

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 16, 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Councillor Patrick Murphy
Ken LeMoine
Rebecca O'Brien
Ward Skinner
John Smith
Candace Stevenson
Gerard Walsh

ABSENT: Councillor Stephen D. Adams (regrets)
Cheryl Bidgood
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner, Regional Planning

**STAFF
AND OTHERS:** Mr. Ken Reashor, Acting Manager, Traffic & Transportation
Mr. Don Ambler, Project Manager, Halifax Regional Development
Authority
Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design & Construction Services
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Planner, Regional Planning
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- 1. Call to Order 3
- 2. Election of Chair/Vice-Chair 3
- 3. Approval of Minutes - January 19, 2005 3
- 4. Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions 3
- 5. Business Arising Out of the Minutes 3
 - 5.1 Status Sheet Items 3
 - 5.1.1 Special Events - Funding for Recurring Events 3
 - 5.1.2 Active Transportation - RFP 4
 - 5.1.3 Bike Racks 4
 - 5.1.4 Bedford/Sackville Link 4
 - 5.1.5 Red Book - Updates/Changes 5
- 6. Consideration of Deferred Business 5
 - 6.1 Appointment of a Bikeways Advisory Committee member to the Capital Transportation Authority Committee 5
 - 6.2 Appointment of Health Representative to Bikeways Advisory Committee 6
- 7. Reports 7
 - 7.1 Bike Map Sub-Committee 7
 - 7.2 Capital Projects Priorities List 7
 - 7.3 Regional Planning 7
 - 7.4 Bicycle Parking Requirements 8
- 8. Added Items/New Business 8
 - 8.1 Added Items 8
 - 8.2 New Business 8
 - 8.2.1 Herring Cove Road Streetscape 8
 - 8.2.2 Brunswick Street Bike Lane 9
- 9. Next Meeting Date 9
- 10. Adjournment 9

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 12:05 pm by the Chair in the Trophy Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

The Chair welcomed Ms. Stephanie Parsons, Legislative Assistant, and Mr. Don Ambler, Western Trails Project Manager, Halifax Regional Development Authority to the meeting.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair and Vice-Chair. Councillor Sheila Fougere was nominated as Chair for 2005. Mr. John Smith was nominated as Vice-Chair for 2005. The nominees accepted the nomination to their respective positions.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - January 19, 2005

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

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

Addition: 6.2 Appointment of Health Representative to the Bikeways Advisory Committee.

MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded by Mr. Gerard Walsh 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

! A copy of a proposed budget from a February 27, 2001 Bike to Work Week event was circulated for reference. A copy is on file.

! A copy of the London, Ontario Bike Week events was circulated for reference. A copy is on file.

! A sample Terms of Reference from the Halifax-Dartmouth Natal Day Steering Committee was circulated for reference. A copy is on file.

Councillor Fougere encouraged the Bike Week Sub-Committee to meet soon to draft a budget for organizing the annual Bike Week event. A sample budget (regarding a 2001 BIKE TO WORK WEEK event) was circulated to assist in the formulation of the draft. The Halifax Natal Day Terms of Reference was also circulated as an example for the Bike Week Sub-Committee for use in composing a mandate/terms of reference.

Mr. Ward Skinner, Mr. John Smith and Ms. Rebecca O'Brien volunteered to serve on the Bike Week Sub-Committee. Councillor Fougere commented this is an opportunity to include HRM Police on the Bike Week Sub-Committee as in past years HRP has assisted in organizing the bike rodeo event.

5.1.2 Active Transportation

Mr. Ken Reashor, Acting Manager, Traffic & Transportation, commented HRM is in the process of reviewing proposals for a Consultant. Once the Consultant is selected, discussions will be held to determine which groups should be contacted regarding further comment/input on Active Transportation. The Bikeways Advisory Committee will be one of the groups contacted. The Consultant will have approximately six (6) months to complete the contract.

Responding to a request for clarification from a Committee member, Mr. Reashor advised the budget for active transportation is separate from the bikeways budget. Currently, bikeways projects are funded through \$80,000 allocated from the transportation budget. There will be an active transportation workshop on March 31, 2005.

This item to be removed from the status sheet.

5.1.3 Bike Racks

A list of locations of bike racks dated January 20, 2005 was before the Committee.

Mr. Jeff Bray supplied a list of locations for spring 2005 bike rack installations. All racks will be the single lollipop style unless otherwise stated.

This item to be removed from the status sheet.

5.1.4 Bedford/Sackville Link

Mr. Don Ambler, Western Trails Project Manager, Halifax Regional Development Authority, provided an update on the North Active Transportation Route. He indicated:

- ! The Second Lake Park group is half complete.
- ! The First Lake Group has obtained approval for right of way.

- ! The section by Bedford Place Mall is almost complete.
- ! The Sackville River Association completed the design approval and has obtained approval from the Department of National Defence to enter the rifle range property.
- ! There was approval to construct two bridges to connect the trails on both sides.
- ! It is a continuous route from Upper Sackville to Clayton Park.

The Bedford / Sackville proposal has been included in the request for funding to Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency (ACOA). Approximately \$700,000 comes from ACOA and six (6) out of eight (8) proposals have been approved. The total cost of the project is \$1.2 million dollars with \$70,000 coming from Halifax Regional Municipality and \$50,000 from Health Promotion. The project is to be completed by March 3, 2006. Mr. Ambler indicated the Halifax Regional Municipality has agreed to maintain part of the trail.

Mr. Ambler responded to questions of the Committee providing the following information:

- ! The trails are off road. The portion from Bedford Place Mall to Highway 102 is complete and in use.
- ! For safety reasons the trails are three metres (3m) wide.
- ! It is standard to use granular surfacing. The issue of using asphalt has never been raised.

Councillor Fougere commented a full presentation from the trails group would be beneficial as it would provide this advisory committee with their priorities. We could then provide feedback and see how bikeways fit into the overall network.

This item to be removed from the status sheet.

5.1.5 Red Book Updates / Changes in Regards to Bicycle Matters

- ! A copy of the Red Book Updates was before the Committee for their review.

Mr. Greg Rice, Engineer, Design and Construction Services, responded to a question of the Committee indicating that in regards to limitations on Herring Cove Road, it conforms to the Red Book as closely as possible. Mr. Rice will forward a copy of the updates to the Legislative Assistant for circulation to the Committee.

This matter to be removed from the status sheet.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

- 6.1 Appointment of a Bikeways Advisory Committee member to the Capital Transportation Authority Committee.

Mr. Ken LeMoine will represent the Bikeways Advisory Committee on the Capital Transportation Authority Committee. In the event that he cannot represent the committee Mr. Ward Skinner and Mr. Gerard Walsh will be alternates.

6.2 Appointment of Health Sector Representative to the Bikeways Advisory Committee

Councillor Fougere commented that an additional appointment to the Committee would require an amendment to the Terms of Reference which would require approval by Regional Council.

The Committee commented that having a representative from the health sector would be an asset in regards to funding and networking.

Councillor Fougere explained there is a current vacancy on the Committee as we have been unable to locate a representative from the automobile industry. She suggested the Committee recommend increasing the membership by one at-large and remove the requirement for the automotive industry representative. The Committee could then encourage someone from the health sector to apply.

The following comments/concerns were raised during the ensuing discussion:

- : Perhaps the focus of the Bikeways Advisory Committee is too narrow in terms of getting the appropriate people to serve on the committee such as parks and active transportation.
- : It would be best to keep the Bikeways Advisory Committee as is and focussed on the bike plan, until current projects are finished, before going to other groups for representation.
- : It would be beneficial to have an automobile representative on the Committee. Perhaps we could approach the Insurance Bureau of Canada regarding appointing a member to fulfill the automobile representative as they insure every motorist in Canada.

MOVED BY Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Ward Skinner that the Bikeways Advisory Committee increase its membership by one member-at-large.

The report to Regional Council should reflect that this increase would assist with the quorum issue and also broaden the focus of the Committee.

The Legislative Assistant will follow-up with the Insurance Bureau of Canada regarding a possible representative.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Bike Map Sub-Committee

Mr. John Smith presented a draft of the bike map. He indicated there have been few changes to the routes. There were updates made to the legends, contact information and graphics were added. The Committee/staff were encouraged to forward further comments on the map to Mr. John Smith by February 28, 2005.

Councillor Fougere advised the cost to print 20,000 maps would be \$5,000.00. The CAO for HRM has indicated the maps will be printed although the source for the funding is uncertain at this time.

The Committee suggested there be a public “kick-off “ to introduce the map, possibly during bike week in June. This would be an opportunity to discuss the map and indicate that it is not just for cyclist.

7.2 Capital Projects Priorities List

An updated Capital Projects list was before the Committee for review.

Mr. Greg Rice indicated new projects are identified with an asterisk. Bike lanes are taken into consideration in these plans and will be built accordingly. He added Developers are required to build curbs 1.5 m wide.

Mr. Rice confirmed for Councillor Fougere that the request for replacement of “bicycle unfriendly drainage grates” being incorporated in the tenders for road upgrades has been circulated to staff.

Mr. John Smith advised he has compared this list with the bike map and suggested the following areas be considered:

1. Resurfacing page: Novalea Drive, Portland Street.
2. New Sidewalk page: Beaver Bank Road, Cobequid Road, St. Margaret’s Bay Road; Highfield Park Drive, Purcell’s Cove Road and Cole Harbour Road.

7.3 Regional Planning

Ms. Maria Jacobs advised that a request had been made to have Regional Planning present to this Committee. She further advised that the presentation would be a very general presentation and suggested that this Committee attend the presentation by Regional Planning to HUGA (Halifax Urban Greenway Association) on May 9, 2005 (tentative date) as that

meeting would be more in relation to trails. Ms. Jacobs will confirm the date of the presentation with the Legislative Assistant. The Committee expressed interest in attending this meeting.

7.4 Bicycle Parking Requirements

A copy of the draft By-Law regarding Bicycle Parking Requirements was before the Committee.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner, presented the draft Land Use By-Law (LUB) amendments which include requirements for the provision of bicycle parking.

The bicycle parking requirements have been amended as follows:

- ! The requirements for the urban and suburban centres are now the same.
- ! The requirement for hotels and schools has been reduced: hotels will now be required to have 1 space for every 20 rooms and schools 1 space for every 15 students.
- ! Townhouses have been added to the list of exempt uses.

The Committee thanked Ms. Koblents for her presentation.

8. ADDED ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Added Items - None

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Herring Cove Road Street Scape

An e-mail from HRM Planner, Mr. Richard Harvey, dated February 15, 2005 was before the Committee.

Mr. Harvey's e-mail advised Ekistics Planning & Design Consultants have been working on the Herring Cove Road Community Planning & Streetscape Project on behalf of HRM. He added a draft report is expected in order to review matters such as the bicycle traffic recommendations. Ekistics is suggesting painted bicycle symbols in both directions of traffic rather than painted lines.

Ms. Rebecca O'Brien commented she attended the recent public meeting regarding the Herring Cove Road Streetscape study and advised that citizens want to see painted lines. She added the streetscape design process is an opportunity to incorporate bike lanes as there is space but the perception is that Herring Cove Road is a dangerous road. Ms. O'Brien further suggested this Committee send a recommendation to staff to incorporate painted bike lanes

where space is available. Councillor Fougere suggested the Committee wait for the staff report before offering recommendations.

Mr. John Smith suggested that there be wide curb lanes and that signs would not be necessary. A study was done by Dr. Ron VanHouten indicating that signs on the road made no difference at all where cyclists rode and motorists did not notice the signs. Councillor Fougere commented signs provide an important visual cue.

8.2.2 Brunswick Street Bike Lane

- ! A copy of a Daily News article dated September 8, 2000 regarding the new bike lane on Brunswick Street was before the Committee.
- ! A copy of the first page of Chapter 1 - Introduction from the CBCL Limited Consulting Engineers report was before the Committee.

Councillor Fougere circulated copies of the above historic information regarding the bridge connection/bike lane and the Brunswick Street bike lane. The Brunswick Street bike lane has now been in operation for the last five years and was intended to connect to the bridge as part of the bike route. *See handouts.*

Mr. Ken Reashor indicated he was not supportive of the Brunswick Street bike lane for a variety of reasons and advised staff will be performing data collection, observation and review of other issues such as safety this spring. Mr. Reashor will report back to the Committee with the final recommendation once the information is compiled and reviewed.

Ms. Rebecca O'Brien expressed concern with "removal" of the Brunswick Street bike lane as, in practice, bike lane does have its difficulties but there is overwhelming interest in having such bike lanes to encourage cycling commuters. It would be a huge step backward to remove the bike lane.

Mr. Ward Skinner suggested the issue of "striping" be added to the agenda for appropriate discussion. Councillor Fougere requested Mr. Reashor provide some information on criteria of application of painted lines and where and when they would be appropriate or not appropriate. She added crosswalks are placed based on criteria such as volume of traffic/pedestrian/surrounding amenities such as schools. Ms. Rebecca O'Brien added photographs of active transportation models from other areas would be helpful.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 pm.

Stephanie Parsons/Chris Newson
Legislative Assistants