



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
June 19, 2014**

- PRESENT:** Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair  
Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Matt Worona  
Mr. Bob Hayter  
Mr. Clive MacGregor  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Mr. Walter Regan
- REGRETS:** Councillor Wayne Mason  
Mr. Gordon Smith
- STAFF:** Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, TDM  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support  
Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner  
Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Traffic & Right-of-Way  
Mr. Dave McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager  
Mr. David Hubley, Manager, Design and Construction

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online:  
[www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.html](http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.html)*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 6:00 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax. The Chair informed the Committee that this meeting will be dedicated to Item 8.1.1: “Making Connections: 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan”.

**2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Committee noted a number of Community announcements.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 15, 2014**

**MOVED by Ms. Debaie, seconded by Councillor Watts that the minutes be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Watts that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence - None**

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentations - None**

**8. REPORTS/UPDATES**

**8.1 STAFF**

**8.1.1 Active Transportation Staff**

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- *A staff recommendation/information report dated May 27, 2014: “Making Connections: 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan”.*

Mr. David MacIsaac and Ms. Hanita Koblents gave an overview presentation of “Making Connections: 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan. Round table introductions were made to the Committee of staff present. Mr. MacIsaac gave an overview of the planning framework for the plan. The plan is an update for the 2006 functional plan and establishes a complete integrated and readily accessible region wide network.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Priorities Plan has three main objectives. These objectives are:

1. Engage stakeholders and the public to find out what is working and also where they feel the gaps are;
2. Review progress since the 2006 plan was approved; and,
3. Set priorities for the next five years.

#### Objective #1 – Engagement

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the engagement process involved meetings with internal and external stakeholders, public open houses and an online survey to help in the development of the priorities plan. He noted that there were many comments on the need to connect active transportation facilities. The public and stakeholders provided feedback on potential projects and programs and their input was among the key considerations in establishing priorities for the plan.

#### Objective # 2 – Progress Review

Mr. MacIsaac stated that there has been progress in developing the active transportation network since 2006. He noted a few of the highlights such as;

- Gaps in the sidewalk network have been closed and amenities such as accessible curb ramps at intersections and modern pedestrian signals are gradually being added to the inventory where appropriate.
- The off-road greenway network has grown from 68km to 135 km
- The number of kilometres of on-road bike lanes has grown from 15km to 108km
- There have been new initiatives to foster pedestrian and crosswalk safety; and
- Safety promotion and skills training is expanding.

Mr. MacIsaac then passed the presentation over to Ms. Koblents.

#### Objective #3 – Future Priorities

Ms. Koblents stated that the priorities focus on connecting existing infrastructure, developing complete transportation networks, and making active transportation accessible to the greatest number of residents. She also noted that the plan recognizes that increasing walking and cycling requires investments in larger-scale infrastructure, smaller-scale infrastructure and education and promotion.

Ms. Koblents noted that the Active Transportation Priorities Plan recognizes that planning and implementing active transportation infrastructure and programs cannot be done in isolation from other priorities and needs.

Ms. Koblents finished by stating the theme “Making Connections” is central to the active transportation objectives. The goal of the plan is to make connections between where people live, work, shop, access transit, access services and attend school as easy and direct as possible by foot or by bicycle.

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee of the three options before them;

1. Recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend the approval of this priorities plan to Regional Council.
2. Forward this report to the Transportation Standing Committee with suggested changes and request changes before Council considers the plan; or,
3. Recommend against adoption of the plan

Ms. Koblents advised the Committee that there would be no more research or public consultation on the priorities plan and this is the last opportunity to request or recommend changes.

The following motion was before the Committee and discussion followed:

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council approve the Active Transportation Priorities Plan.**

Councillor Watts expressed her thanks to the staff and sub-committee for their hard work and dedication this this excellent report.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated that he was upset that Ross Road and Cole Harbour Road were removed from the “Candidate On-Road Bike Routes”.

Mr. Regan stated that he was very pleased with the report. He commented that recommendation 34 of the report, in regard to Active Transportation and Regional Trails, have no standard agreements when it comes to the development of trails and bike lanes.

Mr. Buckwold questioned how the 2006 map and the 2014 map differ in relation to budgets. Ms. Koblents responded that some routes have been removed from the 2014 map and that the 2006 map included all roads and streets.

Ms. Barlow stated she liked the plan, especially the upgrades to the MacDonald Bridge. She questioned concerns that only 5km of completed streets in the regional centre are included in the plan. Mr. Koutrolakis responded that the streets have not been chosen. He also stated that the province is looking at locations in regards to street bike way speed limits. Mr. MacIsaac stated that there will be an opportunity for input in the design elements of complete streets.

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Mr. MacGregor said the plan was a good move forward, the principal statements and active transportation infrastructure should be centered in the peninsula core area.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed the need to educate and the rapid implementation of the local network development in order to increase the use of bicycles. The Chair questioned if crosswalks are included. Mr. MacIsaac responded that crosswalks are part of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan.

Ms. Barlow requested that recommendation #6 be placed on the agenda for discussion in the fall. The Committee agreed.

Councillor Watts commented that the funding over the next five years has increased and that it is important that the connections be completed and have greater access to events.

Mr. Regan expressed his concern that more staff is needed to help volunteers in the regional trail system. He stated that he would be supporting this motion.

Mr. Worona stated that a forum is needed when it comes to new bike lanes and vehicle parking. Councillor Hendsbee responded that we can make suggestions, but ultimately it is the decision of Regional Council.

Ms. Barlow questioned if funding for the bike lane on the MacDonald Bridge will be coming out of the Active Transportation Budget. Mr. MacIsaac responded that funding for the MacDonald Bridge will be coming from different sources and not from Active Transportation.

Councillor Hendsbee put the following amendment on the floor:

**Moved by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Hayter that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend the Transportation Standing Committee amend the motion to include Ross Road and Cole Harbour Road (Map 2B) be included in the “Candidate On-Road Bike Routes”.**

Discussion ensued.

Councillor Watts stated that this is a five year plan and that there would be opportunities to re-visit the “Candidate On-Road Bike Routes”.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern that the only active transportation out of town will be on greenway connections. Ms. Koblenz responded that the focus is on connectivity and that Cole Harbour Road is a very unfriendly route for cyclists.

Ms. Barlow expressed concern if Ross Road and Cole Harbour Road were put back on the On-Road Bike Routes the time line and implementation of the plan would be stalled.

**AMENDMENT DEFEATED.**

The Committee voted on the main motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

**8.1.2 Regional Trails Staff**

Ms. Jessie Debaie presented the Regional Trails Update to the Committee.

She informed the Committee that the Council Report from Halifax Regional Trails passed Regional Council on May 20, 2014 with unanimous support from Regional Council. The Capital and Maintenance Agreements have now been signed and groups are working to build their trail sections.

The Forest Hills Trans Canada Trail was one of the projects held up while awaiting approval from Regional Council on the Regional Trails Report. The Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association in cooperation with Halifax Regional Municipality is the community group responsible for the 3.5 metre wide paved active transportation greenway behind Cole Harbour Place. This project has financial support from Nova Scotia Move and Trans Canada Trails.

The Shore Active Transportation Association is sending a proposal to Trans Canada Trail Foundation for funding to do a feasibility and planning study for the Musquodobit Harbour to the Porters Lake sections of the Trans Canada Trail along the rail corridor and beside Highway 107 Chezzetcooke Marsh.

The Lakeside Diversion Project is proceeding with the installation of the waste water pipe in the 7.25 km of the former Chain of Lakes Trail. It is expected that paving of the New Greenway will begin in a couple of weeks, as a result there is a push to collect information in regards to cost and specifications to install tactile markers at 28 locations along the greenway where the trail meets the roads and streets.

**8.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association**

Mr. Regan expressed his thanks to the Councillors who helped speed up the process of the Regional Trails Report through Regional Council. He reported that support for the report from Regional Council was unanimous.

Mr. Regan also informed the Committee that the Capital and Maintenance Agreements were signed at the last Halifax Regional Trails Association meeting. Twelve groups signed the Capital Agreement and seventeen groups signed the Maintenance Agreement. He expressed concern that there needs to be more support for Recreational Trails.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Barlow that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee requests the Transportation Standing Committee to review how Recreational Trails can be supported through planning and the Municipal Capital Budget Process.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that Bike Week was a good team effort and that they received more funding than expected. Ms. Koblents stated that she would provide a full report at the next regular meeting.

**8.4 Committee Members**

Mr. Buckwold informed the Committee that he would give his presentation on the Winnipeg Winter Cyclist Conference in the fall.

**8.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee**

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee will be going forward with a Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day. She also informed the Members that accident statistics are now being collected since CROMS is now in place. The Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee receives updates monthly.

**9. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 18, 2014**

A brief discussion was held on whether the Committee felt it was necessary to meet during the summer.

**MOVED by Ms. Pugh, seconded by Mr. Buckwold that the Committee cancel the July and August meetings. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Darcy Warren  
Legislative Support