

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 17, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. John MacLennan

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Myles McCallum
Ms. Devon Peavoy
Mr. Lawrence Plug
Ms. Cynthia Bryant

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Dave McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR	3
3.	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
4.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2012.....	3
5.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
6.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE	3
7.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	3
	7.1 Hantsport Rail Line	3
	7.2 Open Streets Switch (Street Closures)	3
8.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	3
	8.1 Correspondence	4
	8.2 Petitions -- None	4
	8.3 Presentations.....	4
	8.3.1 Institutional Cycling Plan – Dalhousie University.....	4
9.	REPORTS.....	4
	9.1 Updates	4
	9.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee	4
	9.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee	5
	9.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association	5
	9.1.4 Staff.....	5
	9.1.5 Committee Members.....	6
10.	ADDED ITEMS.....	6
	10.1 Pedestrian Safety and Crosswalk Concerns.....	6
11.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE	6
12.	NEXT MEETING DATE - February 21, 2013.....	6
13.	ADJOURNMENT	6

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. SELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Committee agreed to defer this matter to the February meeting when the appointments to Community Councils are completed.

3. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcement was made:

- The Chair informed the Committee of the “HRM on the Move” event taking place at Dalhousie University on January 25, 2013.

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2012

Ms. Pugh noted that she was present for the December 13, 2012 meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the minutes of December 13, 2012 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to the Order of Business as presented.

6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Hantsport Rail Line

There was no new information on this matter.

7.2 Open Streets Switch (Street Closures)

The Chair informed the Committee that a report is forthcoming from the Transportation Standing Committee on the issues involved in community requests for street closures. She noted that she would arrange for this report to be circulated to ATAC members.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

Ms. Barlow noted that a letter, dated January 13, 2013, was sent by Ms. Sara Rafferty, Chair, Transportation Issues Committee, Ecology Action Centre to Mayor Savage outlining the EAC's support for the Agricola Street option for the North-South bike corridor.

8.2 Petitions -- None

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Institutional Cycling Plan – Dalhousie University

Ms. Rochelle Owen, Director, Office of Sustainability, Dalhousie University and Mr. Mike MacDonald, IWK, provided a presentation on the cycling plan created by the Institutional TDM Committee [Transportation Demand Management]. The institutions involved are Dalhousie University, St. Mary's University, Capital Health and the IWK. The presentation included the following:

- More than 40,000 people travel daily to the Institutional District
- The TDM Committee seeks investment in AT and transit; the goal of the Bikeways Plan is to maximize the number of new cyclists
- The District has a higher percentage of cyclists than other areas of HRM and this percentage has risen each year since 2009
- Dalhousie University has a bike centre that loans bikes; new buildings on campus meet LEED standards for promoting cycle commuting
- The Committee is exploring bike share models and cycling improvements to University Avenue and other pathways

Ms. Owen also provided maps and graphs of commuter patterns and information on health studies. She agreed to forward her presentation to the Legislative Assistant to be circulated to ATAC members once she has checked with other TDM Committee members. Ms. Pugh noted that a comparison of the wording of Motor Vehicle legislation in this and other jurisdictions would be helpful in terms of any change to intersections (such as bike boxes) or other traffic engineering methods to assist cyclists.

9. REPORTS

9.1 Updates

9.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

The Chair noted that there is no new information to report at this time.

9.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, invited Committee members to the February 6, 2013 strategic planning session for Bike Week.

9.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan provided an update on HRTA's plan for facilitated sessions on its strategic plan. He noted that the HRTA Maintenance Committee has made recommendations for changes to the 2013/14 Maintenance Agreement including recapitalization for trails that have been in use for eight to ten years. He also noted that four HRTA volunteers will take an online web development course and will then help maintain the HRTA website and websites for their own trail groups. Mr. Regan emphasized that the retirement of Western Region Trails Specialist Don Ambler and the secondment of Dawn Neil, Eastern Region Trails Specialist, is of great concern to HRTA as more staff resources are crucial. The Chair noted that she would inquire into the status of the Western Region Trails Specialist position.

9.1.4 Staff

Ms. Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, circulated a Halifax Regional Trails Staff Report, dated January 17, 2013. The Committee entered into a brief discussion of the criteria for trails included in the Get Out Check it Out maps. Ms. Debaie noted that the maps will be revised to include schools and transit terminals and that the Get Out Check it Out Committee now has a Halifax School Board representative as there is interest in coordinating activities on trails close to schools.

Ms. Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, informed the Committee about updates to AT maps and noted that she would bring these maps to ATAC before entering into public consultations in March and April of 2013. She added that consultation packages would be available to Councillors. The Chair and Councillor Hendsbee requested details of meeting times and dates as soon as they are available so that they can inform residents of the public meetings. Mr. MacGregor requested a list of definitions of such terms as "greenway" and the five types of trails. Ms. Koblents noted that she is preparing a glossary of terms.

Mr. McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager, provided an overview of the AT budget, with an emphasis on 2013 projects including a section of the Burnside Drive Trail, the North-South bike corridor, and the CN crossing at the West End Mall. He explained how requests, such as a bike lane on Hammonds Plains Road, is considered under the AT Plan and budget. He also circulated a drawing of possible improvements to the Macdonald bridge bike ramp and noted the funds dedicated in 2015 to using the Macdonald Bridge redecking sections. Ms. Koblents provided a handout indicating possible HRM locations for the deck panels.

The Chair requested that staff examine how to communicate the comparative costs of AT project requests to residents during the AT public consultations.

9.1.5 Committee Members

There were no additional reports.

10. ADDED ITEMS

10.1 Pedestrian Safety and Crosswalk Concerns

The Chair informed the Committee of a Notice of Motion coming before Regional Council on January 29, 2013 for debate on crosswalk concerns. She requested that the Legislative Assistant circulate the Notice of Motion to ATAC members and that this item return to the Committee for the February meeting.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

12. NEXT MEETING DATE - February 21, 2013

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support