

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

April 20, 2005

PRESENT: Councillor Patrick Murphy
Ward Skinner
John Smith
Candace Stevenson

ABSENT

WITH REGRETS: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Cheryl Bidgood
Ken LeMoine
Rebecca O'Brien
Gerard Walsh

STAFF: Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority
Mr. David McCusker, Regional Planning
Mr. Greg Rice, HRM Design and Transportation
Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 12:10 pm in the Councillor's Boardroom, 4th Floor, City Hall without quorum present.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 16, 2005

Deferred until quorum is present.

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

Additions:

- 7.1.1 Membership - Candace Stevenson
- 7.1.2 Update on Active Transportation Plan - Stephanie Sodero, EAC
- 7.1.3 Budget Update - 2005/06 (Budget allocations for cycling/biking) - Stephanie Sodero, EAC.

The agenda was **approved as amended**.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Criteria For Painted Bike Lanes

Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority, explained the Bike Lane Criteria as it pertains to the Red Book as follows:

- All new arterial and major roadway construction will have bike lanes.
- A bike lane is recommended in areas with over 14,000 vehicles per day.
- Bike lanes are considered for existing roadways if the roadway is being widened.
- Right-of-ways are also a consideration: ie: Main Street in Dartmouth - HRM acquired land therefore there was land available for a bike lane. Although Robie Street in Halifax is considered an arterial roadway, there is no room for widening (unless houses are removed). There is a wide curb lane at the Windsor Street/Young Street area of Halifax but there was not enough land available for a bike lane.
- The Active Transportation Plan will look at HRM's complete network.
- New construction guidelines are in the Red Book but retrofits cannot be included. Design and Construction Services do use the HRM Bike Plan as a reference.

Mr. Reashor commented that all appropriate bike routes will be signed and *Share the Road* signs will be placed where appropriate.

4.1.2 Brunswick Street Bike Lane

Mr. Reashor advised there is no new information at this time. Updates will be provided as information becomes available.

4.1.3 Regional Planning Presentation to HRTAT & HUGA - Tentative Date - May 9, 2005

Mr. Smith introduced Ms. Jessie DeBaie, Community Economic Development Team, Halifax Regional Development Agency (HRDA). Ms. Debaie extended an invitation for the BAC to present at the Halifax Regional Trails Advisory (HRTAT) May 9th meeting being hosted by the Halifax Urban Greenway Association (HUGA). She added there will also be a presentation of HRM's Regional Plan and Active Transportation.

The Committee decided it would rather have members in attendance at the HRTAT/HUGA meeting to hear information on the trails/cycling portion of the Regional Planning presentation rather than be Presenters themselves.

The Legislative Assistant advised that Regional Planning will be presenting at the next Committee of the Whole (COW) session. The sessions are open to the public and the Committee is encouraged to attend the portion regarding Transportation. The session will be televised by East Link Cable 10. The COW meeting schedule was circulated.

5. **CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

6. **REPORTS**

6.1 Bike Map Sub-Committee

Mr. John Smith distributed copies of the newly printed HRM Bike Route Maps. He advised he has met with Mr. John O'Brien, HRM's Corporate Communications Officer, regarding a launch for the Bike Map to be held on May 11. The launch will include the media, some members of Council, BAC members and representatives from Bicycle Nova Scotia and the Ecology Action Centre. Participants will travel along a pre-designated bike route (Vernon Street) as outlined on the map. The launch information will be advertised on the webpage.

Mr. Smith added that 20,000 copies of the bike map will be distributed to HRM Customer Information Centres, Recreation Centres and provincial Tourist Information Centres. Members

are encouraged to contact the Legislative Assistant with any other locations for Bike Map distribution.

Mr. Skinner commented that it may be beneficial to have an integrated active transportation map that would include bike routes and trails. Ms. Jessie DeBaie, HRDA, added that the HRM Bike Route Map will be included as an insert in the brochure HRTAT is preparing. She added that HRDA has plans with ACOA and the province to do a trails connect map. Mr. Smith commented that Victoria, BC has roads, cycling and trail routes on one map and it is confusing. He suggested a separate map for trails and cycling.

6.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee (Recurring Special Event Funding)

Mr. Skinner announced that at this time there is zero funding from HRM for organizing/advertising the Bike Week Event. He added that Councillor Fougere was to speak with the CAO regarding funding for initial advertising. Mr. Skinner commented that a number of HRM staff have been incredibly helpful and attend the Bike Week Sub-Committee meetings.

The dates for the event will be June 4th -12th. The Bike Week will be designed as a *fun with family* theme. Non-cyclists will be encouraged to participate. There will be a variety of activities such as two safety demonstrations: one for children and one for parents on how to train their children, velo rides, discussions from the Ecology Action Centre TRAX, as well as presentation (fashion show) of gear and equipment. He added Metro Transit may display the new *METRO LINK* buses with the bike racks. The closing event will be in the Grand Parade at noon on Sunday, June 12th. The Bike Week Sub-Committee is in the process of designing posters and pamphlets. The information will be on the webpage.

6.3 BAC Representative to the Capital Transportation Authority Committee

Mr. Gerard Walsh and Mr. Ken LeMoine are the BAC volunteers offering to serve on the Capital Transportation Authority Committee. Mr. Dave McCusker, Regional Planning, explained that the Capital Transportation Authority Committee will not be going forward at this time as there have been some delays. Mr. Rick Paynter and Ms. Margaret Soley are coordinating this initiative and will contact the volunteers when a meeting date is set.

7. ADDED ITEMS / NEW BUSINESS

7.1 Added Items

7.1.1 Membership

Ms. Stevenson withdrew this item at this time.

7.1.2 Update on Active Transportation Plan

Ms. Stephanie Sodero, EAC, was given permission by the Committee to address this matter. She requested an update on this matter.

Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority, responded that a proposal has been sent out for a Consultant and a candidate will be chosen in approximately two weeks. He added it will be a nine month project. The Consultant will be meeting with this Committee as well as inviting public consultation regarding the Active Transportation Plan.

Mr. Reashor added there was an attempt to have \$300,000 added to the Traffic Authority's budget every two years to be applied to a major project. The request was not approved for this year. He added there was only \$100,000 in the existing budget and prior to that it was down to \$80,000. Mr. Reashor added that some funding was awarded for transportation for signal lights and for use where it was most required. He indicated that it is not definitive what work will be done regarding the Bedford Highway project as there is only \$200,000 available and that is not enough for that project. Mr. Reashor added that he will try for more funding in next year's budget. He will provide more detail on the Bedford Highway project as the information becomes available.

Mr. Smith commented that the money should be used to sign the bike routes and to pave the shoulders of the roads. Ms. Stevenson commented that she would rather see the money used for the Bedford Highway project.

7.1.3 Budget Update - 2005/06 (Budget allocations for cycling/biking)

Ms. Stephanie Sodero, EAC, requested an update on what tasks have been completed regarding the bike plan and if there is a sense of priority. Mr. Reashor advised that priority is set as low, medium or high and some tasks have been completed. He added that a list will be provided regarding specific improvements that the funding will be used toward.

Mr. Skinner commented that a lot of time was spent in preparing the Bike Plan and now it would be good to see what has been accomplished as per the bike plan. For example, did we get the bike racks and if so, where are they? Mr. Smith agreed that this information would be beneficial as you have to let people know what has been accomplished. Ms. Stevenson commented that bicycle issues/concerns were brought forward numerous times during the Regional Plan public presentations. She added that cycling seems to be more of an interest than the \$200,000 budget would suggest. She inquired how to raise the profile of cycling for budget purposes.

Mr. Reashor advised that \$400,000 for the bridge connection (MacDonald Bridge) was obtained through an application for Sustainable Reserve Fund money. The proposal to hire

the Consultant is now being done and then a design will be chosen. He added HRM was the second highest recipient for the Sustainable Reserve Funding.

Mr. Dave McCusker added that \$200,000 was included with the BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) project for cycling. \$300,000 is allocated for a pedestrian overpass on Highfield Park Drive in Dartmouth, to cross Highway 111, and will also be bike friendly. There is transportation investment to support future growth and that is reflected in the short term budget.

Mr. Skinner requested a detailed list for the next meeting.

7.2 New Business - None

8. NEXT MEETING DATE - Wednesday, May 18, 2005.

Mr. John Smith gave regrets for the May meeting as he will be in Italy. Mr. Skinner also gave regrets as he will be in France. Councillor Murphy suggested the May meeting be cancelled and a date set for a meeting in early June. **The Committee agreed the next meeting would be June 8th, 2005.**

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:14 pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistants