

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**June 17, 2010**

- PRESENT:** Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Mr. Tom Boyd  
Ms. Gai Thomas  
Ms. Alison MacDonald  
Ms. Lauralee Sim  
Mr. Ted Scrutton  
Mr. Friedmann Brauer
- REGRETS:** Mr. Michael Beiswanger  
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo  
Ms. Janet Barlow
- STAFF:** Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management  
Planner  
Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager of Strategic Transportation  
Planning  
Ms. Gabrielle Riley-Gallagher, Active Living Coordinator  
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Transportation Demand Management  
Coordinator  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Mr. Tylor Mcduff, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. at Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

**2. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Regan announced that the Sackville Rivers Association had conducted a trails survey for Bike Week. He noted that there was a demand for garbage cans and toilets. He reported that there were complaints amongst pedestrians that cyclists were not beeping when passing and added that cyclists complained about dog leashes getting in their way. Mr. Regan indicated he would make the survey results available when they were compiled.

Mr. Regan reported that the Halifax Regional Trails Association received \$165,000 from HRM for maintenance.

Mr. Regan noted that Nova Scotia Trails and Trans Canada had signed an agreement over the Greenway Values.

Mr. Regan reported that the Chain of Lakes Association was now a member of the Halifax Regional Trails Association.

Mr. Regan noted that the tender to complete seven kilometres of trail between Joseph Howe Drive and Bayers Lake would close on Monday, June 20, 2010. He added the Portland Lakes Trails received funding for major reconstruction and would also be going to tender.

Mr. Regan said the new edition of 'Get Out, Check it Out' would be published in July, 2010.

Ms. Thomas reported the resolution of the crosswalk issue from the May 20, 2010 meeting.

Councillor Watts reported that the Health Promotion and Protection Division would be announcing the recipients of funding for upgrades to trails.

Ms. Thomas announced that a group of mobility-challenged citizens had succeeded in moving a crosswalk from Windsor Street and Welsford Street. She noted the crosswalk would be moved to the north side of Welsford Street.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 20, 2010**

Mr. Brauer requested the correction of his amendment to the April 2010 meeting minutes be changed to read a “movement in London, England to increase the number of streets with twenty mile an hour” speed limits.

**MOVED BY Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. MacDonald, that the minutes of May 20, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

9.1 Work Plan - Ms. Roxane MacInnis

**MOVED BY Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**5.1 Child and Youth-Friendly Land-Use Guidelines and Walk 21 Charter - Ms. Gabrielle Riley-Gallagher, Active Living Coordinator**

Ms. Gabrielle Riley-Gallagher, Active Living Coordinator, reported on her findings from comparing the Child- and Youth-Friendly Land-Use Guidelines and Walk 21 Charter. She explained that she would have a proper report available for the next meeting.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher noted the many similarities between the two documents. She indicated that both focused largely on Active Transportation and showcased an opportunity to increase physical activity and foster safer communities. She added that the documents suggested more supportive environments for AT users and increased connectivity amongst infrastructure.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher reported that the staff involved in examining the documents suggested that the Committee recommend to Council to take these documents into consideration during the upcoming Regional Plan Review and the AT Plan Review.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher highlighted other initiatives that complemented the documents, such as the AT Plan, the HRM Regional Plan, Stepping Up Halifax, HRM By Design, HRM Bike Week, HRM Good Neighbours/Great Neighbourhoods, and the ‘Get Out Check it Out’. She added that it was important to note that several principals put forth in Land-Use Guidelines and the Walk 21 Charter were being addressed by HRM as well as by other organizations like the Active and Safe Routes to School program. Ms.

Riley-Gallagher noted that some of the recommendations were not under HRM's ability to make these changes.

Mr. Regan reported that he had attended the Saltscapes Conference and indicated a demand for a trail map of HRM.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher reported a comprehensive trail map would be the responsibility of Trails and indicated that trail maps were available online . She noted that 'Get Out, Check it Out' included an insert that highlighted which trails were accessible and provided links for more information. She added that the document was prepared with residents in mind and not necessarily tourists.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher reported that the new version of 'Get Out, Check It Out', would be available at all HRM Recreation Centres and Libraries and indicated a full distribution list was available. She added that schools would be informed of how to access the information in the publication. She explained that the intent was to target residents that were not already physically active.

A discussion ensued about making events and information more available online. Councillor Mosher indicated that every councillor should have a link to the 'Get Out, Check It Out' publication on their webpages.

Councillor Watts suggested the Committee had input into the upcoming reviews of the Regional Plan and the AT Plan.

Ms. MacInnis reported that Mr. Roger Wells was the staff liaison for the Regional Plan Advisory Committee and that Mr. Austin French is involved as well.

**Moved by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee send a letter to Mr. Roger Wells and Mr. Austin French indicating the Committee's desire to contribute to the reviews.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair noted that it is unclear what form any input into the reviews would take.

Councillor Hendsbee asked about the exclusion of some trails from the 'Get Out, Check It Out' publication. Ms. Riley-Gallagher explained the criteria for what trails were included. She noted that the trail had to be open for users not familiar with trails and that wilderness trails were not included. She added that the document did not refer to trails that HRM knew were not being regularly maintained.

Ms. Riley-Gallagher indicated she would submit a summary of the various initiatives available at the next meeting.

## **5.2 Proposed Bike Lanes - Herring Cove Road**

- An Extract of the Draft Regional Council Minutes Dated June 8, 2010 was before the Committee.
- A report dated June 9, 2010 was before the Committee.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, provided a brief overview of the Proposed Bike Lanes - Herring Cove Road report and added that it originated from a request by the Committee during the May 20, 2010 meeting. Ms. Koblents explained that traffic modelling demonstrated that the proposed pavement marking scheme would have leftover capacity for current and future growth. She noted that it enabled an opportunity to explore active transportation infrastructure along Herring Cove Road in a more complete sense, including sidewalks and bike lanes, and added that it would be possible to revert back to the current system should the need arise.

Ms. Koblents explained that the report highlighted the benefits of the proposed changes; adding that Herring Cove Road was a main commercial corridor for the area which provided many destinations which conformed to the definition of Active Transportation as destination-based and distinct from recreation. Ms. Koblents noted that arterial roads were designated for bike lanes according to the Active Transportation (AT) Plan and added that the proposed bike lanes provided a link to the McIntosh Run Community Trail.

**MOVED BY Mr. Brauer, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council award the tender for the resurfacing of Herring Cove Road from Old Sambro Road to Hartlen Avenue with the proposed pavement marking scheme which includes a change in vehicle lanes from four through lanes to two through lanes, plus two bicycle lanes, as well a centre turn lane alternating with planted median islands.**

Mr. Brauer noted that the proposed change had a number of concrete advantages. He stated that the initiative was supported by the AT Plan and would connect residents with destinations. He added that left turns would be improved and that speeding would be reduced with only one lane. He reported that the changes were also in step with the goals of the Spryfield Vision and Action Plan which was approved by Council. Mr. Brauer highlighted that the proposed bike lanes were a very important step towards achieving a bicycling network in HRM and the lane reductions would maintain current traffic flow with reserve capacity. He noted that the criticism from businesses seemed

vague and explained that streets with more connections and less traffic would be more conducive to businesses.

Mr. Scrutton raised the issue of youth input into the development of the AT Plan. He noted the JL Isley High School students wanted to be on the road and visible rather than hidden behind buildings in a corridor.

Mr. Scrutton noted that there were studies that demonstrated how traffic calming initiatives actually increase business activity.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Manager Planner, noted that Victoria and Vancouver had reduced lanes in favour of bike lanes and suggested that there may be available information there.

There was a lengthy discussion regarding the appropriate means of communicating the Committee's rationale for its support of the staff recommendation.

**MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendation to Regional Council be amended to include a summary of the Committee's discussions.**

A discussion ensued regarding the rate of growth anticipated in the AT Plan. The Chair indicated that relevant data was available and referred to the provincially-led Imagine Our Schools project which was exploring efficiencies in schools and had requested population data from municipalities. Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager of Strategic Transportation Planning, reported that the traffic modelling was based on projected growth in the Regional Plan.

**MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendation to Regional Council be amended to include a detailed analysis of the population growth projection and the impact on the capacity of the proposed changes.**

The Chair called for the question on the first amendment.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called for the question on the second amendment.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The main motion now reads:

**MOVED BY Mr. Brauer, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:**

- 1. Recommend that Regional Council award the tender for the resurfacing of Herring Cove Road from Old Sambro Road to Hartlen Avenue with the proposed pavement marking scheme which includes a change in vehicle lanes from four through lanes to two through lanes, plus two bicycle lanes, as well a centre turn lane alternating with planted median islands; and**
- 2. That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendation to Regional Council be amended to include a summary of the Committee's discussions; and**
- 3. That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee's recommendation to Regional Council be amended to include a detailed analysis of the population growth projection and the impact on the capacity of the proposed changes.**

Ms. Sim indicated she had information that related to the impacts on businesses as a result of similar initiatives and volunteered to distribute this information to staff for circulation to the Committee. Ms. Sim added that cyclists have commented that the current configuration of Herring Cove Road was not very safe. She suggested that the bike lanes may encourage more cyclists to shop in the area as opposed to travelling in cars to other locations.

There was a discussion regarding the planned use of planted medians. Councillor Hendsbee noted they would impact negatively on maintenance and snow removal and added that they would have to be removed if it were required to revert back to the current system. Councillor Hendsbee stated that Cole Harbour Road was functional without medians whereas Main Street was a mess with them.

Mr. McCusker noted that the rationale for medians was purely aesthetic.

Mr. Brauer noted that the issue of medians was a technical detail and did not impact AT.

The Chair reported that she had advised Regional Council that in the Mainland South Secondary Planning Strategy under Objections and Policies it was noted that: the City shall pursue completion of the widening and realignment of the Herring Cove Road between the Armdale Rotary and the City Limits to improve traffic flow. She added that this was a policy that could not be changed without an amendment from Council. The Chair reported that in the Herring Cove Road Streetscape Study, it was found that the



residents and merchants who participated in the study process felt that, in general, the street should not be changed to reduce traffic capacity. She indicated that this was in conflict with a report that suggested wide curbs and not dedicated bike lanes. She noted that both studies were included in the report which creates confusion. The Chair added that she would be asking for a legal opinion on the specified section in the Mainland South Secondary Planning Strategy.

A vote was taken on the main motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence - None**

**7.2 Petitions**

**7.2.1 Cross Town Connector Petition - Halifax Cycling Coalition**

- Halifax Cycling Coalition Crosstown Connector Petition was submitted.

Ms. Sim submitted the petition on behalf of the Halifax Cycling Coalition in support of the Crosstown Connector for presentation to Council. She indicated that there were over 1300 signatures in support of the Crosstown Connector.

The Chair accepted the petition and indicated she would submit the petition into the Council record.

**7.3 Presentations**

**7.3.1 Cross Town Connector - Ms. Lauralee Sim, Halifax Cycling Coalition Representative**

A petition in support of the Crosstown Connector was submitted by Ms. Lauralee Sim during item 7.2.1.

Ms. Sim explained that a presentation by Mr. Steve Bedard of the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) was made to the Committee at the February 18, 2010 meeting.

**7.3.2 Halifax Cycling Coalition Bike Count Report - Ms. Lauralee Sim, Halifax**

**Coalition Representative**

- The Halifax Cycling Coalition Bike Count Report was before the Committee.

Ms. Sim explained that other municipalities had undertaken bike counts to monitor bicycle traffic and the HCC had undertaken a similar initiative for HRM.

Ms. Sim indicated that volunteers focussed primarily on the Peninsula and four areas in Dartmouth. She explained that two volunteers were assigned to each intersection: one counted the number of cyclists and the other assessed the quality of the cyclist, for example whether or not they had a helmet or used traffic signals.

Ms. Sim noted that there were more than 1400 observations and added that the number may include some double counts however it was still a large amount. She stated that the top two locations were at either side of the MacKay Bridge and indicated that at peak traffic times more than 100 cyclists per hour were recorded.

Ms. Sim described the results of cyclists' overall compliance with traffic rules. She noted that ninety-eight percent of cyclists wore helmets. Ms. Sim reported that ninety-four percent obeyed road signs and traffic lights and explained that the six percent that failed to follow traffic signals were found predominantly at four intersections. She added that there could be something relating to those specific intersections. Ms. Sim also noted that ninety-six percent of the cyclists' stayed out of pedestrian-only areas.

Ms Sim reported that five of the six intersections included in the study had existing bike lane infrastructure and added that only forty percent used the infrastructure at the Armdale Roundabout and suggested that maybe cyclists found it unsafe.

Ms. Sim indicated that seventeen percent of all cyclists engaged in some form of intersection avoidance, such as getting off their bike to walk through the intersection.

Ms. Sim reported that the Bike Count demonstrated significant cycling traffic and added that most cyclists were obeying traffic rules. She noted that the Bike Count also showed bicycle infrastructure was being well used, with the exception of the Armdale Roundabout.

Ms. Sim indicated that Traffic Services had a copy of the Bike Count Report.

A discussion ensued regarding how the report could complement existing initiatives.

**8. REPORTS - None**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 Work Plan - Ms. Roxane MacInnis**

- The Executive Summary of the Facilitator's Suggestions from the Community Development Workshop was submitted.

The Chair indicated that it was Ms. MacInnis' last meeting and added that the Committee had put a lot of effort into the workshops however the developed Work Plan had fallen aside.

Ms. MacInnis reported that there would be changes to the regular meeting agenda to include a dedicated spot for the Work Plan as well as inclusion of reports from subcommittees.

Ms. MacInnis noted that the Committee had identified the need for improved communication between staff and the Committee and that this would be a focus for the next few months. She explained that two specific sub-committees would be developed, one for Bike Week and another for Education and Promotion of Events. She suggested these sub-committees be struck immediately following the summer break. She added that a sub-committee should not include more than eight members.

Ms. MacInnis noted that in order to increase the effectiveness of the Committee, changes may be made to the Terms of Reference regarding amending the Committee membership as well as potentially allowing members of the public to sit on sub-committees alongside Committee members.

Ms. MacInnis noted there would be a need to make additions to the Work Plan regarding the AT Plan Review.

Ms. MacInnis thanked the Committee for the many years of collaboration and expressed confidence that great work would continue after her departure. She noted that Ms. Koblents would be taking over her roll with the Committee.

The Chair noted that the next agenda would include the following additions:

- Work Plan
- Bike Week Update
- Chain of Lakes Trail
- Information from Staff
- A Status sheet regarding outstanding motions or discussions
- A Cumulative list of accomplishments and successes

The Chair asked that further suggestions for the agenda be forwarded to her.

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for July 15, 2010.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

The following item was added as information:

- Lowering the Speed Limit

Tylor McDuff  
Legislative Support