



NEW BRUNSWICK
ENERGY & UTILITIES BOARD

COMMISSION DE L'ÉNERGIE ET DES SERVICES PUBLICS
NOUVEAU-BRUNSWICK

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF an application by
the Acadian Peninsula Regional
Service Commission to provide
scheduled public motor bus service.

(Matter No. 546)

June 6, 2023

Matter 546 – Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission

IN THE MATTER OF an application by the Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission to provide scheduled public motor bus service. (Matter No. 546)

NEW BRUNSWICK ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD (Board):

Vice-Chairperson

Stephanie Wilson (Panel Chair)

Members

John Herron

Christopher Stewart

APPLICANT:

Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission
(APRSC)

Basile Chiasson, K.C.

1 Introduction

- [1] This decision arises from an application by the APRSC, submitted on December 20, 2022, to operate a regular public motor bus service.
- [2] The APRSC plans to offer a regular public motor bus service in northeast New Brunswick. However, the APRSC proposes to undertake a pilot project to observe the service's implementation and determine if adjustments are needed in order to maximize the success of the full-service roll-out.
- [3] In this matter, the APRSC is seeking approval for its pilot project only, which would carry passengers and their hand luggage as a regular, return service between Caraquet and Shippagan, with the right to pick up and drop off passengers in the intervening communities of the Acadian Peninsula.
- [4] In a decision dated March 7, 2023, the Board granted the APRSC a public motor bus licence and determined that it would hold a hearing to consider the fares, route and schedule submitted by the APRSC.
- [5] The Board held a virtual hearing on May 29 to consider the application. The APRSC presented a panel of witnesses and submitted final arguments. Except for Board staff, there were no other interveners.
- [6] For the following reasons, the Board approves the fare, route and schedule submitted by the APRSC.

2 Analysis

- [7] Section 22 of the *Motor Carrier Act* provides that every licensed motor carrier shall be deemed a public utility under part 3 of the *Energy and Utilities Board Act*. Accordingly, the APRSC became a public utility at the time its licence was granted.
- [8] Part 3 of the *Energy and Utilities Board Act* gives the Board general supervision over public utilities: including approval of routes, schedules and rates.
- [9] The APRSC requested approval for a single route, from Caraquet to Shippagan, for its schedule, attached as Appendix "A," and for a zero-dollar fare for passengers for the duration of its pilot project.

Matter 546 – Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission

- [10] The applicable legislation provides little guidance as to how a motor carrier's routes, schedules and fares should be established. The Board concludes that it must balance the interests of public transit users with those of the motor carrier.
- [11] The Board approves the route from Caraquet to Shippagan proposed by the APRSC. In particular, the Board believes that the addition of such a service will bring significant economic, social and environmental value to the region.
- [12] The Board approves the schedule, attached as Appendix "A." In order to protect the interests of public transit users against sudden schedule changes, the Board directs the APRSC to notify it of any changes at least seven days prior to the scheduled change; and to notify it of any reduction in trip frequency at least 21 days prior to the scheduled change. The same notice must also be published, in both official languages, on the carrier's website, in the Acadie nouvelle newspaper and on its bus. In addition, in accordance with section 8 of the *Motor Carrier Act*, the APRSC cannot abandon or discontinue its bus service without an order from the Board.
- [13] The Board also approves the fee structure requested in this proceeding. The Board agrees that offering the service free of charge during the pilot project period will allow the APRSC to observe the implementation of the service and the adjustments required to maximize the success of the full-service rollout.

3 Conclusion

- [14] The Board approves the fare, route and schedule submitted by the APRSC.
- [15] The APRSC must obtain the Board's approval before changing its route and schedule and charging a fare other than zero dollars. Since the APRSC intends to offer expanded service and charge a fare to its passengers, the Board expects to receive a new application from the APRSC in due course. To allow for the requested changes to be implemented on time, the Board urges the APRSC to submit this application well in advance of the date on which it would like the requested changes to take effect.

Matter 546 – Acadian Peninsula Regional Service Commission

Dated at Saint John, New Brunswick, this 6th day of June, 2023.



Stephanie Wilson
Vice-Chairperson (Panel Chair)



John Herron
Member



Christopher Stewart
Member

Appendix "A"

	Go	Return	Go	Return	Go	Return	Go	Return	Go	Return
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CARAQUET

Salon de quilles au 300 483 St-Pierre Blvd. W.	6:42 am	8:40 am	9:30am	11:28am	11:28am	1:26pm	1:56pm	3:54pm	4:37pm	6:35pm
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UNI / Head Office 295 St-Pierre Blvd. W.	6:45 am	8:37 am	9:33 am	11:25 am	11:31 am	1:23pm	1:59pm	3:51pm	4:40pm	6:32pm
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Cinema 220 St-Pierre Blvd. W.	6:47 am	8:35 am	9:35am	11:23am	11:33am	1:21pm	2:01pm	3:49pm	4:42pm	6:30pm
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UNI / Service Point 82 St-Pierre Blvd. W.	6:50 am	8:32am	9:38am	11:20 am	11:36am	1:18pm	2:04pm	3:46pm	4:45pm	6:27pm
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IGA 10 St-Pierre Blvd. E.	6:55am	8:29am	9:43am	11:17am	11:41am	1:15pm	2:09pm	3:43pm	4:50pm	6:24pm
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Roadside (Mailbox shelters)	6:58am	-	9:46am	-	11:44am	-	2:12pm	-	4:53pm	-
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Roadside (opposite mailbox shelters)	-	8:25am	-	11:13 am	-	1:11pm	-	3:39pm	-	6:20pm
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VILLAGE BLANCHARD

Roadside (Intersection Foley Road and Hwy 11)	7:03 am	-	9:51 am	-	11:49am	-	2:17pm	-	4:58pm	-
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Roadside opposite of Intersection Blanchard Rd and Hwy 11	7:05 am	-	9:53am	-	11:51am	-	2:19pm	-	5:00pm	-
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Roadside - Paulin Trasmission 12242 Hwy 11	-	8:20am	-	11:08am	-	1:06pm	-	3:34pm	-	6:15pm
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Roadside (Intersection Blanchard and Hwy 11)	-	8:18am	-	11:06am	-	1:04pm	-	3:32pm	-	6:13pm
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Appendix "A"

Roadside (Opposite of Marché Village Blanchard) 11818 Hwy 11	7:08 am	-	9:56 am	-	11:54 am	-	2:22pm	-	5:03pm	-
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Roadside (Marché Village Blanchard) 11818 Hwy 11	-	8:15 am	-	11:03 am	-	1:01 pm	-	3:29 pm	-	6:10 pm
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POKEMOUCHE

Roadside (opposite of Canada Post) 11570 Hwy 11	7:11 am	-	9 :59 am	-	11:57 am	-	2:25 pm	-	5:06 pm	-
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Roadside (Canada Post)	-	8:12 am	-	11:00 am	-	12:58 pm	-	3:26 pm	-	6:07 pm
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UNI ATM 11445 Hwy 11	7:14 am	8:10am	10:02am	10:58 am	12:00pm	12:56 pm	2:28pm	3:24pm	5:09pm	6:05pm
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Roadside (CKRO radio station) 142 Hwy 113	7:16 am	-	10:04 am	-	12:02 pm	-	2:30 pm	-	5:11 pm	-
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Roadside (Opposite of KRO radio station) 142 Hwy 113	-	8:07 am	-	10:55 am	-	12:53 pm	-	3:21 pm	-	6:02 pm
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INKERMAN

Roadside (Intersection Robert Rd. and Hwy 113)	7:17 am	-	10:05 am	-	12:03 pm	-	2:31 pm	-	5:12 pm	-
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Roadside (Intersection Octave Rd. and Hwy 113)	7:18 am	-	10:06 am	-	12:04 pm	-	2:32 pm	-	5:13 pm	-
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Inkerman gas station	7:21 am	-	10:09 am	-	12:07 pm	-	2:35 pm	-	5:16pm	-
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Appendix "A"

Roadside (Canada Post) 1224 Hwy 113	7:23 am	-	10:11 am	-	12:09 pm	-	2:37 pm	-	5:18 pm	-
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Roadside (opposite Intersection Robert Rd. and Hwy113)	-	8:05 am	-	10:53 am	-	12:51 pm	-	3:19 pm	-	6:00 pm
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Roadside(opposite Intersection Octave Rd. and Hwy 113)	-	8:04 am	-	10:52 am	-	12:50 pm	-	3:18 pm	-	5:59 pm
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Marché Inkerman 875 Principale Rd.	-	8:03 am	-	10:51 am	-	12:49 pm	-	3:17 pm	-	5:58 pm
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Roadside (Opposite of Canada Post)	-	8:00 am	-	10:48 am	-	12:46 pm	-	3:14 pm	-	5:55 pm
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SHIPPAGAN

Lave auto P. Mallet 300 1st Street	7:32 am	-	10:20 am	-	12:18 pm	-	2:46pm	-	5:27pm	-
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Roadside(Intersectio n 1st Street and the school street)	7:34 am	-	10:22 am	-	12:20 pm	-	2:48 pm	-	5:29 pm	-
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UNI / Service Point 212 J.D. Gauthier Blvd.	7:39 am	-	10:27 am	-	12:25 pm	-	2:53pm	-	5:34pm	-
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Roadside (Opposite of Lave auto P. Mallet) 300 1st Street	-	7:51 am	-	10:39 am	-	12:37 pm	-	3:05 pm	-	5:46 pm
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Roadside (Intersection 1st Street and the school street)	-	7:50 am	-	10:38 am	-	12:36 pm	-	3:04 pm	-	5:45 pm
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Appendix "A"

Roadside (Bank of Scotia - Intersection 15th Street and J.D.Gauthier)	7:40 am	-	10:28 am	-	12:26 pm	-	2:54 pm	-	5:35 pm	-
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Roadside(Duguay-Mallet Park and 16th Street)	7:43 am	-	10:31 am	-	12:29 pm	-	2:57 pm	-	5:38 pm	-
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Needs 135 1st Street	-	7:49am	-	10:37am	-	12:35 pm	-	3:03pm	-	5:44pm
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UNI /Service Point 212 J.D. Gauthier Blvd.	-	7:46am	-	10:34 am	-	12:32 pm	-	3:00 pm	-	5:41 pm
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Roadside (Opposite Bank of Nova Scotia, Intersection 15th St. and J.D.Gauthier)	-	7:44 am	-	10:32 am	-	12:30 pm	-	2:58 pm	-	5:39 pm
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