

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 16, 2005

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Ms. Laena Garrison  
Mr. Ward Skinner  
Mr. John Smith  
Mr. Steve Lane  
Ms. Candace Stevenson

**ABSENT:** Mr. Gerard Walsh (regrets)  
Councillor Stephen D. Adams (regrets)  
Mr. Ken LeMoine  
Ms. Cheryl Bidgood

**STAFF  
AND OTHERS:** Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator, Real Property Planning  
Ms. Roxane McInnis, Planner II, Regional Planning  
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority  
Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services  
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right of Way  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant



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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:12 pm in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 20, 2005 (notes), June 8, 2005 and August 31 (notes) (October 19, 2005 notes are not yet available)**

**MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded by Ms. Candace Stevenson, that the minutes of April 20, 2005 (notes), June 8, 2005, and August 31, 2005 (notes) be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

Additions:   7.2.1 Share the Road Signs (update)  
                  7.2.2 Bike Map / Trails Map  
                  7.2.3 Green Commuter newsletter

The agenda was agreed upon as amended.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Status Sheet Items - None**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Proposed 30% surtax on imported bicycles**

! An information package including correspondence from Members of Parliament and newspaper articles, was before the Committee.

Councillor Sheila Fougere advised the Committee that she had spoken with a Federal Minister regarding the 30% surtax on bicycles imported to Canada, which is being proposed by the Federal Government. Correspondence from Members of Parliament and a local bicycle shop owner opposing the surtax, a national newspaper editorial also opposing the surtax, and an article regarding recently passed motions in Vancouver opposing the surtax were reviewed and discussed by Committee members. The Committee discussed the proposed surtax, during which the following was noted:

- C The surtax may have negative impacts on efforts to promote bicycle use as a means of environmentally friendly transportation and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions as per Canada's Kyoto commitments.
- C The surtax would be contrary to HRM's Active Transportation Plan, promoting healthy, active lifestyles.
- C The surtax may also have negative impacts on efforts to foster a healthy trade relationship with China, which is the largest exporter of bicycles to Canada.

**MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded by Ms. Candace Stevenson, that the Bikeways Advisory Committee request that Halifax Regional Council write a letter to the Federal Minister of Finance in opposition to the proposed surtaxes on imported bicycles. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **6. REPORTS**

### **6.1 Draft network plan for the Active Transportation Plan (SGE Acres - Chris Lowe & Joe Lily)**

- C Ms. Roxane MacInnis distributed hard-copies of a presentation made to Council on the Active Transportation Plan.

Representatives from SGE Acres were not in attendance at the meeting to give a presentation of the draft network plan for the Active Transportation Plan.

Ms. MacInnis advised that possible route maps will be posted to the Active Transportation website today and will be included in the next Active Transportation newsletter. She further advised that an Active Transportation Plan meeting will be held tonight in Sackville, and tomorrow night at Halifax West school. Questions and comments regarding the Plan can be sent directly to SGE Acres.

This presentation will be added to the agenda for next meeting.

### **6.2 Presentation of options for Bikeway Connection to ALM Bridge (CBCL - Gordon Smith)**

Mr. Gordon Smith and Mr. Chris Kingsland, CBCL, addressed the Committee.

The Chair asked that questions and comments regarding the presentation be forwarded to Mr. Smith and Mr. Kingsland after the meeting due to time constraints. Mr. Smith provided his contact information to Committee members.

Mr. Smith advised that a public meeting was held in September and the input from this meeting was incorporated into the options before the Committee today. Mr. Smith further advised that a meeting is scheduled for next Monday for public input on the seven options. At this meeting, Mr. Smith will ask attendees to vote on their first, second, and third choices. The seven options will then be narrowed to three options using internal criteria and be forwarded to a steering committee.

Mr. Smith outlined the seven options using maps. Maps will be available online shortly.

The Committee thanked Mr. Smith and Mr. Kingsland for attending.

## **7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS**

### **7.1 New Business**

#### **7.1.1 2006/2007 Capital Budget Recommendations**

- C Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services (TPW), distributed a preliminary list of paving renewal and resurfacing projects for the reference of the Committee.
- C Councillor Fougere distributed an excerpt of the Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly HRM including project goals.

Councillor Fougere suggested that the Committee reflect on the short and medium term goals of the Bicycle Plan, along with ongoing activities, when considering the 2006/2007 capital budget recommendations. Councillor Fougere clarified that the capital budget is for physical improvements such as the bridge connection, installation of signals, widening of roads, etc. and the operating budget is for maintenance and other ongoing costs.

The Committee reviewed the near term implementation goals outlined in the Blueprint. The most important near term accomplishments were indicated in the Blueprint to be:

- C Make the Bikeway Task Force a permanent, official, advisory committee to Regional Council.  
*This task has been completed in the form of the Bikeways Advisory Committee.*
- C Make the position of Regional Bicycle/Pedestrian Coordinator for HRM a full time, permanent position.  
*This position has been filled.*

The Committee continued with review of the near term implementation goals, as follows:

1. Complete Sackville/Bedford connection along Little Sackville River.

- Rough construction of this projected is underway with a completion goal of spring 2006. No further capital funds are required as this project has already been budgeted for.*
2. Construct ped/bike bridge to connect Burnside to Highfield Park.  
*Capital funds have been allocated and design work is being completed for this project.*
  3. Pave shoulders of Bedford Highway (Kearney Lake Rd. to Moirs Pond)  
*Conflicts with the Harbour Solutions project interfered with this project. The project is scheduled to be finished next year. Further sections of the Bedford Highway will also be completed. There are allocated funds remaining for this project.*
  4. Improve Macdonald Bridge Access  
*Design study to be completed in early 2006. Funds for this project have been allocated.*  
Construct multi-use trail from Cornwallis to North.  
*Design study planned.*
  5. Install blue bike lanes as pilot project through Fairview Overpass.  
*This project is not part of the capital budget. There is a design study underway for pedestrian and cyclist use of the overpass.*
  6. Complete the Trans Canada Trail and bridge at Lake Banook.  
*There are funds allocated from the capital budget for this project. The project was delayed to work with the Canal Commission to design a signature bridge. Project should move forward in the spring.*
  7. Develop and sign secondary route to North St. on Charles/Willow corridor.  
*Charles and Willow Streets are indicated as bicycle routes on the Bike Map, however, signage is not in place. This may change depending on final bridge access design.*
  8. Pave shoulders where feasible on St. Margaret's Bay Road, install share the road signage elsewhere.  
*Paving completed; signage will be completed.*
  9. Ensure that Dartmouth Waterfront Greenway trail is developed as a primary route.  
*Funds are allocated for this project, which is underway.*
  10. Ensure Avery/Penhorn bridge over Hwy 111 accommodates bicycles.  
*Project completed.*
  11. Investigate potential improvements to Armdale Rotary to make it bicycle friendly.  
*Design funds have been allocated to this project and options are being considered.*
  12. Install 'Share the Road' signs and pavement markings on Quinpool from the Rotary to Robie St.  
*This project is in progress and should be completed in the spring of 2006.*
  13. Improve Robie Street  
*This project was dropped.*
  14. Re-stripe Portland St., Dartmouth from Prince Albert to Gaston to provide bike lane.

- This is not a capital budget project. The width of the road was looked at and cannot be changed. 'Share the Road' signs will be installed.*
15. On Main Street, Dartmouth, provide wide curb lane and other improvements as per Mini-study B.  
*A wide curb lane was incorporated last year and will be extended this coming year past Forrest Hills to Montague Road.*
16. Repeat of #9.
17. Install 'Share the Road' signs on Bedford Highway through Bedford.  
*This is not capital budget item.*
18. Improvements on other routes highlighted in red on Network Implementation Map.  
*This item was not discussed.*

It was noted that there are no capital budget recommendations coming from the Support Facilities category.

The Committee discussed the ongoing project of bike parking. It was indicated that the Capital District is installing several bike racks, however, there are issues surrounding finding locations. A tender has gone out to purchase more racks for installation.

Mr. Rice discussed the paving renewal and resurfacing list provided to Committee members. He indicated that he has not reviewed the list with the bike plan yet to identify overlapping projects. Councillor Fougere suggested that Committee members mark off bike map areas identified on Mr. Rice's list to "piggy-back" projects where possible. Mr. Rice indicated that this is still a preliminary list and is subject to change after the projects are brought before Council.

The Committee further discussed gas tax funds available from the Federal government for 'green' projects. Councillor Fougere requested that the Legislative Assistant obtain a copy of this report for the review of the Committee.

It was also noted that projects should be coordinated with Regional Trails and the Active Transportation Plan. Mr. Euloth advised he would provide his list of priorities for trails.

Councillor Fougere advised that Capital Budget Recommendations would be added to the December meeting agenda to formalize the recommendations to Council, depending on quorum.

Mr. Reashor indicated that bikeways projects have been identified as a high priority.

### **7.1.2 Membership**

#### **7.1.2.1 Automobile Representative**

The Legislative Assistant advised that she had sent letters of invitation to two members of the automobile industry referred by Ms. Garrison. Neither representative were in attendance at the meeting. This item will be added to the next agenda for a recommendation to Council to remove the vacant position of Automobile Representative and replace the position with a member at large.

### **7.1.3 2006 Meeting Schedule (Legislative Assistant)**

C A memorandum from Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, dated November 7, 2005 was before the Committee.

The Committee agreed to remove the January 18, 2006, July 19, 2006 and August 16, 2006 meetings from the schedule. July and August 2006 meetings will be scheduled closer to the summer if necessary.

**MOVED BY Ms. Garrison, seconded by Councillor Murphy, that the 2006 meeting schedule be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

## **7.2 Added Items**

### **7.2.1 Share the Road Signs (update)**

This item was not discussed due to time constraints. It will be added to the next agenda.

### **7.2.2 Bike Map / Trails Map**

This item was not discussed due to time constraints. It will be added to the next agenda.

### **7.2.3 Green Commuter newsletter**

This item was not discussed due to time constraints.

## **8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, December 14, 2005.

Ms. Stevenson indicated her regrets for the December meeting.

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Update from Hanita Koblents: Bicycle Parking Requirements, Regional Land Use Bylaw
2. Memorandum dated October 24, 2005 from the Legislative Assistant regarding Telephone, Email, Teleconferencing and the Conduct of Meetings - Legal Opinion - Wayne Anstey, was provided to the Committee further to their request for clarification at the October 19, 2005 meeting.