



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 24, 2016**

PRESENT: Ben Buckwold, Chair
Scott Borden
David Jackson
Tristan Cleveland
Elizabeth Pugh
James McMillin
Terry Walker
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Julie Tompa
Walter Regan
Councillor Wayne Mason, Vice Chair

STAFF: Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
David MacIsaac, AT Program Supervisor
Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Jenny Benson, 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 the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:50 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.

Committee members shared Community Announcements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February, 18, 2016 - NONE

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

The Chair advised that if the Committee were in agreement he would like to move up the presentations to be heard at this time.

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda

MOVED by Ms. Elizabeth Pugh, seconded by Mr. Tristan Cleveland,

THAT the agenda, as amended, be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Transportation and Infrastructural Renewal Speed Zone Study Update – Mike Croft

Mr. Mike Croft from Transportation and Infrastructural Renewal introduced himself to the Committee and expressed appreciation for the invitation. He provided an update to the Committee on a speed limit study, legislation to be proclaimed around Segways, and legislation regarding pedestrians.

Speed Limit Study

-A study was conducted by the Road Safety Advisory Committee (RSAC) which recommended to the Deputy Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) to further study the issue around speed reduction by conducting a pilot project. TIR accepted this recommendation and initiated a pilot project with several trial sections of road reduced to 40 KM/hour.

-The study found that there was an average reduction of 2.4% directly after the lower speed limit was posted while the reduction became less over time.

-Councillor Outhit noted that reducing the speed limit could give police more tools for enforcement.

-The Committee discussed various ways that the physical environment could be changed to promote speed reduction.

Personal Transporter Legislation

-Legislation was passed in the fall that permitted personal transporters (brand name used is often Segway) on certain streets. The Legislation has not been proclaimed but the plan is to have it proclaimed on May 1st.

-Mr. Croft shared some information regarding the legislation including the fact that if there is a sidewalk available the personal transporter is required to use it. If there is no sidewalk available but a bike lane they can use the bike lane. The vehicles do not need to be insured or registered.

Changes to Legislation regarding Pedestrians

-Changes have been made to legislation regarding pedestrians failing to yield to vehicles and vehicles failing to yield to pedestrians. The legislation has not been proclaimed yet and a proclamation date has not been set. Mr. Croft noted that the government is interested in looking at all fines established in the Motor Vehicle Act.

The Committee thanked Mr. Cross for the opportunity to engage in the issues that he spoke about.

7.3.2 Active transportation and the Health Indicator Project – Ali Shaver, Healthy Built Environment Coordinator, Public Health, NSHA-Central

The following was before the Committee:

- A document entitled “Developing an Active Transportation and Health Indicators Report for the Halifax Region” was before the Committee.

Ms. Ali Shaver introduced herself to the Committee. She works as the Healthy Built Environment Coordinator for Public Health, NSHA-Central. She explained that her work in public health involves connecting public health interests and outcomes with municipal planning.

Ms. Shaver thanked the Committee for the opportunity to provide an update on a project she is working on, the Active Transportation + Health Indicator Project.

The basic hypothesis of her project is that understanding infrastructure, land use mix, density, education and promotion will increase Active Transportation which, in turn, will lead to broad health impacts and benefits.

The goal of the project is to provide a quick, easy to read document that supports initiatives and policy that the city is interested in. Ms. Shaver is also looking to:

1. Increase awareness about the impact of active transportation on health
2. To establish a baseline and trends
3. To identify gaps
4. To develop tools, templates and resources that can be used for future data collection efforts.

Ms. Shaver requested that the Committee be a sounding board throughout her project. She asked that they review the draft list of indicators, the draft report and the tools and templates. She also requested that the Committee assist in sharing and discussing the report with their various networks once it is completed.

The Committee agreed that Ms. Shaver should present the list of draft indicators with the Committee at their meeting in May.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Truck Side Guards

Bicycle Parking Study

Councillor Tim Outhit reported that these issues are working their way to Council.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

7.1 Correspondence - NONE

7.2 Petitions - NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1. STAFF

An update was provided by Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator. Her update included information from David MacIsaac, AT Program Supervisor. Ms. Debaie informed the Committee that their updates would be combined from here on.

1. HRM has hired a consultant to help with the bridge location, design and construction over the Sackville River and bridge or culvert design location over Rankin Brook. Both are needed to complete the Sackville Greenway from Sackville Drive to Glendale.
2. A draft final report for the functional planning of the Mainland North Linear Parkway is nearing completion. This report will provide a list of priorities to guide next year's capital process.
3. Planning and consulting work is underway with WSP and a landowner stakeholders committee including HRM, TIR and Halifax Water for the planning exercise to connect the Chain of Lakes Greenway along North West Arm Drive to the Walter Havill Intersection. At the latest stakeholder meeting several options have been provided. The one most likely to be given top priority is the option along the east side of the highway.
4. AT staff is presently focusing on a work plan for the upcoming season. We hope to make some progress around filling Hanita's in the near future.
5. HRM and Halifax Regional Trails Association have set themselves 5 tasks to work on in the near future:
 - Update the capital application process for 17/18
 - Begin a bridge assessment process
 - Provide clarity for the roles and responsibilities with regard to direct delivery and community delivery
 - Finish up a couple of last year's capital projects and initiate this year's projects with a clear understanding of what is needed from HRM.
 - Work with Civic Addressing staff to provide consistency in the naming of Active Transportation greenways.

8.2. COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

David Jackson circulated to the Committee, via e-mail, a photograph of vehicles parked along Rainnie Drive, encroaching on the bike lane.

Mr. MacIsaac advised that staff are aware of the issue and he indicated that as this is a pilot project, staff are monitoring it.

The Committee discussed issues around cars parking in protected bicycle lanes such as the one depicted in the photograph that was before the Committee. Ms. Pugh noted that the parking spaces came very close to the intersection and suggested that the spaces be pushed back farther from the intersection.

9. **ADDED ITEMS – NONE**
10. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 21, 2016**
11. **ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Jenny Benson
Legislative Support