

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE NOTES

February 17, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Lawrence Plug
Mr. Steve Bedard
Ms. Theresa Horwill (Alternate for Mr. Tom Boyd, Advisory
Committee for Persons with Disabilities Representative)
Ms. Laena Garrison

REGRETS: Ms. Lauralee Sim
Ms. Gai Thomas
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Mr. Tom Boyd
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Michael Beiswanger

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Pam Lovelace, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:12 pm at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

Quorum was not achieved. Elections of Chair and Vice Chair positions were deferred to the next meeting.

2. UPDATES

Mr. Regan provided a verbal report to the committee. He will provide a list of websites to the Legislative Assistant for inclusion in the minutes.

Mr. Plug provided a verbal update to the Committee on behalf of Bike Nova Scotia. He indicated that the province of Nova Scotia may declare an active transportation month.

Ms. Pugh provided a verbal update to the Committee. She has been speaking with Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, in the design process of a multi-purpose trail on the 107 extension.

Ms. Koblents provided a verbal update to the Committee. She told the Committee that HRM has uploaded an online GIS interface called Explore HRM to the website. The most current bike routes have now been uploaded and are available digitally under the Recreation heading.

Ms. Koblents will keep the Committee updated on the progress with the Heart and Stroke Foundation meetings. A potential lecture with Hans Moor, Economic and Commercial Affairs Officer, Embassy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, is possible during the event which will take place from May 4-8, 2011.

Dalhousie University, Capital Health, the IWK and St. Mary's University have partnered to develop a Bike Plan for the institution district in Halifax. They will explore which routes require improvement and which are most critical for their employees.

Another public session will be held on March 23, 4:30-7:00pm, with a presentation at 5:30pm. The meeting will take place at the Dalhousie Student Union building, Room 303.

Ms. Garrison provided a verbal update to the Committee. In June, a provincial rural active transportation meeting will be held in Cape Breton.

Mr. Regan asked if the Committee has any funds to send members to attend meetings throughout the Province.

Councillor Watts confirmed that the Committee does not have any funds.

Ms. Garrison discussed project SHIFT. The same group that is leading the bike consultations in Halifax is also heading up the Sustainable Transportation Task Force with a number of active sub-committees. The concept of SHIFT is to hold open street Sundays. Ms. Garrison will send Ms. Gregory more information.

The Ecology Action Centre (EAC) is turning 40 this year and to celebrate, starting on April 22, there will be 40 days of action.

Ms. Garrison is leaving the EAC and will send a letter to the Clerk's office to that effect. A new representative from EAC will come to the next meeting with Ms. Garrison.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 16, 2010

Carried forward to next meeting.

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

Addition:

9.1 Walkability Award Nominations

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES/STATUS SHEET

5.1 Subcommittee Updates

5.1.1 Bike Week 2011

Community groups are invited to register for Bike Week events and there are a few small grants available. The website is currently live; registrations are being accepted.

Mr. Regan asked what the overall budget is for Bike Week.

Ms. Koblents confirmed the HRM portion of the budget is \$5,000 but the Bike Week Committee undertakes fundraising activities. Ms. Koblents' budget is primarily for bike infrastructure.

Deferred to next meeting is an update on RideYour Riding.

i) Bike Week Subcommittee Minutes dated December 15, 2010

Deferred to next meeting.

ii) Bike Week Subcommittee Minutes dated January 12, 2011

Deferred to next meeting.

5.1.2 Safety/Education

Councillor Watts did not have updates from the December meeting. There may be a report at the next meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS - NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff Reports

8.1.1 Purcell's Cove Road Bike Lane Extension Update

Ms. Koblents provided a verbal update.

8.1.2 Bicycle Rack Update

Ms. Koblents provided a verbal update.

8.1.3 Peninsula Connections to Chain of Lakes Trail – Interim Report

Ms. Koblents presented an update on the Chester Spur Line Functional Alignment. The Interim Report was distributed to the committee for review and feedback.

The plan is that one day there will be a pathway all along the Harbour and a path to link up the paths. The concept is a pathway from Eastern Passage to Peggy's Cove, known as the BATH path– Boardwalk Around the Harbour.

Ms. Koblents requested input from the Committee on the interim report.

Ms. Horwill asked about the abandoned rail corridor off Lady Hammonds Road.

Councillor Watts asked about the decision making process on how the trails meet up and the directions of the trails.

Ms. Koblents is the lead staff member on the Chester Spur Line project. She confirmed that HRM staff will make the decisions on the functional level, but requested feedback from the Committee.

Councillor Watts requested Ms. Koblents invite the Committee on a trail walk to better understand what the Committee is providing feedback on.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Walkability Award Nominations

Councillor Watts described the six new standing committees and how this committee now sits under the Transportation Committee. To follow the activity of these committees including viewing the agendas and minutes, visit the HRM website for details:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/index.html>

The Committee discussed the Walkability Award nomination process and deliberated on who to nominate. It was generally agreed that the following Committee members would recommend nominations to the Transportation Standing Committee:

Ms. Pugh would nominate the Chain of Lakes Trail Association as a Community group.

Councillor Watts would nominate Westmount School in the School category.

Ms. Koblents would nominate Killam Properties in the Business category.

Councillor Watts would nominate Ms. Jennifer McGowan in the individual category.

Councillor Watts agreed to take these recommendations to the Standing Committee and nominations could be ratified at the next meeting. Forms and information can be downloaded here: www.walkaboutns.ca

Discussion followed on snow removal and bike safety. Snow is being pushed along the edge of roadways rather than being removed, which compromises bike safety.

Councillor Watts agreed to take the issue of snow removal to the Transportation Committee as it may be an issue of priority bike routes are cleaned first.

Mr. Bedard left the meeting at 5:30pm.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Mr. David Jackson, Bedford, requested information on progress with regards to a bike routes in his neighborhood.

Ms. Koblents agreed to review the Share the Road signage on Shore Road.

Councillor Watts thanked Mr. Jackson for participating in the Committee's discussion and asked if he would consider participating as a youth representative.

11. NEXT MEETING – March 17, 2011

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Information Item

1. Final Wording of Provincial Bill 93 – Amendments to the Motor Vehicle Act