



Media Release

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Metrobus to begin offering accessible service

The St. John's Transportation Commission (Metrobus) will begin providing wheelchair accessible service with the start of its summer schedule next week.

"It really is a great day for public transit customers in our city," says Metrobus General Manager Judy Powell. "Our accessible service will offer customers using mobility devices greater freedom and flexibility when travelling to key areas of St. John's."

Wheelchair accessible service will be provided on routes 1, 2 and 3 through the use of Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Buses. ALF buses provide features like no step entry and exit, an access ramp for quick & safe wheelchair access, extra-wide doors and aisles, and easy to read electronic exterior destination signs. ALF buses can be easily distinguished as they display the international accessibility symbol on all 4 sides of the bus.

While the service will be initially provided on routes 1, 2 and 3, Metrobus plans to provide wheelchair accessibility on all of its routes in the future. "A few years ago, the Commission made a commitment to purchase ALF buses on a go forward basis and we are now in the position to be able to offer the service on three of our core routes. As we continue to renew our fleet, we will be able to offer wheelchair accessible service on more of our routes as we move to full wheelchair accessibility," says Powell.

The three routes that will be wheelchair accessible starting next week will provide service to key areas of the city including the Avalon Mall, The Village Shopping Centre, Memorial University and other shopping and post-secondary destinations.

Kelly White, Executive Director of the Coalition of Persons with Disabilities, states, "Accessible transportation options are vital to ensuring our communities are inclusive. Three accessible Metrobus routes for consumers using mobility devices provide another great option for people to move around our city - to visit family and friends, go to school, get to work, go shopping, and attend public events. These accessible routes in addition to the GoBus System and the recently launched accessible taxis are giving people more choice to do the things they want to do, when they want to do it."

Along with the wheelchair accessible service, Metrobus has produced an *Accessible Transit Service Handbook* available in print and online providing customers with relevant and up-to-date information on topics such as which routes use ALF buses, use of

mobility-devices on buses and an up-to-date list of wheelchair accessible bus stops throughout the city. A copy of the booklet can be downloaded from metrobus.com/ALF.

The St. John's Transportation Commission, operating as Metrobus, has been providing public transit services in St. John's, NL, since 1958. Metrobus operates 22 fixed-transit routes, three of which are wheelchair accessible, and services more than three million rides annually.

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For more information:

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