

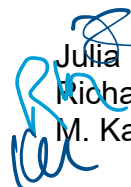
**NOVA SCOTIA REGULATORY AND APPEALS BOARD**

**IN THE MATTER OF THE MOTOR CARRIER ACT**

-and-

**IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION of SOU'WEST NOVA TRANSIT ASSOCIATION for issue of a Motor Carrier License**

**BEFORE:**

 Julia E. Clark, LL.B., Vice Chair  
Richard J. Melanson, LL.B. Member  
M. Kathleen McManus, K.C., Ph.D., Member

**DECISION AND ORDER**

Sou'West Nova Transit Association (Sou'West) applied to the Nova Scotia Regulatory and Appeals Board on April 1, 2026, for the issue of a Motor Carrier License to operate one (1) 18-passenger vehicle under the rates and authorities specified in the attached Appendix A.

Notice of the Application was published in the Royal Gazette on Wednesday, April 15, 2026, and Notice provided to the industry. There were no objections received by the stated deadline of April 22, 2026.

The application was considered by the Board without a hearing on April 30, 2026.

The public record shows that Sou'West is a member of the Rural Transportation Association, a network of community transit authorities across Nova Scotia. The public record also discloses that Sou'West has numerous sponsors and funding partners. The Board's records show that Sou'West previously held a motor carrier license (see 2014 NSUARB 130) but has been operating its service for several years with a number of vehicles operating under a Commercial Vehicle License.

Having considered the *Motor Carrier Act*, including the factors set out in s. 13, the Board finds it is in the public interest to approve the application.

**The Board approves the application and orders that the license be issued effective immediately.**

**DATED** at Halifax, Nova Scotia this 30th day of April 2026.

*Pamela McGarrigle*  
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Clerk of the Board

**Appendix 'A'**

**SCHEDULE A – ROUTES**

Province of Nova Scotia

**SCHEDULE B – AREAS**

Province of Nova Scotia

**SCHEDULE C – TIMETABLE**

No set schedule

**SCHEDULE D – RATES**

**D(1) - Rates**

	<b>Live km/person</b>	<b>Deadhead km/trip</b>	<b>Wait/Idle Time/person</b>
Single Passenger 0-300 km	\$0.75	\$0.75/person	\$5.00/15 Min.
Single Passenger 300 km+	\$0.65	\$0.65/person	\$5.00/15 Min.
Multi-passenger 0-300 km	\$0.50	\$0.50/person	\$5.00/15 Min.
Multi-passenger 300 km +	\$0.45	\$0.45/person	\$5.00/15 Min.

**One Way Trips:** Person pays the total of Live and Deadhead kilometre charges.

**Round Trips:** Person pays the total of Live Kilometre and Idle or Waiting Time charges.

**Attendants:** ride free of charge.

**Definitions:**

**Live Kilometres:** kilometres travelled with passengers on the vehicle.

**Deadhead Kilometres:** kilometres travelled without passengers on the vehicle on one-way trips from the drop-off point to either the pick-up point or the parking location

for the bus, whichever is less. No deadhead charges for kilometres travelled from the parking location to the original pick-up point.

**Wait/Idle Time:** refers to any period of time over fifteen (15) minutes (non-accumulative) between the scheduled pick-up time and the actual pick-up time (for one way) or return time (for round trips) that the bus is idle. This includes wait time in cases where the bus and driver are waiting to provide return trip services.

**Parking Location:** is one of the following locations where the Association determines the bus should be parked within Shelburne County.

## D(2) CHARTER RATES

**Restriction:** The rates are restricted to:

- (a) Single day trips; and/or
- (b) Applies to an individual or organized group of persons, who have transportation challenges, including persons with mobility issues, medical/health problems, or persons economically disadvantaged; seniors residing in Shelburne County; and for community services and/or
- (c) Applies to an individual or organized group of persons, who reside in Shelburne County and require transportation for community arranged events.

**Rates:**

	Live km	Deadhead km	Hourly	Minimum	Overnight Stay
18 passenger Mini-Bus	\$0.75	\$0.75	\$30.00	\$100.00	\$150.00

The charter party shall pay the greater of:

- (a) Live and Deadhead Kilometre rates plus Hourly Rate charges; or
- (b) the Minimum Charge.

## Additional Charges

1. Driver's meals shall be billed at \$15.00/meal, unless paid by customer.
2. Bridges, ferries, parking and attractions.
3. A \$50.00 deposit fee may be required at time of booking, at the discretion of the

carrier.

4. If cancellation occurs within two (2) weeks of scheduled booking, the deposit is nonrefundable.
5. Fuel Surcharge: If the price of fuel is more than \$0.20/litre more than the previous month's average, a \$0.05/km fee will be applied to all rates. The average starting price is \$1.65/litre. Any price for unleaded fuel below \$1.65/litre will default to our pricing schedule without a premium.

## Definitions

**Live Kilometres:** kilometres travelled with passengers on the vehicle.

### **Deadhead Kilometre:**

- (a) **One Way within County:** charge for each kilometre travelled without passengers on the vehicle on one-way trips from the drop-off point to either the pick-up point or the parking location for the bus, whichever is less. No deadhead charges for kilometres travelled from the parking location to the original pick-up point.
- (b) **Pick-up point outside of Shelburne County:** charge for each kilometre travelled by the bus from its parking location to the pick-up point outside of Shelburne County and returning the vehicle back to the parking location, whether the trip is one way or return.

**Wait/Idle Time:** refers to any period of time over fifteen (15) minutes (non-accumulative) between the scheduled pick-up time and the actual pick-up time (for one way) or return time (for round trips) that the bus is idle. This includes wait time in cases where the bus and driver are waiting to provide return trip services.

**Hourly:** the hourly rate applies to any portion of an hour.

**Senior:** Person 50 years of age or older.

**Community Services:** includes services aiding Shelburne County communities such as groups for recreation or community services and/or Long-Term Care Facilities and/or charters by the Municipality and/or the Town of Shelburne, Town of Lockeport, Town of Clark's Harbour, Municipality of the District of Barrington, and Municipality of the District of Shelburne for activities such as improving economic development.

## D(3) SHOPPING DAY RATES

- (a) Yarmouth Area (one trip per week) - \$20.00 per person, round trip
- (b) Bridgewater Area (one trip per week) - \$20.00 per person, round trip

All services must be pre-booked at least 24 hours in advance.

Persons travelling as an attendant: No Charge.

#### **D(4) PROMOTIONAL RATES**

- (a) Shelburne County to Yarmouth or Bridgewater - \$20.00 per person, round trip
- (b) Shelburne County to Halifax - \$40.00 per person, round trip

Note, up to four promotional trips per year will be offered during the holiday season to promote increased ridership and service awareness.

#### **SCHEDULE E - VEHICLES**

##### **E(1) VEHICLES**

One (1) 18-passenger bus; 2 wheelchair accessible seats and 16 passenger seats.

#### **SCHEDULE F - AUTHORITIES**

##### **F(1) SPECIALTY IRREGULAR RESTRICTED AREA PUBLIC PASSENGER SERVICE:**

The transportation of any person(s) from Shelburne County to any point within the Province of Nova Scotia one way or return.

##### **F(2) SPECIALTY IRREGULAR RESTRICTED AREA PUBLIC PASSENGER CHARTER SERVICE:**

The transportation of any individual or organized group to or from Shelburne County to any point within the Province of Nova Scotia, one way, return or the reverse thereof.

##### **F(3) SPECIALTY IRREGULAR AREA PUBLIC PASSENGER SERVICE:**

The transportation of pre-booked passengers from Shelburne County to locations within Shelburne County for shopping and access to services and events, on pre-scheduled trips arranged by the carrier based on demand and need.

##### **F(4) SPECIALTY IRREGULAR AREA PUBLIC PASSENGER SERVICE:**

The transportation of pre-booked passengers from Shelburne County to Yarmouth, Bridgewater or Halifax for up to four promotional trips per year arranged by the carrier based on demand and need during the holiday season, between November 1st and December 25th.