

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 15, 2014

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice-Chair
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor David Hendsbee
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Russell Walker

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF:

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Planning & Infrastructure
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor, Legal Services
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - None

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

Additions:

- 7.2.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee motion re: Provincial Building Code Changes
- 7.4.2 Zebra Crosswalk Markings (Info Item No. 2)
- 9.1 Taxi and Limousine Rate Review Mechanism (*recommendation report dated December 2, 2013*)
- 9.2 Request to Present – Halifax Taxi Drivers Owners Association re: Taxi Service to Persons with Disabilities
- 9.3 Rural Road Standard – referred from Regional Council (Jan. 14/14)

Deferred:

- 4.3.1 Presentation - New Federal Regulations for Transportation of Dangerous Goods - *Deputy Fire Chief Brian Gray, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency*

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Correspondence - None

4.2 Petitions - None

4.3 Presentations

**4.3.1 New Federal Regulations for Transportation of Dangerous Goods –
*Deputy Fire Chief Brian Gray, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency***

This item was deferred to the February 2014 meeting.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Transit Engagement Models (Information Item No. 1)

An information report dated October 24, 2013 was before the Committee.

Ms. Erin Harrison, Coordinator, Project Planning, Metro Transit, presented the information report to the Committee.

Responding to questions from Councillor Watts, Mr. Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit, indicated that the best way for residents to engage with Metro Transit is through the HRM 3-1-1 Customer Service, where they will receive a response from a Metro Transit Customer Service Agent. He noted that suggestions and concerns can always be submitted through members of Council and by petition.

Councillor Outhit suggested that looking at the formation of a regional citizen transit advisory committee should wait until after the completion of the Metro Transit service review, which is currently underway.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that:

- 1. The Transportation Standing Committee request the Executive Standing Committee, under the scope of the ongoing Governance Review project, outline possible changes to Administrative Order One and the Standing Committee Terms of Reference, to allow a public participation section at Standing Committee meetings that follows the Community Council model; and**
- 2. The Transportation Standing Committee will address the issue of a citizen transit advisory committee following the completion of the Metro Transit service review process.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF - None

7.2 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.2.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Due to time constraints, no updated was provided.

7.2.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee motion re: Provincial Building Code Changes

Councillor Watts reviewed the origin of this matter, noting that Mr. Jim Donovan, Manager, Municipal Compliance, presented at the last meeting of the Accessibility

Advisory Committee with regard to the topic of accessibility issues related to residential and commercial construction, at the request of the Committee.

Councillor Watts indicated that the AAC passed a motion to request the Transportation Standing Committee to request a staff report to inform the process for requesting changes for the provincial building code specific to accessibility in homes. The report should include other municipal jurisdictions that have made changes to regulations for homes such as those that require lever type handles on doors and faucets, height of light switches and mechanisms for improving access to barrier-free units in larger residential buildings. She noted that although the subject matter may be better suited for the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee, the AAC reports to the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to inform the process for requesting changes for the provincial building code specific to accessibility in new homes. The report should include other municipal jurisdictions that have made changes to regulations for homes such as: those that require lever type handles on doors and facets; height of light switches; and mechanisms for improving access to barrier-free units in larger residential buildings.

Councillor Watts suggested that this would fit well with the Mayors Healthy Communities initiative, and is relevant for HRM's aging demographic. The Committee discussed the motion, and Mr. Donovan clarified that the Nova Scotia Building Code applies to new construction and renovations.

Councillor Mason noted that these are simple modest provisions that were successfully made in Vancouver. He indicated that levers are easier to open than knobs, and establishing new rules like this could allow people to age in place.

Councillor Walker indicated he would like to see options in report for individual homeowners, small option homes, and larger residential units. He noted issues with large animals being able to open doors with lever door handles, noting that levers wouldn't work in all homes.

Councillor Hendsbee questioned why this wouldn't also be a mandated requirement for any commercial property. Mr. Donovan indicated that it is the law in Nova Scotia to provide barrier-free access to businesses, but it is not regulated for single unit dwellings.

The Chair suggested that the report also be forwarded to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee for their information.

Responding to questions from Councillor Dalrymple, Mr. Donovan indicated that in multi-unit residential buildings, the requirement is for 1 in 20 units to be barrier-free.

Councillor Dalrymple noted concern with regulating matters within peoples' private homes.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Deputy Mayor Fisher excused himself from the meeting at 2:56 p.m.

7.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Due to time constraints, no updated was provided.

7.3.2 Dal-TRAC Share the Road Campaign

A memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated January 7, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report defining if HRM can implement the "Share the Road Campaign" and where the funding would come to support this.

Councillor Watts indicated that the Dal-Trac Share the Road campaign was presented to both the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that Dalhousie is looking for partners in the ongoing promotion of the campaign.

Councillor Outhit spoke in support of the motion, noting that the initiative would tie in with HRM's efforts toward improved crosswalk and pedestrian safety.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.4 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.4.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple (verbal)

Councillor Dalrymple provided a brief update on the activities of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee, noting that they will be meeting on January 23rd and 30th to finalize the crosswalk safety work plan, which will be presented to the Transportation Standing Committee at the February meeting, and forward it to Council for inclusion in the 2014/15 budget.

7.4.2 Zebra Crosswalk Markings (Information Item No. 2)

An Information report dated December 19, 2013 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the implementation of zebra crosswalk markings at all uncontrolled, marked crosswalks and budget accordingly for the upcoming crosswalk painting season.

Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Traffic & Right-of-Way, reviewed the results of a survey of the use of zebra crosswalk markings undertaken by a jurisdictional survey of the Transportation Association of Canada. Mr. Koutroulakis indicated that a recent study from the US has shown that zebra markings are more visible than parallel markings; however, it appears that markings were tested in isolation and not part of a complete pedestrian system similar to what is the standard practice in Canada.

Councillor Walker commented that he hopes that zebra crosswalk markings will not give a false sense of security, like overhead flashing lights at crosswalks.

Mr. Koutroulakis responded to questions from members, clarifying the following:

- Not all crosswalks in HRM are currently controlled by signs and signals.
- Crosswalk markings using more durable material typically cost six to eight times the average cost of painted markings
- Assessment of results from the implementation of zebra crosswalk markings would difficult to measure, taking into consideration other efforts to improve crosswalk safety such as public safety campaigns.

Mr. Koutroulakis reviewed the three options for locating zebra crosswalk markings outlined in the information report:

- All marked, uncontrolled locations
- Overhead RA-5 locations only
- Marked, uncontrolled school crossings only

Councillor Dalrymple noted that this will be the most expensive item coming out of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee recommendations, and that CSAC singled out this item to be put forward early because they felt strongly about it.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. MOTIONS - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Taxi and Limousine Rate Review Mechanism

A staff report dated December 2, 2013 was before the Committee.

Responding to a question from the Chair, Mr. Kevin Hindle, Regional Coordinator, License Standards & Taxi/Limousine, indicated that changes to the rate schedule would require adjustments to rates set in taxi meters, noting that owners are required to recalibrate their meters annually as a part of license renewal. The typical cost to an owner to recalibrate a meter is \$30-\$35, although some brokers offer recalibration to their drivers at no cost.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the amendments to Administrative Order #39 as set out in Appendix A of the December 2, 2013 staff report, with the following amendment:**

Section 3.0A

- (c) A report prepared under clause (b) shall be considered by Regional Council;**
- (ca) Once Regional Council has voted on whether or not to increase the rate in accordance with clause (b), the percentage change or cumulative percentage change for the purpose of clauses (a) and (b) shall be zero.**

- 2. Introduce a rate review mechanism for the taxi & limousine industry.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 Request to Present – Halifax Taxi Drivers Owners Association re: Taxi Service to Persons with Disabilities

A request from the Halifax Taxi Drivers Owners Association (via email dated January 10, 2014) to present to the Committee on the topic of taxi service to persons with disabilities was before the Committee.

Mr. Kevin Hindle indicated that staff have been working with industry on this issue, and noted that the Association felt they would like to address the committee directly on this.

The Committee agreed to schedule the presentation for the February 5, 2014 Transportation Standing Committee meeting.

9.3 Rural Road Standard

An information report dated August 29, 2013 was circulated to the Committee.

This matter was referred from the January 14, 2015 session of Halifax Regional Council.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that this report deals with the construction of a multi-purpose trail within the public road right of way. The report outlines three options provided in the design guidelines for multi-use trails, using asphalt or concrete. Councillor Hendsbee suggested that crusher dust would be preferable.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report exploring a fourth design guideline option for multi-use trails using crusher dust. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

11. IN CAMERA

No In Camera session was held. This item was dealt with during the public session.

11.1 Personnel Matter

11.1.1 Citizen Appointments to Boards and Committees

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee:

- 1. Proceed to nominate to Regional Council a Citizen Representative to the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM, as outlined in Attachment 1 of the Private and Confidential Memo dated January 6, 2014; and**
- 2. Release the name of the successful candidate to the public after they have been notified.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. NEXT MEETING

12.1 Approval of the 2014 Meeting Schedule

Proposed 2014 Transportation Standing Committee meeting schedules for the 4th Thursday, 1st Wednesday, and 3rd Thursday of each month were before the Committee for consideration.

The 2014 meeting schedule was approved for the first Wednesday of each month (with some exceptions as required) from 2:00 – 4:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, as follows:

- February 5
- March 5
- April 2
- May 7
- June 4
- July 23
- September 10
- October 1
- November 12
- December 3

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:37 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS:

1. **Transit Engagement Models** (*information report dated October 24, 2013*)
2. **Zebra Crosswalk Markings** (*information report dated December 19, 2013*)