



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTES
June 11, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Terry Walker
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. David Jackson
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason, Vice Chair
Ms. Julie Tompa
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Jeremy Josey (absent)

STAFF: Mr. David MacIssac, TDM Program Supervisor
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Support

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:

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

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. and adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall without quorum

2. PRESENTATIONS:

2.1 Staff – Active Transportation Priorities Plan – 2015 Update on Priorities and Projects

Mr. David MacIssac introduced the presentation on the Active Transportation Priorities Plan entitled “Making Connections: 2014-19 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan.”

He explained that the presentation was designed as an update to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and any interested members of the public.

Presentation Overview

1. Introduction
2. Walking
3. Bicycling
4. Multi-Use
5. Safety, Promotion, and Monitoring

1. Introduction

Mr. MacIssac introduced the members of the Active Transportation Core Staff

He informed the Committee that effective October 2014, the responsibility for implementing the AT Priorities Plan moved to Transportation and Public Works, which is situated in the Project Planning and Design Services group. This shift means that all AT Staff are working together and there are increased opportunities for project integration.

Halifax Departments Involved in AT:

Municipal Operations
Parks and Recreation
Halifax Regional Police
Traffic Management
Corporate Communications
Planning and Development
Halifax Transit

As Mr. MacIssac explained, the Active Transportation Priorities Plan was approved in September 2014 and prioritizes projects and programs between 2014 and 2019. Its three main objectives are as follows:

1. Establish complete, integrated and accessible network of routes (by 2026)
2. Double walking and cycling rates (by 2026) and
3. Improve safety through facility development

The Active Transportation Budget encompasses 5.3 million from 8 departmental budgets and includes such projects as:

- New sidewalks
- Street recapitalization
- AT plan strategic projects
- Intersection improvements

- Traffic signal rehabilitation
- New traffic signals
- Controller cabinets and detection program
- Regional trails

2. Walking:

Mr. MacIsaac introduced the section on walking. As he explained, there are ten areas where Staff are looking to continue the existing sidewalk program:

1. Shore Road
2. Sarnia Ave
3. Mt. Edward Rd
4. Kempt Rd
5. Herring Cover Rd
6. St. Margaret's Bay Rd
7. Sackville Dr.
8. Cobequid Rd.
9. Glendale Dr.

Mr. MacIsaac concluded the walking portion of the presentation by outlining several locations that are under study and explaining the various challenges each location poses.

3. Bicycling:

Ms. Hanita Koblenz presented on the Bicycling section of the presentation.

She informed the Committee that the 2015 construction projects are:

- University Avenue protected bicycle lane pilot
- Hollis Street buggered bicycle lane (pending Council approval)
- North Park St.

Additionally, the installation of new bike racks is a Bicycle-friendly initiative.

A report will go to Council in July 2015 on the project development for the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway access; the scope has been expanded to include both sides and approaches.

AT staff are currently working on the development of a "Local Street Bikeway" administrative order.

The Preliminary Design & Public Engagement has begun for:

Rainnie-Brunswick – there is the opportunity for a bicycle facility on Rainnie due to the roundabout and Brunswick Street is being explored for a protected bicycle lane. AT staff are looking in to how to make the connection to Spring Garden Road, specifically to Dalhousie and the Halifax Central Library.

South Park – Staff are considering an extension to Inglis Street, intersection improvements, and parking mitigation.

Devonshire – This road does not need four lanes and connects the North End to the future Barrington AT Greenway, the shipyard, dockyard, and local destinations. Additionally, it is scheduled for resurfacing.

Ms. Koblenz concluded the bicycle portion of the presentation by briefly discussing other possible upcoming bicycle projects.

4. Multiuse:

Mr. Paul Euloth introduced the Halifax Regional Trails Program

He announced the Capital Projects for 2015

1. Atlantic View Trail – recapitalization
2. Beechville Lakeside Timberlea - recapitalization
3. Carroll's Corner – on National Gypsum land part of Trans-Canada Trail
4. Chain of Lakes Trail – back in operation
5. Cole Harbour/Bisset Trail – connecting Cole Harbour Place to Rainbow Haven Beach
6. Halifax Urban Greenway
7. Chezzetcook Marsh
8. Second Lake Greenway – finishing that off.
9. Sackville Greenway – largest signature project this year – want to get this one to come together
10. Rivers Lakes – concept in Fall River
11. St. Margaret's Bay Road –

As Mr. Euloth explained the Sackville Greenway Phase One is underway. This is the largest Greenway project in 2015 and construction will span two years. It is built primarily on the Halifax Water line and connects homes with parks, recreation, shopping, nature, schools, and more.

Other current projects in the construction phase include:

- Highfield Greenway
- St. Pat's Greenway
- Bridge over Chain of Lakes Stream
- Porters Lake AT Greenway (MetroX connection at Exit 20)
- Bissett Lake Trail System
- Dartmouth Harbourfront

Other current projects in the planning and co-ordination phase include:

- Halifax Urban Greenway Extension
- Mainland North Linear Parkway Trail Functional Plan
- Dartmouth Water Front Trail extension to Shore Drive
- Penhorn Lake area
- Porters Lake to Musquodobit Harbour
- Fall River/Shubie

5. Safety Promotion and Monitoring

Mr. Euloth concluded the presentation by addressing the subject of active transportation and safety promotion.

As he explained, there are a number of resources in HRM that promote bicycling:

- On-Street Bicycling
- SmartTrip program (lunch and learn)
- Try-a-Ride
- Halifax Bike Map
- Bike Week

- Bike camps and education (Halifax Recreation)

HRM is also working with external organizations such as the Halifax Cycling coalition, Bicycle Nova Scotia, and Thumbs Up #sharetheroadNS as well as monitoring active transportation usage through Trail counts, bi-annual bicycle and pedestrian screenline counts, bridge counts, and street specific counts. The information gained from this monitoring provides support for project planning.

The Chair thanked Active Transportation staff for the comprehensive presentation and informed the committee that the presentation will be attached to the online agenda for the meeting.

Staff responded to questions from Committee members and members of the public.

2.2 Committee Members:

Later in the meeting, Mr. Ben Wedge, on behalf of the Halifax Cycling Coalition provided a presentation. See page 6.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015 and Notes from May 21, 2015

Deferred due to lack of quorum.

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

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

8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 Active Transportation Staff - None

8.1.2 Regional Trails Staff - None

8.1.3 Legislative Assistant – Sideguard Motion

This item was postponed to the next meeting because of a lack of quorum.

8.2 HALIFAX REGIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION - NONE

8.3 BIKE WEEK SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that there are many events planned for the weekend and suggested that attendees check the website for cancellations due to the potential for bad weather.

8.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Ben Wedge, Co-Chair from Halifax Cycling Coalition, requested that the Committee allow him to give a presentation entitled "On Track for 2020." Mr. Wedge had given the same presentation at the April Committee meeting, but requested that he be allowed to repeat it for the benefit of the members of the public in attendance at the meeting. The Committee agreed to hear the presentation.

As Mr. Wedge explained, the Halifax Cycling Coalition does not endorse painted bike lanes.

Mr. Wedge displayed a graph outlining the different types of cyclists:

- 1% - Strong and Fearless
- 8% - Enthused and Confident
- 61% - Interested and Concerned
- 30% No Way No How

He explained that the 61% of citizens that are interested but concerned for their safety on the road is the target demographic for their work.

Mr. Wedge showed a diagram in which protected bike lanes are placed against the sidewalk and parking lane protects bicyclists from moving traffic.

He discussed the importance of posts for protected bike lanes and showed a graph of bicycle volume increase with the implementation of protected bike lanes.

He explained to the Committee that the cost of installing the On Track for 2020 bike plan is 5,000,000, which he estimates as \$12 per capita.

Mr. Wedge concluded his presentation by discussing options for bicycle access to the Macdonald Bridge.

Mr. Wedge responded to questions from Committee members.

8.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY COMMITTEE - NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

11. Date of Next Meeting: July 16, 2015

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support