

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

August 31, 2005

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Ms. Laena Garrison  
Mr. Ward Skinner  
Mr. John Smith  
Mr. Steve Lane  
Mr. Gerard Walsh

**ABSENT:** Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Councillor Stephen D. Adams  
Ms. Cheryl Bidgood  
Mr. Ken LeMoine (regrets)  
Ms. Candace Stevenson (regrets)

**STAFF  
AND OTHERS:** Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator, Real Property Planning  
Ms. Roxane McInnis, Planner II, Regional Planning  
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority (left at 1:15 p.m.)  
Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services  
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner I, Planning and Development Services  
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant



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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:05 pm in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall without quorum present.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 20, 2005 and June 8, 2005**

**Deferred** until quorum is present.

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

The agenda was approved.

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

**4.1 Status Sheet Items**

**4.1.1 Membership**

The Committee welcomed two new members to the Bikeways Advisory Committee: Ms. Laena Garrison of TRAX, Ecology Action Centre, and Mr. Steve Lane, Member at Large. Councillor Sheila Fougere encouraged round table introductions of all Committee members and staff.

Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant, advised that the only open membership position remaining on the Committee is a representative from an automobile association. Councillor Fougere suggested that if there is still not a member to fill this position by the end of the year, the Committee will review the requirement for this position.

**4.1.2 List of Projects Completed as per the HRM Bike Plan**

Mr. Ken Reashor and Mr. Greg Rice provided the Committee with information in draft form entitled 'Transportation Demand Management Initiatives 2004-06' and a verbal update on projects completed on the HRM Bike Plan.

Mr. Ward Skinner inquired as to the status of the bridge construction near Highway 111 in Dartmouth, which is included in the HRM Bike Plan. Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator, Real Property Planning, advised that there is money in the budget allocated to complete this project, however, Real Property Planning was approached by the Shubenacadie Canal Commission regarding developing a signature bridge to be constructed in this

particular location, and subsequent others. This request went before Community Council where it was agreed that the bridge construction will be delayed for one year to develop the signature bridge design. There is approximately \$200,000 allocated to this project in the capital account and the delay of one year will also allow for the recruitment of additional funding partners. There is also a logistics issue regarding the former YMCA building on Lake Banook. There are negotiations between the Developer, RPAM, and HRM Trails staff to develop a trail through the property. The building is being demolished and a new development agreement is moving through the approval process for the lands.

There was some discussion regarding the visibility and compliance by motorists of the “share the road” signs. Mr. Reashor confirmed that the signs are put in place where bike lanes have not yet been installed or cannot be installed, to make drivers aware of cyclists on the roads. Mr. John Smith advised that there have been discussions with the Province of Nova Scotia regarding the installation of the same “share the road” signs across Nova Scotia and a policy has been written for this direction.

Councillor Fougere advised the Committee of positive feedback received on the Metrolink buses with the attached bike racks and also the bike lockers.

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

**6. REPORTS (verbal updates)**

**6.1 Bike Map Sub-Committee**

**6.1.1 HRM Bike Map Distribution**

Mr. Smith advised that he had arranged distribution of the HRM Bicycle Maps, Nova Scotia Bicycle Safety booklet and an Introducing Bicycle Nova Scotia pamphlet to bike shops and clubs through Mr. Ike Whitehead, staff person at Bicycle Nova Scotia. Mr. Whitehead advised he was having distribution problems with HRM and the Province in terms of getting supplies. Mr. Smith also encountered that the HRM Customer Service Centre were keeping the Bicycle Maps under the counter because they stated they were running out and could not get any more.

Mr. Smith also addressed an email concern from a citizen inquiring about the trail along Highway 111. Ms. MacInnis will follow up to make sure the concern has been addressed.

Ms. Newson addressed the Committee regarding the HRM Bicycle Map distribution. She provided Mr. Whitehead with two boxes on June 21, 2005 and two boxes on July 26, 2005. The maps were being stored at the HRM Printing Centre until they lost the use of that facility. The maps are now being stored at the Visitor Information Centre storage facility in Dartmouth.

Arrangements have to be made for courier pick up and delivery from this facility. There are only 40 boxes of maps left out of 150 boxes; each box containing 135 maps. Councillor Fougere asked Ms. Newson to contact Ms. Shelley Acker, Manager of Visitor and Customer Service, to inquire about using their tourist information distribution system. If Shelley Acker is not able to help, Ms. Newson will contact Ms. Geri Kaiser, Director, Shared Services, to inquire about their distribution system. Ms. Newson further advised that HRM Customer Service Centres were each sent one box to start and then were sent another two boxes each on June 30, 2005. Ms. Newson will contact the Customer Service Centres to ensure that they have enough maps and that the maps are displayed in a public area. Ideal Bikes on Barrington Street and Cyclesmiths on Quinpool Road have been the largest distributors of the maps so far.

## **6.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

! The draft Bike Week Event Budget was distributed to Committee members.

Mr. Skinner spoke to the Committee about the Bike Week event that took place in June. Mr. Skinner advised the Committee that the event was well attended with one of the highlights being the bike auction. Bike Again and the Ecology Action Centre organized the auction, with Bike Again repairing the bikes for sale. The Centre made double what they would normally make from the sale of the bikes. The event included safety demonstrations, food, and music. Mr. Skinner wished to thank the many volunteers and HRM for all their hard work and Councillor Fougere for arranging for the financing of the event. Mr. Skinner would like to arrange the sub-committee again in October to start organizing the event for next the next year, as well as to look for additional sponsors.

Mr. Skinner distributed a draft budget for next year's event. Councillor Fougere asked for an itemized list of expenses over the last year. Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner I, Planning and Development Services, will follow up with Ms. Colleen Connolly, Civic Events & Festivals Technician, for further information for the budget. Mr. Skinner will prepare a more detailed budget and bring it back to the next meeting for the Committee's review. Mr. Skinner also indicated his willingness to be appointed chairman of the Bike Week Subcommittee for next year's event.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 New Business**

#### **7.1.1 Active Transportation Plan**

! The Active Transportation Plan newsletter was distributed to Committee members.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner II, Planning and Development Services, and Mr. Chris Lowe, Project Manager, SGE Acres Limited, provided copies of the Active Transportation Plan newsletter to Committee members for their review. The newsletter is also available on the HRM website at [www.halifax.ca/activetransportation](http://www.halifax.ca/activetransportation).

The Active Transportation Plan is currently going through the consultation process. Mr. Lowe provided the Committee with a brief overview for the next year. They are working on developing an Active Transportation map divided into Halifax and Dartmouth. They are also working toward putting together a vision for active transportation, looking at healthy lifestyles and developing an evaluation criteria. Further public consultation will take place in October. The Plan should be completed in early 2006.

### **7.1.2 Bike Parking Requirements**

Ms. Koblents, provided copies of the draft Regional Land Use By-law, pages 18, 19, and 20. Ms. Koblents discussed developers concerns regarding the “one to one rule” or the requirement for developers to provide indoor, secure parking for one bicycle per unit in all multi-unit residential developments (over four units), which Planning and Development Services have been implementing through development agreements for the past eight months. After some discussion, Ms. Koblents outlined questions to which she requires answers before going back to the Development Liaison Group, as follows:

1. Is the “one to one rule” something Planning and Development Services should continue to enforce?
2. Should Planning and Development Services allow partial exemptions for storage within a unit?
3. How should answers be coordinated before the issue goes to public hearing in November?

### **7.2 Added Items - None**

## **4. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled for September 21, 2005. Ms. Councillor Fougere gave regrets for the September 21, 2005 meeting. Ms. Newson will follow up by email with Committee members to find an appropriate Wednesday to meet quorum.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:22 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle

Legislative Assistant