

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

January 19, 2005

PRESENT:

Cheryl Bidgood
Rebecca O'Brien
Ward Skinner
John Smith
Candace Stevenson
Gerard Walsh

ABSENT:

Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Councillor Patrick Murphy
Ken LeMoine

STAFF:

Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design & Construction Services
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner, Regional Planning
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Planner, Regional Planning
Mr. Jeff Bray, Parkland Planner, Capital Projects
Mr. Ken Reashor, Acting Manager, Traffic & Transportation

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by the Legislative Assistant in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall with no quorum present. Mr. John Smith was nominated as Acting Chair for this meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Deferred to next meeting due to lack of quorum.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - November 17, 2004

Add: Add for clarity, the word "wide" before "curb lanes" on page 5, third bullet down.

MOVED BY Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Ward Skinner that the minutes be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

Additions: 8.1.1 Quinpool Road Bicycle Parking
8.1.2 Membership - Representative from Health Sector

MOVED BY Ms. Cheryl Bidgood, seconded by Ms. Rebecca O'Brien that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Status Sheet Items

5.1.1 Special Events Funding for Recurring Events

An update on the status of the report sent to Regional Council regarding start up funding for a Bike Week Committee is requested for the next meeting. Bike Week is scheduled for the first week of June 2005 which is also Environment Week.

5.1.2 Active Transportation - RFP (Request for Proposal)

Ms. Roxane MacInnis advised a Request for Proposal (RFP), which closes on February 3, 2005, was recently advertised in the local paper and also distributed to a number of consultants. One requirement of the RFP will be for the proponent to meet with the Bikeways

Advisory Committee. Ms. MacInnis advised there are six (6) deliverables to the Active Transportation Plan and the goal is to provide access to commuters from origin to destination via a variety of transportation modes such as cycling, walking/hiking and metro transit.

Ms. O'Brien commented if Active Transportation is a priority then it is important to have the TDM Coordinator's position filled. Mr. Reashor advised the position has been advertised and should be filled within two months.

5.1.3 Bike Racks

Mr. Jeff Bray, Parkland Planner, Capital District, advised the Urban Design Project, was implemented one year ago. It is expected to expand to include areas such as Barrington Street to the Waterfront, Gottingen Street and Portland Street/Alderney Drive. Part of the Urban Design Project is to install bicycle racks on various routes. He added the cost to install a bike rack depends on the size of the rack and could be \$300-\$400 for a single foot rack or \$100 for a single loop.

Mr. Bray commented that by March 2005, ten (10) racks may be installed on Portland Street and another fifteen (15) throughout the area including some multi-rack locations with a possible fifty (50) racks installed by the end of the year. He added installation work will begin once right-of-way approval is received. Future locations being considered for bike racks are Quinpool Road, near the Oxford Theatre, and the Gottingen Street public library. Efforts will be made to provide multiple racks at other locations if space permits as bike racks will be installed if the site permits, ie: the racks must be out of the road right-of-way and have no space constrictions. The majority of racks will be a hitching post, single rack style.

Responding to Mr. Walsh, Mr. Bray commented possible bike rack locations along Quinpool Road would be near the Canadian Tire or the Bank of Montreal. The Legislative Assistant is to contact Mr. Alan Taylor regarding possible bicycle parking locations along Quinpool Road. Mr. Bray will forward a list of current locations to the Legislative Assistant.

5.1.4 Bedford/Sackville Link

Mr. Ken Reashor advised Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator, is the staff person involved with this important link. He added Mr. Euloth is searching for additional sources of funding. Ms. Maria Jacobs commented she will attend the next trails meeting and provide an update on this link at the next Bikelways Advisory Committee meeting.

5.1.5 Red Book Updates / Changes in Regards to Bicycle Matters

Mr. Greg Rice advised every two years a review is done of the RED BOOK which is HRM's guide to developers on how to build infrastructure. Some additions are to be incorporated (regarding street scapes) and the final review should be completed by the end of March 2005.

The following comments were raised by the Committee during the ensuing discussion:

- 1. Provide cross sections for existing streets such as incorporating wide curb lanes where possible.

Mr. Reashor confirmed modifications to the RED BOOK are incorporated when possible and would depend on the category of roadway.

- 1. The Committee requested the issue of stencils/bike lanes (Brunswick Street) be discussed in detail at the next meeting. Mr. Smith suggested if this item is to be discussed at the next meeting, that all members prepare their information on this issue before the meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. REPORTS

7.1 Bike Map Sub-Committee

Mr. Smith presented a draft of the Bike Map and advised the Provincial Government has given permission to use their graphics information on the map. Ms. Maria Jacobs will take the map to HRM staff for their review. Mr. Smith requested all comments regarding the map be sent to him as he is in contact with Mr. Bill Gellard who is working on the map.

A previous motion by this Committee was that HRM include the printing costs for the HRM Bike Map during budget discussions. Mr. Reashor commented that his business unit does not have the capacity in their existing budget to assist with the printing of this map. Additional funding for these projects was requested but not available.

Ms. Rebecca O'Brien suggested the Bikeways Advisory Committee contact other sources for funding such as Sports Nova Scotia or look for a Grant to cover printing costs. The Legislative Assistant requested the Committee not contact any outside sources for funding. She advised Councillor Fougere will give an update at the next meeting regarding the request that went to Regional Council for funding.

Ms. Jacobs suggested a scale be included on the map and that it include distances from one locality to another. Ms. Bidgood requested that kilometres be used for distance measurement and not miles.

7.2 Capital Projects Priorities List

The Legislative Assistant circulated a list of Capital Projects. It was discovered that one page was missing from the report. The information will be circulated to the Committee members immediately following the meeting.

Mr. Reashor advised he put forward an initiative that \$300,000 be dedicated to bikeways projects (including the Bedford Highway). He added there is a list of approximately 120 projects requesting funding. Mr. Reashor explained his business unit confers with the Design and Construction Services group and if there is a paving project underway or upcoming, funds will be added from his budget to provide a bike lane. He explained there may be higher priorities on the list of projects but when an opportunity presents itself, staff react quickly so as not to miss the opportunity. This may result in projects being delayed or dropped in other areas.

Mr. Reashor advised, with the assistance of summer students, it is hoped a data base will be made of the *Share the Road* sign locations.

7.3 Regional Planning

Ms. Jacobs advised the details of the public forums to be held regarding the Regional Plan is on the HRM website. She added if this Committee would like a presentation from Regional Planning, she or Ms. MacInnis could provide a twenty (20) minute presentation. Ms. Jacobs will check on dates and will send information to the Committee by e-mail. The Committee agreed a separate meeting for the Regional Plan presentation would be best.

8. **ADDED ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS**

8.1 Added Items

8.1.1 Regional Health Sector Appointment

Ms. Rebecca O'Brien suggested a representative from the health sector be appointed to this committee. The Health Sector is in support of active transportation and could assist with bike week promotion. The Legislative Assistant reminded the Committee that their mandate was to advise Regional Council on budgetary allocations in regards to priority bikeway projects; not necessarily the promotion of bike use. **DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING** for further discussion.

8.2 New Business

- 8.2.1 Appointment of a Bikeways Advisory Committee Citizen Member to the Capital District Transportation Working Group.

DEFERRED TO NEXT MEETING with request that more information be provided to the Committee on the mandate/Terms of Reference and time commitment for the Capital District Transportation Working Group.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, February 16, 2005.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:47 pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant