

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 16, 2011

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Mr. David Jackson
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Gai Thomas
Mr. Walter Regan
- REGRETS: Mr. Myles McCallum
Mr. Troy Nauffts
Mr. Scott MacPhee
Mr. Lawrence Plug
Mr. Steve Bedard
- STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Paul Euloth Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Lauralee Simm, Environmental Performance Officer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2011.....	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	4
5.1	Subcommittee Updates.....	4
5.1.1	Bike Week 2011	4
5.1.2	Safety/Education	5
5.1.3	Bike and Trail Map	5
5.2	2011 Work Plan	6
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS	6
6.1	Amended Terms of Reference.....	6
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	6
7.1	Correspondence - None.....	6
7.2	Petitions – None	7
7.3	Presentations.....	7
7.3.1	Cyclist and Bus Education Video from Chicago	7
8.	REPORTS	7
8.1	Staff	7
8.1.1	Rural Active Transportation Conference	7
8.1.2	Bicycle Screenline Count	7
8.1.3	Active Transportation Plan Review Process	7
8.2	Committee Members.....	7
8.2.1	Summer Meeting Schedule.....	7
9.	ADDED ITEMS	7
9.1	HRM Trails Update – Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator	7
10.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION	8
11.	NEXT MEETING DATE – To Be Determined	8
12.	ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Bloomfield Centre.

2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Regan announced that the Rural Transportation Conference, held in Dundee, Cape Breton, was a great success and suggested that the Committee form a sub-committee to send members to future workshops. He indicated that the Halifax Regional Trails Association had been advised that the, Get Out, Check it Out, booklets would no longer be printed due to funding and suggested that it may be a good initiative for the Committee to find funding to carry out printing at a later time; noting that it would cost between \$7,000 and \$10,000.

Ms. Pugh indicated that the Minister of Health and Wellness addressed the Rural Transportation Conference crowd and announced an initiative which was brought forward at the suggestion of the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities. She advised that the Province would be formalizing an existing interdepartmental committee to develop a proposal to create a provincial vision for an active transportation (AT) policy.

Mr. Regan thanked Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, and HRM for their help with the Sackville Rivers Association's first annual Bike Rodeo; noting that Mr. Jackson had provided assistance as well.

The Chair requested that the matter concerning the Get Out, Check it Out, booklets be addressed by staff at the next meeting.

The Chair also announced that the grand opening of the Chain of Lakes Trail would be held on June 25, 2011 and that a bike rally would be held on June 26, 2011 by the Greater Hammonds Plains Residents Association to raise awareness and promote bike lanes on Hammonds Plains Road.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2011

Amendment:

Item 8.2.1, Page 7 – The following statement will be included, 'there is a commitment from HRM staff not to install anymore of these push button lights *before consulting with the area Councillor*'

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hum that the minutes of May 19, 2011 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

9.1 HRM Trails Update – Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator

The agenda was accepted as amended.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Subcommittee Updates

5.1.1 Bike Week 2011

Ms. Lauralee Sim, Environmental Performance Officer, provided a verbal update and overview on Bike Week 2011 and advised that she would email her presentation to members for their information.

The Chair passed on the Committee's thanks to the organizers of Bike Week 2011 for a job well done. She stated that another interesting result of Bike Week was several pieces of correspondence she received including both negative and positive reactions to bicycling in HRM as well as people requesting bike licensing. She advised that her comment has been that everyone needs to be working together to follow the rules and regulations and that cyclists, pedestrians and drivers should understand their roles and responsibilities.

It was suggested that grant money for Bike Week be augmented from \$250 to \$500 or \$1000.

The Chair advised that this matter could be addressed at the next meeting to request that staff consider a slightly higher increase.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that Bike Week 2012 events be held on the skating oval.

Ms. Sim noted that the Province has declared June as Active Transportation Month and has also been giving out grants which may be another funding opportunity.

Councillor Hum suggested health boards as an additional funding opportunity.

Regarding the potential of having an AT week, Ms. Koblents advised that Bike Week was already quite busy on its own; noting it may work better as an AT month by aligning with the Province.

The Chair requested that staff investigate the potential viability of this suggestion.

Ms. Thomas advised that she would keep the Committee updated on an initiative to get seniors interesting in cycling.

5.1.2 Safety/Education

The Chair advised that the Safety/Education sub-committee had not met since the last Committee meeting; however, she recently met with HRM staff as well as the HRP and RCMP regarding the idea of doing safety/education training via the Making Tracks Program. She reviewed what was discussed at the meeting. Highlights were as follows:

- Police find that going into schools to discuss safety before a captive audience is more effective than bike rodeos
- The mind set of being safe is becoming greater for parents and walking and biking to school is becoming more restrictive
- Some schools will no longer allow bikes on their property due to liability issues
- Every grade 1 student in HRM receives a safety workshop from the police
- It was agreed that peer training was key at the young adult and youth level
- There was interest in the Program from HRM as well as the Sustainable Environment Management Office so the initiative will become Ms. Koblents responsibility to investigate
- It was suggested that training occur close to the implementation of the Program

Ms. Pugh handed out postcards regarding the new One Meter Rule.

Ms. Thomas advised that the brochures regarding police safety required updating as there were inaccuracies.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that the Province make clear decals for passenger windows stating the new rule.

5.1.3 Bike and Trail Map

Ms. Koblents advised that HRM needed to reprint the bike route and trail map as they were at the end of their three year stock. She stated that she had all of the information in the HRM GIS system and wanted to redesign the map. She requested volunteers to aid in the review; noting that she had a cartographer and communications representative also assigned to help. She indicated that the plan was to have the new maps printed in March of 2012.

The Halifax Cycling Coalition as well as Mr. Plug, Bicycle Nova Scotia representative, were suggested.

Mr. Regan will put a call for volunteers out to the Halifax Regional Trails Association; noting they would be holding a Trail Camp on November 5 and 6, 2011 and this would be a great workshop for them.

It was noted that the map design was dependant on funding.

The Chair advised that she had held a successful Ride your Riding event in District 14 and recommended it to other Councillors.

5.2 2011 Work Plan

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Amended Terms of Reference

A report dated May 19, 2011 was before the Committee.

Ms. Koblents reviewed the submitted report; noting her recommendation to amend the Committee's Terms of Reference to make it easier to achieve quorum as a result of unfilled vacancies.

MOVED by Ms. Thomas, seconded by Ms. Pugh that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee amend section 4.1 of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference by:

- 1. Deleting the requirement to include "one (1) designate appointed by the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission" and "one (1) designate appointed by the Youth Advisory Committee" and;**
- 2. Amending the last line of section 4.1 by adding the words 'and youth' so as to read "Four (4) members of the public at large, which would include one (1) youth representative and one (1) senior representative".**

A discussion on the motion ensued.

It was requested that the Legislative Assistant follow up with the Municipal Clerk to see if the Terms of Reference should be further amended to state that they report to the Transportation Standing Committee rather than Regional Council.

Mr. Scrutton suggested that the Committee may want to consider including a member from the health sector in the future.

The Chair advised that she would investigate this suggestion.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Cyclist and Bus Education Video from Chicago

Ms. Koblents advised that this video was available online and that she would email the link to members for discussion at the next meeting.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 Rural Active Transportation Conference

Ms. Koblents provided a verbal update on the Rural Active Transportation Conference; noting that she, Mr. Regan, Ms. Pugh and Mr. Scrutton had attended and that the highest point had been announced by Ms. Pugh earlier in the meeting.

Ms. Pugh noted that the link between health and AT was discussed and that the Province was embarking on a Childhood Obesity Strategy as well.

8.1.2 Bicycle Screenline Count

Ms. Koblents advised that her summer students carried out the bicycle screenline count and were re-doing several locations; noting she would update the Committee once she had the final numbers. She stated that they were also discussing the possibility of conducting a trail survey in which case she would liaise with Mr. Regan.

8.1.3 Active Transportation Plan Review Process

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

8.2 Committee Members

8.2.1 Summer Meeting Schedule

It was agreed that the Committee would meet only once during July and August. The Legislative Assistant will confirm the meeting date of August 18, 2011.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 HRM Trails Update – Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator

Mr. Euloth announced that staff were considering rebranding the trails vision from the title of Trails to Active Transportation Greenways in order to take on a broader meaning.

He indicated that there would be three different types of greenways; long distance rural, local regional and the urban greenway; noting this would be a safer, more convenient and more aesthetically pleasing integrated trail system. He stated that staff would be rolling something out which would, hopefully, play a role in the Regional Plan and AT Plan reviews.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – To Be Determined

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant