

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 16, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Gordon Smith
Ms. Allison Sparling
Mr. Mark Coffin
Mr. Matthew Worona

REGRETS: Ms. Cynthia Bryant

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan informed the Committee that trail counters have been installed on six trails. He also invited ATAC members to the Sackville Rivers Association 21st birthday celebration on June 6, 2013.
- The Chair noted that the “Cogswell Shakeup” meeting was being held after the ATAC meeting and encouraged members to attend if possible.
- Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Switch event would be held June 9, 2013 along Agricola Street.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 18, 2013

MOVED by Ms. Pugh, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the minutes of April 18, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to add an update on Bike Week as item 9.1 and information on a Share the Road event as item 9.2.

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Regan that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Crosswalk Safety Committee Appointment

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Ms. Barlow represent the Active Transportation Advisory Committee on the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations -- None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 North-South Peninsula Cycling Corridor (Crosstown Connector)

The following items were before the Committee:

- The staff report "North-South Peninsula Cycling Corridor (Cross Town Connector), dated April 18, 2013, was before the Committee
- Correspondence from Lachlan Barber dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Roseanne LeBlanc dated May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Joanne Kerrigan dated May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Cameron Deacoff dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Sara Ehrhardt dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Greg Poirier dated May 11, 2013
- Correspondence from David Jackson dated May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Teresa Thomas dated May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Halifax Cycling Coalition received May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Jack and Julianne McDonald dated May 14, 2013
- Correspondence from Ben Wedge dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Frank Evans dated May 15, 2013
- Correspondence from Peter Burbridge dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Allison Moz dated May 16, 2013
- Correspondence from Chris Poulain dated May 16, 2013

Councillor Mason declared a conflict of interest on this item and recused himself from the Committee table.

The Chair explained the respective roles of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Standing Committee and the process of approving, amending, adding or defeating motions. She welcomed the visitors in attendance but noted they would not have an opportunity to present or speak at this meeting.

Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, gave a presentation to the Committee providing an overview of the background to the north-south cycling corridor project, the route evaluation criteria, the technical review (road width, traffic volumes, slope, transit), the stakeholder meetings and the public engagement process. He provided further information on the research on parking issues, the Traffic Authority review and how proposed bike routes fit into the AT Plan Review. He also displayed maps of the proposed Windsor-Vernon-Seymour route and options for specific intersections. He described the community feedback obtained on the

Agricola Street route option and the Local Streets Bikeway option, noting that there is currently no enabling policy for the latter but that such policy could be created as the AT Plan Review is finalized. He concluded his presentation by noting that a tighter and more defined implementation process is needed for future on-road bike routes as is a comprehensive approach to parking mitigation.

In response to questions, he clarified the following points:

- the approximate cost of implementing either the Agricola Street route option or the Windsor Street option is similar (about \$20,000)
- how working with the HRM Traffic Authority and the AT Plan Review could produce policy on Local Streets Bikeways
- how the numbers of cyclists using Agricola Street and Windsor Street were calculated
- that there has not been an analysis of potential loss, if any, to Agricola Street businesses nor a legal assessment of liability in the event of car-cyclist collisions in a Local Streets Bikeway “sharrow” zone

The Committee entered into a discussion on the staff report and the staff recommendation. Members expressed a number of concerns including the following:

- too much weight was given to parking when scoring the proposed routes (four of the thirteen criteria used involved parking)
- cyclist safety was not listed in the thirteen criteria used
- the report contained little hard data and gave conflicting information on how business owners perceived the impact of bike lanes on Agricola Street
- more information was needed from Agricola area customers including parking turnover rates and what options customers would use if existing parking was removed
- how the views expressed by Agricola area business owners were weighed relative to the views of other stakeholders and hundreds of public participants

Mr. Smith also raised a concern regarding the need for funding to improve pedestrian safety, particularly for seniors. The Chair noted that information on the AT budget and pedestrian promotion and safety will be a future agenda item.

The Committee concluded its discussion and agreed that it would support the staff recommendation and would also bring forward additional motions.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Standing Committee the approval of the Windsor-Vernon-Seymour bike route option, with the sub-option to continue the bike lanes up to the intersections of Almon Street and North Street, as the first of up to three designated north-south on-road cycling corridors on the peninsula. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason rejoined the meeting.

MOVED by Mr. Worona, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Standing Committee that consideration be given to the full implementation of the Agricola Street bike route as identified in the April 18, 2013 staff report “North-South Peninsula Cycling Corridor (Cross Town Connector) and that the implementation include an area parking management component. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Standing Committee that HRM actively pursue the implementation of policy that would allow for the installation of Local Street Bikeways. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Bike Week

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, displayed the Bike Week Poster and informed the Committee about the media response to the first Mayor’s Ride, the more than 20 businesses who will provide cyclist discounts during Bike Week and the planned demos and dozens of events now listed on the HRM website. She encouraged ATAC members to like the event on Facebook and to support the event sponsors.

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator noted that many Bike Week events, including the Bike Rodeo, will take place on trail infrastructure that volunteers created and maintain and that if the Halifax Regional Trails Association were listed as one of the Friends of Bike Week, it would be an acknowledgement of this contribution. She added that walking and hiking paths are also forms of active transportation. The Chair agreed that this balance should be reflected in the AT Plan Review.

9.2 Share the Road

Ms. Janet Barlow informed the Committee that DalTRAK was in the process of piloting a Share the Road project with a proposed launch date of early June 2013. She raised the question of HRM support for the pilot and agreed to discuss this further with Mr. Maclsaac.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- None

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - June 20, 2013

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support