



**CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 24, 2015**

PRESENT: Ms. Janet Barlow, Chair
Mr. Kelsey Green, Vice Chair
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Reg Rankin
Ms. Lucille Reid
Sgt. Steve Calder

REGRETS: Ms. Krista Daley
Dr. Ahsan Habib
Ms. Anne James
Ms. Jill McGillicuddy

STAFF: Mr. Bruce DeBaie, Managing Director, Corporate Communications
Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Traffic Management and Right of Way
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Traffic Management and Right of Way
Ms. Phoebe Rai, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/csac/150924CSAC-Agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:05 a.m., and the Committee adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Janet Barlow, Chair called the meeting to order at 10:05 a.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 25, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Ms. Reid

THAT the minutes of June 25, 2015 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair suggested that item 7.2.1 be dealt with immediately following deferred business as Traffic Management staff members were available to respond to questions of the Committee. The Chair further suggested that item 7.1.1 be dealt with immediately following item 7.2.1.

MOVED by Mr. Green, seconded by Ms. Reid

THAT the agenda be approved, as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7.2.1 Input on Pedestrian Safety Action Plan 2016/2017

Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management noted that work on the 2016/2017 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan report to Regional Council had been initiated and would explore progress towards goals identified in previous action plans. He advised that staff would find it most useful to gain an understanding of what outcomes the Committee would recommend to be prioritized.

The Committee discussed the issue of enforcement and highlighted the importance of holding both motorists and pedestrians responsible for violations of crosswalk-related regulations. Several Committee members noted that in their experience, pedestrians are unlikely to receive a police ticket for failing to observe traffic rules. The Committee agreed that enforcement should be prioritized.

Several Committee members suggested that high fines may dissuade police officers from issuing tickets to pedestrians, particularly if the individual is a student or on a fixed income. Councillor Rankin noted that non-monetary penalties may be more effective, and the Committee agreed that it would be beneficial for staff to continue to work with provincial counterparts regarding changes to the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act*, following up on the letter written by the Mayor to the Province on behalf of Regional Council.

Mr. Green expressed an interest in increased education targeting school aged children. A discussion ensued with Committee members noting that teaching children can be effective in bringing about behavioural change, as children will not only become more aware of the rules themselves, but are also likely to pass that information along to their families.

Sergeant Calder advised that Halifax Regional Police (HRP) is in the process of developing a new system for data collection regarding collisions between vehicles and pedestrians. Several Committee members expressed concern that the new system meets the data needs of traffic operations. Mr. Koutroulakis noted that Traffic and Right-of-Way staff have had discussions with HRP to discuss how meaningful data can be collected to both inform policing objectives and to improve road safety more generally.

The Chair asked Committee members whether they were interested prioritizing revisions to the warrant system for installing and removing crosswalks to be more context-specific. Mr. Koutroulakis replied that the issue was addressed in a report to Regional Council with respect to standards, and staff is employing discretion when installing or removing crosswalks that would not be advised through the warrant system but where there are other important considerations such as proximity to schools. The Chair expressed satisfaction with this response.

Councillor McCluskey questioned whether staff have considered using different coloured paint to increase the visibility of crosswalks. Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Traffic Services Supervisor responded that there are different colours reserved for different types of devices or markings, and that white is the standard colour across the country to be used for crosswalks in order to avoid possible confusion.

Councillor McCluskey noted that in some crosswalk locations, the sightline between the motorist and pedestrian may be obstructed by poles. Mr. MacIntyre advised that a project soon to be tendered will help address concerns and staff are working closely with Nova Scotia Power to relocate poles where possible. Mr. Koutroulakis added that staff are considering a variety of measures to further improve crosswalk visibility, especially where pole relocation is not feasible.

The Chair asked whether the Committee would be supportive of recommending additional experimentation with piloting untested but promising infrastructure programs, to which the Committee indicated its general agreement.

MOVED by Ms. Reid, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

THAT the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee forward to staff the following recommended actions for consideration as staff prepare the 2016/2017 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, in no particular order:

- a) Increased enforcement of crosswalk regulations regarding pedestrians and vehicles,**
- b) Continued cooperation between municipal and provincial staff toward increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations and associated changes to the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act*,**
- c) Increased education on crosswalk safety at the school level,**
- d) Continued collaboration between Traffic Management staff and Halifax Regional Police to improve data collection methods,**
- e) Additional research and experimentation with piloting infrastructure programs,**

And for particular emphasis to be placed on increasing awareness with educational activities and increasing adherence through the enforcement of existing regulations.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.1 Update from Bruce DeBaie, Corporate Communications re: Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day 2015

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the staff presentation dated September 24, 2015
- Memorandum from Bruce DeBaie, Managing Director of Corporate Communications, re: Proposed theme and scope of Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day 2015

Mr. Bruce DeBaie, Managing Director, Corporate Communications provided a presentation outlining preparations for Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day 2015. He noted that November 4, 2015 was selected as the date following from previous committee discussions of holding the event shortly after the Daylight Savings time change.

The Committee provided several suggestions such as a “rain date” in case of inclement weather and modifying the advertising dates so as not to begin during the federal election campaign.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Mr. Green

THAT the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee forward the presentation regarding Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day to the Transportation Standing Committee for their information.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

Due to time constraints, the Committee agreed to bring forward all correspondence for consideration at the next Committee meeting.

- a) **Correspondence from Crystal Graves dated August 25, 2015**
- b) **Correspondence from Bryn Jones-Vaillancourt dated July 29, 2015**
- c) **Correspondence from Traffic Management and Right of Way staff dated July 30, 2015**
- d) **Correspondence from Norm Collins dated September 10, 2015**

6.1.1 Pedestrian-Facing Signs at Crosswalks

The following was before the Committee:

- Correspondence from Norm Collins dated September 3, 2015

Due to time constraints, this matter will be brought forward to the next Committee meeting.

6.2 Petitions – None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Update from Bruce DeBaie, Corporate Communications re: Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day 2015

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting, see page 3-4 for details.

7.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.2.1 Input on Pedestrian Safety Action Plan 2016

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting, see page 2 for details.

8. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

9. IN CAMERA – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Thursday, November 26, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Halifax Hall, City Hall

The Chair noted that effective October 2, 2015 she will no longer be a member of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, and accordingly will no longer be a member of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

The Legislative Assistant noted that at the next meeting, there would be an election of Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:54 a.m.

Ms. Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant