

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 27, 2008

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Ms. Helena Piccinini  
Mr. Friedeman Brauer  
Ms. Laena Garrison  
Mr. David Bethune

REGRETS: Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. William Webster  
Mr. Peter Williams  
Mr. Leslie Dubinsky

STAFF: Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right of Way  
Ms. Roxanne MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management  
Planner, Regional Planning  
Ms. Hantia Koblents, Planner  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	03
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES .....	03
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	03
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	
5.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE .....	03
6.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS	
6.1	Correspondence	
6.1.1	E-mail from a Resident Re: Cycling Incident in Fall River .....	03
6.1.2	E-Mail from a Resident Re: Cycling in Traffic .....	03
6.1.3	E-Mail from a Resident Re: Bike Racks on Metro Transit .....	03
6.2	Petitions .....	04
6.3	Delegations .....	04
7.	REPORTS	
7.1	Bike Lane Projects - Update from Staff .....	04
7.2	HRM Bike Plan Update .....	04
7.3	Bike Route Map Review/Revision .....	05
7.4	Commuter Options Program - Update from Staff .....	05
7.5	Overview of Online Ridematching Program .....	05
7.6	Active Transportation Advisory Committee Update .....	06
7.7	Angus L. MacDonald Bikeways Connections - Update from Staff .....	06
7.8	Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpasses for Circumferential Highway (Highway 111)- Update from Staff .....	06
7.9	Trails Projects - Update from Staff .....	06
8.	ADDED ITEMS .....	07
9.	NEXT MEETING DATE .....	07
10.	ADJOURNMENT .....	07

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 12:10 p.m.

The Chair welcomed two new members to the Bikeways Advisory Committee, Ms. Helena Piccinini and Mr. David Bethune.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - NONE**

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

Additions

8.1 Bike Week Presentation/Update - Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner

**MOVED by Councillor Murphy, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that the Order of Business, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

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

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence**

**6.1.1 E-mail from a Resident Re: Cycling Incident in Fall River**

The e-mail was noted as received.

**6.1.2 E-Mail from a Resident Re: Cycling in Traffic**

The e-mail was noted as received.

**6.1.3 E-Mail from a Resident Re: Bike Racks on Metro Transit**

The e-mail was noted as received.

The Committee was advised that all new busses that Metro Transit orders were equipped with bike racks.

Ms. Garrison stated that she would like to add a recommendation to the next Bikeways Advisory Committee agenda that Metro Transit consider installing bike racks on all of their busses over the next four (4) years.

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Delegations - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Bike Lane Projects**

C A Bike Network Projects list was submitted.

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right of Way, reviewed the list of completed and proposed/potential bike lane projects with the Committee. He noted that, in total, almost twenty (20) linear kilometres of bike lanes had been completed since last year. He also stated that he could not give the ultimate guarantee that the proposed bike lanes would be completed, however, the areas were being seriously considered pending budget deliberations.

The Committee raised concerns regarding how late in the summer bike lane lines were repainted as they felt this was a safety hazard. Mr. MacIntyre noted that crosswalks and centre lines took priority and that only one (1) truck was used to paint all of these lines. The Chair advised that the Committee would like additional information on line painting priorities so that they could move a possible recommendation and explore further options.

**MOVED BY Councillor Murphy, seconded by Mr. Brauer, that the Bikeways Advisory Committee endorse including the Capital Works Bikeways Projects, outlined in the staff presentation of February 27, 2008, in the 2008/2009 Capital and Operating Budget. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.2 HRM Bike Plan Update**

C An Implementation Goal list was before the Committee.

Mr. MacIntyre informed the Committee that this document was for their information and responded to questions. The following points were noted:

- C Regarding item 16, permitting bikes through the intersection at Vernon Street, new signage will be installed advising vehicles to yield to pedestrians and bikes;
- C Blue bike lanes will likely never be installed given the high cost of creating them;

- C Regardless of blue lanes; the Committee would like to see more bicycle accessibility on the Fairview Overpass and would like to explore further options;
- C The highway 111 overpass is a provincial issue;
- C Robie Street and Spring Garden Road are not designated bike routes;
- C Collision statistics are, unfortunately, not useful for bikeways as there is no consistent method of measuring these incidents. All these statistics generally show is that most accidents occur at intersections;
- C Citadel High used the active transportation plan to design their bike parking.

**MOVED BY Mr. Brauer, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that staff investigate bike parking at the Citadel High Community Centre. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Bike route maps will be distributed to all members at the next meeting.

### **7.3 Bike Route Map Review/Revision**

Mr. MacIntyre indicated that he would like to form a sub-committee to help revise the current HRM Bike Route Map. He noted that a number of areas on the map currently had duplicate routes on quiet side streets, however, less experienced cyclists interested in these routes would soon have the infrastructure to travel on main routes. These primary and secondary routes will be discussed by the sub-committee.

The Sub-Committee will consist of Mr. Brauer, Ms. Garrison and Mr. Al Barbour who is a member of the Halifax Cycling Coalition. Mr. Williams will also be asked to participate.

### **7.4 Commuter Options Program**

Ms. Roxanne MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, advised that the Commuter Options Program was an employer based program to promote alternative transportation to their staff. She noted that she would submit a one (1) page information report to the Committee regarding this program.

### **7.5 Overview of Online Ridematching Program**

Mr. MacIntyre noted that the new online ridematching program was more specific than current sites such as carpool.ca. He stated that it was set to launch very soon and that staff was just waiting for a poster and leaflet before an internal memo would be sent out. He also advised that the program was set up for residents looking for bike and bus buddies and that it was for both daily commuters and one off travellers.

The Chair advised that a big deal should be made of this program as it was very relevant to active transportation in regards to bicycling. She thought it may be a good idea to hold

a press conference with a dummy set up for the public to see how they properly utilize the ridematching program.

#### **7.6 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Update**

- C A draft of the Terms of Reference for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee was submitted.

Ms. MacInnis advised that the Bikeways Advisory Committee had been asked to include more modes of active transportation. She stated that the Committee would have to draft a report to Regional Council requesting that they expand the terms of reference for the Committee and rename it the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Chair requested that a staff report with recommendations including the above noted information be submitted to the Bikeways Advisory Committee for members to then forward on to Regional Council.

#### **7.7 Angus L. MacDonald Bikeways Connections**

Mr. MacIntyre displayed and reviewed the Angus L. MacDonald Bikeways Connections plan for the Committee. He noted that the Bridge Commission thought the plan was great and that three hundred thousand (300,000) dollars had been set aside by the Federal government for this project.

#### **7.8 Bicycle/Pedestrian Overpasses for Circumferential Highway (Highway 111)**

Mr. MacIntyre advised that there had been disputes between the province and HRM over whose responsibility it was to fund this project. He noted that he had not been involved with all of these projects and that Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager of Regional Transportation was also involved. He stated that a report would also go to the Harbour East Community Council and that there had not been a lot of movement since the need for the overpasses was identified.

#### **7.9 Trails Projects**

This item was deferred to the next meeting when Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator, could attend.

The Chair advised the Committee that a public meeting was held on February 25, 2008 regarding the Halifax Urban Greenway trail and that, as a follow up, a group of residents would be walking the proposed trail route with HRM staff giving recommendations on how

the trail would be constructed. She noted that the trail design had been finalized and that it was going to tender this year and would hopefully be completed by the end of the summer. Regarding the width of the trail, the Chair stated that the original design had been the national standard of 4.4 metres, however, some portions would be only 3.5 metres as a compromise. She noted that the width was chosen to accommodate inline skaters as well as for safety purposes.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Bike Week Presentation/Update - Ms. Hanita Koblents**

C A Bike Week letter of invitation was submitted.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner, provided the presentation on Bike Week. Highlights were as follows:

- C It is a mandate of the Bikeways Advisory Committee to support Bike Week;
- C Bike Week 2008 will take place from May 30 to June 8;
- C There was a request that two (2) Committee members be involved and sit on the Bike Week Committee;
- C Ms. Garrison is already involved with Bike Week;
- C The goal is to get as many HRM residents to ride their bikes as possible as this should be a community based event;
- C Events will take place all across metro HRM;
- C 2008 will mark the tenth (10<sup>th</sup>) anniversary of Bike Week;
- C Insurance has always been a barrier and there is now an attempt to get special insurance for clubs.

In closing, Ms. Koblents encouraged members to e-mail her their Bike Week ideas and she asked that they each attend at least one (1) event at Bike Week to help out.

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting was scheduled for Wednesday, April 30, 2008 at 12:00 p.m.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:17 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory  
Legislative Assistant

