



NEW BRUNSWICK
ENERGY & UTILITIES BOARD

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

DECISION

IN THE MATTER OF an application by
Takeoff Shuttles Limited to provide
scheduled public motor bus service.

(Matter No. 560)

September 28, 2023

IN THE MATTER OF an application by Takeoff Shuttles Limited to provide scheduled public motor bus service. (Matter No. 560)

NEW BRUNSWICK ENERGY AND UTILITIES BOARD:

Vice-Chairperson	Stephanie Wilson
Members	John Patrick Herron
	Christopher Stewart Presiding Member
Counsel for Board staff	Véronique Otis

APPLICANT:

Takeoff Shuttles Limited	Matthew Kaul
	Scott Gareau

1 Introduction

- [1] This decision arises from an application by Takeoff Shuttles Limited (Takeoff), submitted to the Board on July 19, 2023, to operate a regular public motor bus service.
- [2] Takeoff plans to offer a regular public motor bus service travelling from the campus of Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick, to the Moncton Flight College campus, in Dieppe, New Brunswick, and return.
- [3] In a decision dated September 5, 2023, the Board granted Takeoff a public motor bus licence and determined that it would hold a hearing to consider the fares, route and schedule as submitted by Takeoff.
- [4] The Board held a virtual hearing on September 28, 2023, to consider the application on those points. Takeoff presented a panel of witnesses and submitted final arguments. Except for Board staff, there were no other interveners in the application.
- [5] For the following reasons, the Board approves the fare, route and schedule submitted by Takeoff.

2 Analysis

- [6] Section 22 of the *Motor Carrier Act* provides that every licensed motor carrier is deemed a public utility under part 3 of the *Energy and Utilities Board Act*. Accordingly, Takeoff became a public utility at the time its licence was granted.
- [7] Part 3 of the *Energy and Utilities Board Act* gives the Board general supervision over public utilities: including approval of routes, schedules and rates.
- [8] Takeoff requested approval for a single route, from the campus of Mount Allison University, in Sackville, New Brunswick, to the premises of the Moncton Flight College, in Dieppe, New Brunswick, and return, for its schedule, described below, and for a \$20 fare (plus HST) per passenger per one-way trip.
- [9] The applicable legislation provides little guidance as to how a motor carrier's routes and schedules should be established. The Board concludes that it must balance the interests of public transit users with those of the motor carrier.

- [10] The Board approves the route from Sackville to Dieppe, and return, as proposed by Takeoff. In particular, the Board believes that the addition of such a service will bring economic, social and environmental value to the region.
- [11] The Board approves the schedule, submitted by Takeoff. The schedule consists of operations seven days per week with departures from Convocation Hall, on the campus of Mount Allison University in Sackville, departing at 6 a.m. and arriving at 6:30 a.m.; departing at 10 a.m. and arriving at 10:30 a.m.; and departing at 2 p.m. and arriving at 2:30 p.m. Departures from the Moncton Flight College will be departing daily at 8 a.m. and arriving at 8:30 a.m.; departing at 12:00 p.m. and arriving at 12:30 p.m.; and departing at 5:00 p.m. and arriving at 5:30 p.m. (see Appendix A). The scheduled service will be offered seven days per week, including statutory holidays. However, the scheduled service is not year-round and will operate on those dates described in exhibit TSL04.01, which generally match the days when Mount Allison University is open, in accordance with its academic calendar.
- [12] In order to protect the interests of public transit users against sudden schedule changes, the Board directs Takeoff to notify the Board of any changes to its schedule at least seven days prior to the scheduled change; and to notify the Board of any reduction in trip frequency at least 21 days prior to the scheduled change. The same notice must also be published on Takeoff's website and on any of its social media platforms. In accordance with section 8 of the *Motor Carrier Act*, Takeoff 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, which was \$20 per one-way trip, plus HST. The Board notes that should passengers seek to purchase their tickets for their one-way service through the online service provider that Takeoff is providing, there may, in addition to that regular fare, be charges to the customer if they purchase the ticket through a credit card or a fee that the third-party service provider may charge for purchasing tickets online.
- [14] The Board agrees that the proposed fare is relatively affordable, considering it is more economical than alternative methods of transportation available in the area, and for the planned ridership, while still allowing the carrier to cover its costs.

3 Conclusion

- [15] The Board approves the fares, the route and the schedule, as described in this decision, and as submitted by Takeoff.

Dated at Saint John, New Brunswick, this 28th day of September, 2023.



Stephanie Wilson
Vice-Chairperson



John Herron
Member



Christopher Stewart
Member (Presiding Member)

Appendix A

Day	Departures/Arrivals From Sackville (Convocation Hall)	Departures/Arrivals From Dieppe (Moncton Flight College)
Sunday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Monday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Tuesday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Wednesday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Thursday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Friday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30
Saturday	6:00/6:30 10:00/10:30 14:00/14:30	8:00/8:30 12:00/12:30 17:00/17:30