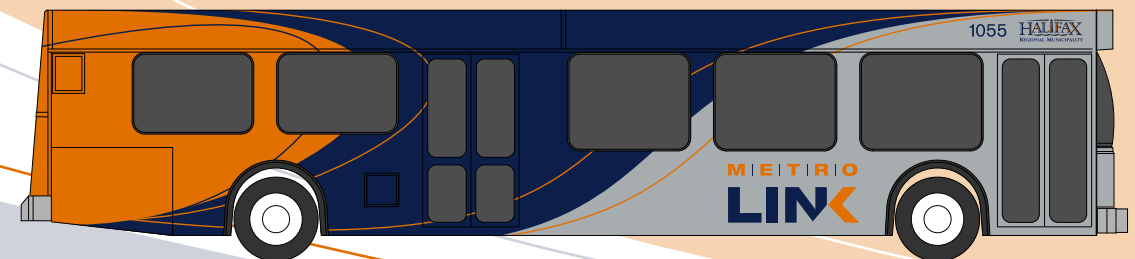
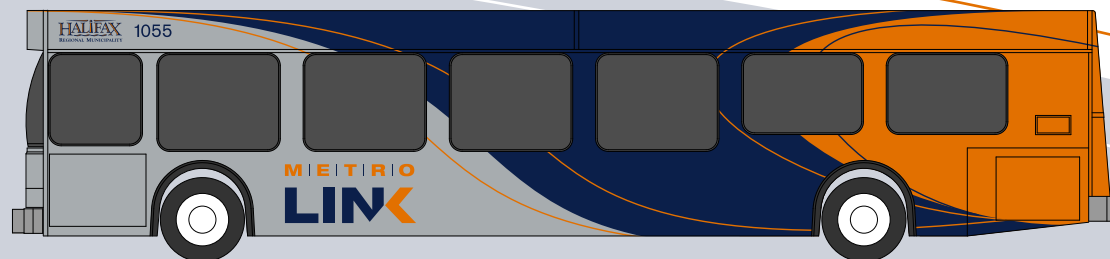
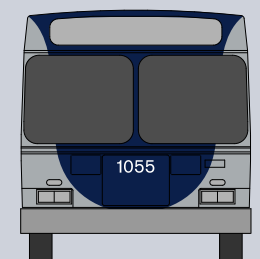
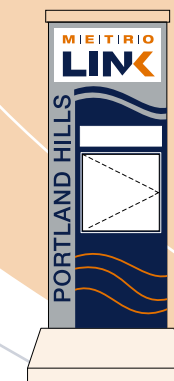


Soon, catch the HarbourLink! Connecting with the Link will be even easier when we introduce the HarbourLink, our fast ferry service linking Bedford to downtown Halifax. Watch for it in the next few years!



MetroLink Stop Sign Part of our custom-designed MetroLink identity, the bus stop signage clearly indicates the corridor you're traveling and provides the route number and GoTime number for each stop. Wherever you see this sign, you can catch the Link!

Infomast Our distinctive display panels provide all the information you need to catch the Link. Route maps and schedules, GoTimes screens, and Braille plates let you plan your trip with confidence. The sign is illuminated so you'll be able to see it clearly, even at night.



Metro Transit has spent the past year researching, planning, and conducting public consultations, all to provide the MetroLink customer with the highest degree of comfort and service we can deliver.

From the roof to the foot rests, MetroLink has been designed with your needs in mind. Thank you for your input; we couldn't have done it without you!