

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

MINUTES

May 23, 2013

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Councillor Russell Walker

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor  
Mr. Matt Godwin, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. in the Council Chamber at 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 30, 2013**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that minutes April 30, 2013 be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Watts , seconded by Councillor Walker that the agenda be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**4.1 Correspondence**

Numerous pieces of correspondence were received pertaining to item 7.1.2.

**4.2 Petitions – NONE**

**4.3 Presentations**

**4.3.1 Switch Open Street Sundays - Road Closure Policy – Ross Soward, Dalhousie Planning & Design Centre**

Mr. Ross Soward and Mr. Andrew Read from the Dalhousie Planning & Design Centre offered a presentation to the committee.

Mr. Soward spoke to the goals of Switch, the barriers to the 2012 event and steps toward enabling future street closures, such as streamlining the application process, having more trained volunteers rather than police officers and distinguishing closures and half-closures.

Councillor Mason asked what the timeline is on the report pertaining to street closures, with Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation and Public Works, responding that staff are working on it and will be coordinated by the Special Events Advisory Committee.

Councillor Mason noted that the Nova Scotia Community College offers an inexpensive training course for volunteers that the presenters may want to consider as an option.

Councillor Watts noted this initiative mirrors many of Council priorities, particularly with respect to active transportation. She noted the importance of identifying and reducing barriers to make coordination easier and that there are many best practices available for staff to consider from other cities.

Councillor Dalrymple noted that complexities for community groups trying to coordinate events is a recurring theme, referencing grants dispensed through the Special Events Advisory Committee which often are used to cover expenses being charged by HRM.

The Chair noted that a report will be coming back to the Committee on this in early July and he indicated his hope that today's comments would be considered in that report.

Councillor Hendsbee echoed Councillor Dalrymple's comments and noted that it is too costly to have a large police presence at volunteer-led events. He encouraged staff to look at the Trail Warden Program as a best practice.

Councillor Fisher indicated his support for these types of events and noted that organizers having access to the HRM volunteer database would make efforts to find participants easier.

Mr. Reashor responded that he was not familiar with the database, but would follow-up on it.

The Chair noted that this initiative supports HRM's active transportation goals.

Mr. Ross advised the Committee of a Switch event happening on Sunday, June 9, 2013 as part of bike week at Agricola / Spring Garden Road / South Park St.

#### **4.3.2 HRM on the Move – The Mobility Plan – Pam Cooley, CarShareHFX**

The "Ideal Carsharing City" letter, dated May 16, 2013 and the "HRM on the Move – The Mobility Plan", dated September, 2012 were before the committee.

Councillor Hendsbee introduced Ms. Pam Cooley and indicated his desire to see the letter and report submitted to staff and that a report be produced on its contents, with an emphasis on including Carshare parking spots at park and rides and recreational facilities and explore contracting out HRM's fleet of hybrid vehicles.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council direct staff to review the "Ideal Carsharing City" letter, dated May 16, 2013 and the "HRM on the Move – The Mobility Plan", dated September 2012 and produce a report with specific consideration of adding dedicated car share parking spaces at HRM park and rides and HRM facilities and also consider the contracting out of HRM's fleet of smart cars.**

A discussion ensued on the authority of standing committees and the process by which reports are received and direction given at Council, with the Chair responding that a report on governance will be submitted to the Executive Standing Committee on this issue at an upcoming meeting.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

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

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Nova Scotia Moves Program – 2013 Funding Applications**

The staff report, dated April 21, 2013 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that applications be submitted to NS Moves for funding of the following projects:**

- **Transit Priority Measures Study**
- **Transit Plan Public Engagement**
- **Highfield Transit Terminal – Passenger Amenities**
- **Highfield Transit Terminal – Active Transportation Connections**
- **Bicycle Accommodation for Ferry Terminals**
- **Long Lake Trail Functional Plan**
- **New Metro Transit Route Map**
- **Institutional District Transportation Management Association**

Councillor Watts noted that these submissions are all great projects and target pedestrian amenities and movement.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed his desire to see more bicycle accommodation space on ferries and asked if some of the lower deck seats be removed for this purpose, with Mr. Dave Reage, Manager, Planning and Scheduling, Metro Transit, responding that staff will consider this suggestion.

Councillor Fisher asked staff about the awards process, how the Province prioritizes requests and how the allocations are made, with Mr. Reage responding that last year the awards envelope was about \$1 million and expects the same amount this year. He further noted that the Province attempts to distribute the money to projects throughout

the province. He noted that HRM would likely not get funding for all these projects, but that staff plan to carry them out regardless of the outcome of the application process. Councillor Walker asked what would happen to the money currently allotted to the projects that receive grant funding, with Mr. Reage responding that funding will go to projects that otherwise wouldn't get funding in active transportation.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.1.2 North-South Peninsula Cycling Corridor (Cross Town Connector)**

A staff report dated April 18, 2013 and a report from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee dated May 17, 2013 were before the Committee.

Correspondence received on the topic from a number of residents was circulated to the Committee. The correspondence is on file.

Mr. David MacIsaac, Planning and Infrastructure, offered staff a presentation on the item and giving an overview of its history. He noted that the plan reflects the regional plan, connects with existing cycling routes and staff will consider options to accommodate both parking and cycling. He further explained the two options available to the committee as outlined in the report.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend approval of the Windsor-Vernon-Seymour bike route option, with the sub-option to continue the bike lanes up to the intersections of Almon Street and North Street, as the first of up to three designated north-south on-road cycling corridors on the peninsula and recommend its review at the Halifax and West Community Council and that it be then directed to Regional Council for final review.**

Councillor Mason declared a conflict of interest and left his seat at 2:02 p.m.

Councillor Watts acknowledged the work done by the cycling coalition and noted that this endeavor is not about recreational cycling, but commuter cycling. She reflected that cycling considerations have been made in a piecemeal fashion in the past and that now is the time to build a coherent transportation network. She further noted that the outcome is not zero sum between cyclists and motorists and that HRM must work to accommodate businesses with respect to parking.

Councillor Walker indicated the network should extend further, such as to the Fairview overpass which many cyclists use or through Windsor Park. He noted there is no reason the roadways cannot be shared between cyclists and motorists.

Councillor Fisher asked for clarification, to make sure the proposed route doesn't close the door on Agricola being a full bike route, with Mr. MacIsaac replying it does not.

Councillor Fisher noted there was substantive feedback on both sides of this issue.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated his support for this and was pleased to see progress on north/south bikeways. He noted he would like to see more progress on the “Blue Route”.

Councillor Dalrymple noted this effort is a good start and long overdue. He commended staff on their work.

Councillor Fisher asked why the report is going to the Halifax and West Community Council, with Mr. Maclsaac responding that there was a commitment in 2010 to bring it there first and staff are seeking to honour that process.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Mason reentered the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

Councillor Watts indicated that there are two other motions originating at the Active Transportation Committee, pertaining to the cycling motion passed earlier, that she would like to put them on the floor.

Councillor Watts indicated that the Active Transportation Committee would like to see staff return to the Transportation Standing Committee with information on how to mitigate the negative impacts of a bike lane on Agricola Street with respect to parking. Many businesses require parking at their door and HRM should support the diversity of businesses in the area.

Councillor Mason noted that Agricola is a popular route for bike traffic and the additional report from staff needs to provide more information on balancing commuter needs. Also, there needs to be more signs indicating that the street is heavily trafficked by cyclists and a broader piece on traffic calming would be ideal.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that staff undertake further study of the potential for an Agricola bicycle corridor route that would include a parking management plan and report back to the Transportation Standing Committee with the findings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Fisher that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the development of a policy in HRM that would support the use of the Local Street Bikeway model. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.2 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **7.2.1 Encroachments, Sidewalk Cafés & Sandwich Board Signs**

A report dated May 6, 2013 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend Regional Council:**

- 1. Request an update on amendments to By-Law S-800 and report back to the Committee on the status of the amendments.**
- 2. Request staff to perform a cross-jurisdictional review to examine best practices around ensuring accessibility where permanent encroachments have been permitted and report back to the Committee.**
- 3. Request that any future applications for permanent encroachments on sidewalks be brought for review by the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and that the Committee's feedback be incorporated as a part of the staff report.**

Councillor Fisher asked for an update on proposed amendments to by-law S-800, with Mr. Reashor indicating he will follow-up on this and noted that he expects it will be complete by end of year.

Councillor Fisher asked if the amendments will have to go to a public hearing, with Mr. Reashor responding that they will.

### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Deputy Mayor Rankin, Chair, recused himself from the Chair at 2:54 p.m. and left the meeting to attend another scheduled engagement.

Councillor Watts, the Vice Chair, assumed the Chair of the Committee.

### **7.2.2 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts updated the Committee on the work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, noting that the Committee has struck a sub-committee on the implementation of a strategic plan review and also heard from a presenter on service dogs and taxis.

## **7.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **7.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts updated the Committee on the work of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that the last meeting on the cross-town connector and that



they also received information on bike week, which begins on May 31, 2013. Also, a report on the active transportation review consultation will be coming forward in the fall.

**8. MOTIONS - NONE**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10.1 Councillor Mason**

“The Transportation Standing Committee requests the CAO direct staff to produce a report regarding implementation of HRMs Smart trip E pass program for HRM employees.”

**11. IN CAMERA – NONE**

**11.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – April 30, 2013**

The In Camera minutes of April 30, 2013 were approved during the public portion of the meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple that the In Camera minutes of April 30, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. NEXT MEETING – To be determined**

The Chair indicated that the date of the next meeting (June 27, 2013) was problematic due to graduations taking place, and other Councillors concurred. The Legislative Assistant committed to finding an alternate date.

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:58 p.m.

Matt Godwin  
Legislative Assistant