



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 18, 2014**

PRESENT: Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair  
Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair  
Ms. Terry Walker  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Mr. Bob Hayter  
Councillor Waye Mason  
Mr. Walter Regan

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblants, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online:*

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.php>

*The meeting was called to order at 4:06 p.m. and adjourned at 5:08 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

**Community Announcements**

Committee members noted a number of community announcements.

The Chair welcomed new member Ms. Terry Walker, representing the Halifax Cycling Coalition, advising that she's replaced Clive MacGregor who stepped down in June.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 19, 2014**

Councillor Watts noted that there were other key staff in attendance at June's meeting when the Committee discussed the Active Transportation Plan, and she asked that they be noted in the minutes.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Ms. Barlow that the minutes of June 19, 2014 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Complaints of Cyclists on Sidewalks – Councillor Watts

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

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

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - NONE**

**6.2 Petitions – NONE**

**6.3 Presentations - None**

Mr. Buckwold advised that he would be prepared to give his presentation on the Winnipeg Winter Cycling Congress at the October meeting.

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Active Transportation Staff**

Ms. Hanita Koblants provided a number of updates, as follows:

- A new 'Share the Road' public awareness campaign has been launched; the new brochure has been redesigned to resonate more with residents.
- 45 unfriendly bike grates have been replaced

- Active Transportation Plan has been approved by Regional Council
- Staff have been advancing the Halifax Urban Greenway Project
- Staff are preparing work for public engagement on the MacDonald Bridge project
- 40 bike racks that were approved in this past spring budget are being installed
- Staff is exploring redesign of Hollis Street bike lane, by shifting it to the left side of the street and having a painted buffer.

#### **7.1.2 Regional Trails Staff**

Ms. Jessie Debaie noted:

- WSP was awarded a contract to develop an Active Transportation development plan for Porters Lake and surrounding communities
- The Sackville Greenway design is nearing completion

#### **7.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association - None**

#### **7.3 Bike Week Sub-committee - None**

#### **7.4 Committee Members:**

##### **7.4.1 Bike Summit – Ben Buckwold**

Mr. Buckwold advised that he has been involved in the preparation of the Bike Summit, scheduled for October 17 to October 19 and the program involves a public lecture on October 17 and a full-day program is on the 18<sup>th</sup>, and the 19<sup>th</sup> will be a more casual day for enjoying bike rides. Mr. Buckwold extended an invitation to the Committee members to participate and advised that he would follow up in an e-mail to all with further information on the Summit.

#### **7.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee**

Ms. Janet Barlow provided an update from the Crosswalk Safety Committee.

Ms. Barlow advised that at this morning's meeting of the Crosswalk Safety Committee, staff from Corporate Communications presented a report on Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day. It was approved by the Committee and will now go on to the Transportation Standing Committee for consideration.

She also advised that she attended the Pro Walk, Pro Bike, and Pro Place Conference in Pittsburgh a couple of week ago and can provide a presentation at November's meeting. She noted that one of the topics covered was 'vision zero' and this was an approach to road safety and something she felt the Committee may want to look into at a future meeting. She added that she spoke with Sgt. Calder, HRP, who worked at a Safety Traffic Stop at South Park Street and Spring Garden Road yesterday and he was pleased with the amount of informational/educational pamphlets that were distributed.

### **8. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **8.1 Complaints of Cyclists on Sidewalks – Councillor Watts**

Councillor Watts advised that she has been receiving increased complaints from pedestrians about cyclists on sidewalks. She also noted that Councillor Mosher has indicated the same and, as a member of the Police Commission she intends to raise it at the next Commission meeting. Councillor Watts added that she expects there will be greater enforcement in this regard as a result, and she wanted to bring it to the Committee's attention.

Ms. Barlow noted that the visually impaired community in the town of Wolfville has voiced concerns about this issue; however, in that situation they understand the reason behind the problem is because the state of the bike lanes is poor. Ms. Barlow noted that some American cities permit bike riding on sidewalks.

Councillor Watts advised that the proposed development of the Mother House Lands has provided an alternative, explaining that there will be sidewalks on one side of the street and an active transportation trail on the other side.

Ms. Koblants pointed out that in Vancouver the speed limit on trails is 15 kph, whereas HRM has a speed limit of 20 kph. She suggested that a reduction in the speed might alleviate concerns.

Ms. Walker advised that she had contacted the police concerning bicycles on sidewalks and was told that a sidewalk can only be used by a cyclist in an extenuating circumstance, for example, if the cyclist feels they are in danger or if they are impinging on traffic. She suggested that educational promotion is key to informing cyclists of the rules of the road and that those who buy a new bicycle should be provided educational information at the time of purchase.

Mr. Buckwold advised that more public awareness is the answer and not more policing. He added that it would be interesting to explore if there are specific areas of the city where the situation is worse. Also, he noted that the idea of sidewalk redesign as a shared use facility could be an interesting idea to consider.

A discussion ensued and a suggestion was put forward that it would be beneficial for the Committee to have a representative from the Police Department provide a presentation with respect to the issue.

Ms. Barlow noted that she sits on the Crosswalk Safety Committee and at a meeting this morning the Committee received data from the Police Department on pedestrian/vehicle collisions for the first half of the year. She suggested that this would be good information for this Committee to also receive.

The Committee agreed to request that staff from the Police Department be invited to the Committee's next meeting to discuss issues of cycling on sidewalks, people cycling without helmets, are lights on bicycles mandatory, etc. In addition, the Committee would like to have any statistics on cycling that are available such as ticketing of cyclists for infractions.

**9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 16, 2014, Halifax Hall, City Hall**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant