

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 25, 2004

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere  
Councillor Krista Snow  
Angela Bischoff  
Ken LeMoine  
John Smith  
Ward Skinner  
Candace Stevenson  
Gerald Walsh

**ABSENT:** Councillor Stephen D. Adams (regrets)  
Heather Deighan (regrets)

**STAFF:** Mr. David McCusker,  
Ms. Roxanne McInnis, TDM Coordinator (12:20 pm)  
Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1.	Call to Order .....	3
2.	Nomination and Election of Chair/Vice-Chair .....	3
3.	Approval of Minutes - None .....	3
4.	Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions ....	3
5.	Business Arising Out of the Minutes .....	3
5.1	Status Sheet Items - None .....	3
6.	Business Arising Out of the Minutes - None .....	3
7.	Consideration of Deferred Business - None .....	3
8.	Reports - None .....	4
9.	Added Items .....	4
9.1	<u>Added Items</u> .....	4
9.1.1	Terms of Reference - Information Items 2 and 3. ....	4
9.1.2	Bicycle Nova Scotia's Current Initiatives and Priorities.....	5
9.2	<u>New Business</u> .....	5
9.2.1	Bike Week 2004 .....	5
9.2.2	Bike Plan Budget 2004 priorities .....	6
9.2.3	McDonald Bridge Update .....	8
9.2.4	Bike Racks on Buses .....	8
9.2.5	Bicycle Traffic Pavement Markings Study .....	9
10.	Next Meeting Date .....	9
11.	Adjournment .....	9



**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 12:00 noon.

**2. WELCOME / INTRODUCTIONS**

The Legislative Assistant welcomed everyone to the first meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee. Committee members introduced themselves and provided background as to their interest/involvement with bikeways/cycling.

**3. NOMINATION OF CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair and Vice-Chair.

**MOVED BY Ms. Angela Bischoff, seconded by Mr. David McCusker that Councillor Fougere be nominated Chair of the Bikeways Advisory Committee.**

Councillor Fougere accepted the nomination.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Ms. Angela Bischoff volunteered to be Vice-Chair, seconded by Mr. John Smith. The Committee voted unanimously to accept Ms. Bischoff as Vice-Chair.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None**

**5. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Addition:

9.1.1 Bring Forward: Information Items 2 & 3 Terms of Reference and List of Committee Members.

9.1.2 Bicycle Nova Scotia's Current Initiatives and Priorities - Mr. John Smith

The Committee **unanimously approved** the agenda as amended.

**6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

6.1 Status Sheet Items - None

7. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS** - None

8. **REPORTS** - None

9. **ADDED ITEMS**

9.1 Added Items

9.1.1 Terms of Reference - Information Items 2 and 3.

Councillor Fougere advised Bicycle Nova Scotia was omitted on the staff report, dated December 9, 2003, circulated to the Committee but were listed on the report that went to Regional Council.

She further advised the Metro Chamber of Commerce Transportation Committee has decided not to appoint a member to this Committee as they feel they are adequately represented by HRM Staff person Roxanne McInnis, who currently serves on both Committees.

Councillor Fougere explained quorum for this Committee is six as we have 11 voting members. She suggested a request be sent to Regional Council to have an additional member at large appointed to the Committee to replace the Metro Chamber of Commerce Representative.

The following points were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- Should have a Representative from the Regional Trails Committee as the study showed it was important to have trails people on this Committee.
- Consider other special interest groups that should be represented here, we should have expertise at the table as well.

**MOVED BY Mr. Ward Skinner, seconded by Councillor Snow that Ms. Maria Jacobs be appointed to the Bikeways Advisory Committee as a staff representative for the Regional Trails Committee. Further, that an additional member at large be appointed to the Bikeways Advisory Committee to satisfy the issue of quorum. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Councillor Fougere clarified all Committee meetings are open to the public. She further explained unless the public are invited to do so, they are not automatically permitted to enter into discussions nor do they have voting privileges.

The Legislative Assistant, through the Chair, advised the Terms of Reference, Information Item 2, has a revised format and requested approval from the Committee for the revisions.

**MOVED BY Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Councillor Snow that the revised Terms of Reference be presented to Regional Council for approval. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

9.1.2 Bicycle Nova Scotia's Current Initiatives and Priorities - Mr. John Smith

Mr. Smith advised Bicycle Nova Scotia is the coordinating body for cycling in Nova Scotia and is part of Sport Nova Scotia and are partially funded by them. He added they are also affiliated with the Canadian Cycling Association. He informed the Committee that Bicycle Nova Scotia was involved with producing the Blueprint for HRM Bikeways.

He added Planning and Initiatives of Bicycle Nova Scotia include the safety component - *Share the Road* program - education of people on the Motor Vehicle Act and educating motorists/cyclists on how to share the road. Mr. Smith distributed copies of the *Share the Road* pamphlet which are also being circulated to cycling shops and other organizations. He requested the Bikeways Advisory Committee to support this initiative as well as support more *Share the Road* signs around the province on routes that cyclists use. He added the Bike route map is also another initiative of Bicycle Nova Scotia's bike plan.

Councillor Fougere advised the Bike Route Map has been completed and has requested HRM's printing centre provide a quote for printing a large number of maps. She added HRM's Culture and Heritage Department may have money to cover printing of the maps which will be available this spring. Ms. McInnis advised the map is currently accessible, in Acrobat format on the HRM Website, under *Public Works and Transportation* (then click on *Traffic*, then on *Cycling*).

Mr. Smith advised in regards to the Tourism and Transportation side, Bicycle Nova Scotia's main priority would be improvement of commuter roads coming into the city and the tourist routes. He referred to Mr. Gerald Walsh for further updates on Tourism and Transportation. Mr. Walsh added Moncton is advertising bicycle safety on the back of buses with messages such as *PASS WITH CARE*. The ads are a great way to target motorist directly but there is only so much to be achieved with the current budget and time in terms of infrastructure.

Ms. Angela Bischoff suggested all organizations represented on this Committee should have an opportunity to give an update to the Committee on bicycle projects they are working on. She suggested this be added to the agenda.

9.2 New Business

### 9.2.1 Bike Week 2004 - Ms. Angela Bischoff

Ms. Bischoff advised Bike week is in three months time (first week of June) and everyone here should be invited to help organize events. She added TRAX is organizing several events and asked what the Committee will do to help organize Bike Week.

Ms. McInnis reported an internal HRM group (representing Parks and Recreation, Special Events and Traffic) met on February 12<sup>th</sup> to discuss how Bike Week would be organized from a corporate perspective. She further advised a family oriented theme was chosen for this year. Ms. McInnis encouraged members of this Committee to participate in the planning.

Councillor Fougere commented there will be various HRM departments assisting with events and it is hoped other organizations will volunteer to organize events such as the pancake breakfast sponsored by Mountain Equipment Co-op last year. She added HRM will promote bike week and advertise the groups organizing the events as is done for Canada Day and Natal Day.

Councillor Fougere suggested a Sub-Committee of the Bikeways Advisory Committee be formed to assist with organizing bike week. The following persons volunteered to be members of the Bike Week Sub-Committee and work with the HRM group coordinated by Ms. Roxanne McInnis: Mr. Ward Skinner, Ms. Angela Bischoff, Mr. Ken LeMoine, Mr. John Smith and Mr. Gerald Walsh. Councillor Fougere suggested this group meet briefly at the end of today's meeting to determine a time and date for their meeting.

Mr. John Smith requested a copy of last year's agenda of events for Bike Week. Ms. Angela Bischoff requested copies of the agenda for all members of the Committee - *copies were made and distributed to the Committee*. Ms. McInnis added she would e-mail copies of the bike map to all members of the Committee if they provided their e-mail addresses. It was determined the Legislative Assistant would have copies of the Bike Map mailed to all members of the Committee in their next agenda package.

### 9.2.2 Bike Plan Budget 2004 priorities - Ms. Angela Bischoff

Ms. Bischoff advised TRAX has a priority list of how the \$300,000.00 from Regional Planning's budget should be spent and requested direction on how to proceed with the discussion of allocating the funds.

Mr. David McCusker advised a good portion of the money, approximately \$100,000.00, that was going to be spent on the bike ways project was earmarked for the Transportation Showcase (BRT - Bus Rapid Transit) to do bicycle related projects. He further advised this \$100,000.00 only goes into the roadway/trail infrastructure to bring bikes to the terminals. He added the Federal Government will add another \$50,000.00.

Ms. Candace Stevenson inquired if the Committee would see a list of the projects. Mr. McCusker advised there would be limited discussion on this as \$100,000.00 has to be spent on projects that have a reasonable connection to the BRT project. He advised staff could report to the Committee at the next meeting, prior to this they are required to report to Regional Council on what the budget will include.

Ms. Bischoff commented there was never any discussion among this Committee that \$100,000.00 from our budget would go to the BRT project. She added we may not get \$300,000.00 and we may be left with only \$50,000.00.

Councillor Fougere clarified that if there is \$300,000.00 in the budget, it does not belong to this Committee, it is a staff allotment to a department. She added there are two budgets where the money will come from: Regional Planning and a Transportation Demand Budget. Councillor Fougere added the Committee's recommendations will help with the dispensing of all money in terms of what "we" think are the important things to address from the bicycle perspective as it relates to everything else that is going on.

Mr. McCusker added a priority would be establishing bikeway connections to the major transportation terminals and given this decision had to be made in advance of this Committee meeting, it is hoped the Committee will endorse this decision.

Mr. Smith asked if staff would be providing a list of projects for the Committee's input. Ms. McInnis responded this is the intention and further advised some of the larger resurfacing/pavement renewal projects along primary roadways have been identified, such as the Eastern Passage/Pleasant Street/Cow Bay Road, where there is a large population of cyclers using the routes. She added she will have a report for the next meeting. Councillor Fougere added she feels it is imperative the Committee get this in written form before it goes forward to Capital Budget discussions as it will add to the budget discussions if it can be looked at in terms of how it addresses the bicycle issue as well.

Ms. Bischoff submitted TRAX's list of priorities to be circulated to the Committee. Councillor Fougere suggested other members also submit their list of priorities to Ms. McInnis for inclusion in her report.

Mr. Skinner suggested, after the budget discussions, the Committee review the blueprint in its totality in order for us to understand what is happening.

Mr. Smith inquired if this Committee could be privy to long-term HRM planning regarding infrastructure items such as repaving projects. Councillor Fougere/Mr. McCusker responded there is a priority list.



Mr. Smith further requested if Provincial plans could be supplied as well. Mr. McCusker responded there is an effort to establish a Halifax Capital Area Transportation Authority with the intention to manage all roadways in HRM with exception of the 100 series highways.

### 9.2.3 McDonald Bridge Update - Ms. Angela Bischoff

Ms. Bischoff advised TRAX proposes there be bicycle access on both sides of the MacDonald Bridge due to the poor access on the west end. She advised there has been research done and TRAX would like to make a ten-minute presentation on this issue before going outside for input and support. The Committee agreed to the presentation.

Councillor Fougere advised CBCL did a study for HRM, at the request of the Bikeways Task Force, entitled the Brunswick Street Bikeways Connection which included three options. Councillor Fougere requested copies be made available for the Committee members and included in the next agenda package.

Councillor Fougere advised the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission passed a motion denying this proposal as an option. She advised the Bikeways Advisory Committee has no advisory capacity to the Bridge Commission therefore, if we made a recommendation it would be to Regional Council requesting they make an appeal to the Bridge Commission. She further suggested Ms. Heather Deighan be contacted to supply background information on discussions that have taken place at the Bridge Commission.

Mr. McCusker clarified for the Committee the issue of bike access on both sides of the bridge is the Bridge Commission's jurisdiction and the bikeways/pedways once you get off the bridge is HRM's jurisdiction. He further advised the Bridge Commission has given a definitive response to this request and cautions approaching them for the third or fourth time asking the same question with the same evidence. He added the Bridge Commission offered to work with HRM on finding a solution to this problem.

Councillor Fougere commented the Bikeways Task Force reviewed the CBCL study in great detail and passed a motion that the best solution was the \$600,000.00 solution as it offered the most options. She further advised, at the time, the Bikeways Task Force felt that amount of money, in terms of bicycle solutions around the city, would be better spent elsewhere.

The Committee agreed to background information being requested from Ms. Deighan and also to the presentation from TRAX as it would be useful background information and the bridge is very critical to travel. Further, if it is perceived that this Committee did not adequately hear out the stakeholders on this particular issue it will tarnish the reputation of the Committee. Councillor Fougere advised the standard presentation time is five minutes and the Committee would have to approve extending this time to ten minutes. The Committee agreed to extend the presentation time to ten minutes for this presentation.

9.2.4 Bike Racks on Buses - Ms. Angela Bischoff

Ms. Bischoff reported with the funds received for the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit project) there will be bike racks on all the buses and bicycles will be accommodated at the terminals. She further advised she sees this as a pilot project and if it is successful she envisions seeing more bike racks on many more bike routes in the city. Further, bikes will be accommodated at some intersections where there are queue jumping lanes. She added this is a huge success for the cycling community and the Planning Department should be congratulated for incorporating bikes into this program.

9.2.5 Bicycle Traffic Pavement Markings Study - Mr. David McCusker

- A report, dated February 24, 2004, was before the Committee.

Mr. David McCusker presented the report.

Mr. David McCusker advised there is a project regarding bicycle traffic signals going on at the moment by the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC). He explained HRM contributed funding from the previous budget toward this study and it is approaching its draft final report and may be in your package for the next meeting.

**MOVED BY Ms. Angela Bischoff, seconded by Mr. Ward Skinner that the Bikeways Advisory Committee endorse the commitment of a maximum of \$5,000.00 from the 2004/05 capital budget for Bikeway Master Plan Implementation to the Transportation Association of Canada to assist in funding a study on Bicycle Traffic Pavement Markings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

10. NEXT MEETING DATE - Monday, March 22, 2004

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 pm.

Chris Newson  
Legislative Assistant