

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

December 6, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Mr. Ward Skinner, Vice Chair
Mr. Peter Williams
Ms. Candace Stevenson

ABSENT: Councillor Jim Smith (regrets)
Mr. William Webster (regrets)
Councillor Patrick Murphy
Laena Garrison
Heather Deighan
Leslie Dubinsky

STAFF: Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, TDM Planner, Regional Planning
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Regional Trails Planner, Regional Planning
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right-of-Way
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:19 p.m. in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall **without a quorum**

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The approval of the minutes of September 20, 2006 was deferred to the next meeting.

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

Additions:

7.2.1 Angus L. McDonald Bridge Connection - Roddy McIntyre

The agenda was agreed upon as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items - None

4.2 Bike Week Update

Councillor Fougere addressed the Committee regarding the annual Bike Week event, noting the following:

- C Planning the Bike Week event is a lot of work, and currently does not receive enough support from HRM to create the desired event;
- C She and Mr. Ward Skinner propose changing the format of the event after this year, to add competitive and touring elements, including street closures;
- C She discussed this proposal with the Director of Community Development, responsible for events planning and funding, who indicated that there may be an opportunity to develop the event for 2008;
- C She would like to include cycling advocates and business owners from around HRM, and will meet with the Bluenose Marathon organizers to brainstorm;
- C There are many elements that go into planning Bike Week such as street closures, infrastructure, sponsorships, and funding;
- C Street closures (including traffic closures and rerouting bus routes) and police, which are required for special events, are the most costly elements to the event;
- C Proper planning around the location of the event could control costs;

- C Council is currently looking at how events are funded, and are looking for consistency and set policy on events funding;
- C Charging admission to the event is a possibility, depending on what is offered at the event;
- C The first Bike Week event was held on the first week of September, however, subsequent events were held in June to coincide with Environment Week;
- C Organizers may choose to change the date of the event this year.

Mr. Friedemann Brauer suggested a bike ride escorted by police, with a rolling street closure. He noted that this would allow for cyclists to experience group riding, and may reduce costs by not having a street closed for the entire event;

Ms. Roxane MacInnis suggested holding a youth event in conjunction with the Bike Week event, similar to the kids marathon associated with the Bluenose Marathon, to involve youth and schools.

Councillor Fougere indicated that she will update the Committee at the next meeting on discussions with the Director of Community Development and the Bluenose Marathon organizers regarding Bike Week planning.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS

7.1 New Business

7.1.1 Active Transportation Plan presentation - Roxane MacInnis

- C A cd copy of the Active Transportation Plan was distributed to Committee members with their agenda packages.
- C A copy of Ms. MacInnis' power point presentation on the Active Transportation Plan is on file.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, Regional Planning, advised that the Active Transportation Plan was approved by Council two weeks ago, and went on to provide an overview of the Plan for the Committee, including the following:

- C Active Transportation defined;
- C Active Transportation Plan goals;
- C Active Transportation and stakeholders;

- C Summary of consultation findings;
- C Existing and previously planned routes/facilities;
- C Barriers and destinations;
- C Network development and candidate route selection;
- C Candidate route network and zones;
- C Key planning considerations;
- C Proposed network facility designations;
- C Comments on rural communities;
- C Incorporating Active Transportation into overall structure;
- C Active Transportation Advisory Committee;
- C Operating costs;
- C Implementation;
- C Capital requirements.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the Active Transportation Plan.

Councillor Fougere advised that on North Park Street, cyclists in the centre left turning lane, turning onto Cunard Street, due to the angle of the traffic lights, cannot see when the light turns green. Mr. MacIntyre advised that he would look into this matter.

Ms. Candace Stevenson left the meeting at 12:50 p.m.

Mr. MacIntyre reminded the Committee to contact him with locations of parallel sewer grates that need replacement with the new bike friendly grates.

Ms. MacInnis encouraged the Committee to forward comments on the Active Transportation Plan to herself or Mr. MacIntyre.

7.1.2 Advance Funding Approval for the 2007/2008 Capital Budget - Greg Rice

- C A copy of the Report to Regional Council on this matter dated October 26, 2006 was before the Committee.
- C Mr. Rice distributed copies of a list of Advanced 2007 Capital Projects for the reference of the Committee.

Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services, Transportation and Public Works, noted that the advance funding approval for the 2007/08 capital budget was approved by Council in October 2006. He noted that he and Mr. MacIntyre have already reviewed the list, and projects shaded in grey are local roads that are not affecting the bike plan. Mr. Rice, with the aide of Google Earth, review the list of projects with the Committee.

Staff indicated that they would bring copies of the "Red Book" to the next meeting for Committee members, and noted that the definitions are on the website.

The Committee discussed including a symbol or marking on street indicator signs that are bike routes, for example, a bicycle symbol at the end of the street name, which is done in Vancouver. Councillor Fougere noted that there will be a focus on civic addressing in the urban core this summer, and this may be a good opportunity to raise the suggestion with the Civic Addressing department. Mr. MacIntyre indicated he would discuss this matter with Civic Addressing staff.

Mr. Rice noted that the proposed 2007/08 capital budget will be brought before Council on the third week of March 2007, and that the list of projects before the Committee today is already approved and will be added to after the approval of the full 2007/08 budget.

7.2 Added Items

7.2.1 ALM Bridge Connection Presentation - Roddy MacIntyre

This matter was deferred to the to next meeting.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee will be held in February 2007. The Legislative Assistant will make arrangements and advise Committee members.

9. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

The following information items were distributed to Committee members:

1. North West Community Council report dated September 13, 2006 re: Traffic Impact Studies - Inclusion of Active Transportation
2. Extract of Regional Council minutes of September 19, 2006 with attached 2005-2006 Bikeways Advisory Committee Annual Report