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HF - Transportation

# Disability transit fees lowered in Riverview

TIMES & TRANSCRIPT STAFF

Riverview council has lowered the cost of using the town's disability transit service.

The new user fee will be \$3 per trip, whether that is for trips within town or trips to Moncton or Dieppe.

Earlier this year, the cost for a disabled Riverview resident to use the Wheels on Wheels service jumped from \$2 per trip anywhere in Metro Moncton to \$3 for a trip inside Riverview and \$5 for a trip outside the town.

That led to complaints from users of the system, many of whom have to go to Moncton for medical requirements.

After further discussion with the Municipal Advisory Council on the Status of the Disabled and complaints from the public, council decided to lower the fees at its regular meeting yesterday.

Also changing is the number of trips a user may make in a month.

That number will increase from 40 to 50. The changes will take effect Jan. 1.

Council raised the rates for its disability transit service in the first place because the cost of providing the service had increased considerably in recent years.

Riverview spent \$114,577 on Wheels on Wheels in 2009. In 2010, the service cost the town \$144,356.

The town budgeted \$150,000 for the service in 2011, but it is projected to actually cost about \$141,000 by the end of the year.

Riverview has set aside \$150,000 for the service in 2012.