

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

December 14, 2005

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Laena Garrison  
Ward Skinner  
John Smith

**ABSENT:** Councillor Stephen D. Adams (regrets)  
Candace Stevenson (regrets)  
Steve Lane (regrets)  
Ken LeMoine  
Cheryl Bidgood  
Gerard Walsh

**STAFF**

**AND OTHERS:** Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner II, Regional Planning  
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority  
Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services  
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Co-ordinator, Traffic and Right of Way  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant



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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:15 pm in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall **without a quorum.**

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Approval of the October 19, 2005 and November 16, 2005 minutes were deferred until a quorum is present.

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

The agenda was agreed upon as distributed.

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

**4.1 Status Sheet Items - None**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**5.1 Capital Budget Recommendations**

This item was deferred until a quorum is present.

**5.2 Bike Map / Trails Map - John Smith**

Mr. John Smith discussed the need to keep the HRM Bicycle Map up-to-date and suggested that the trails map being prepared by the Regional Trails Advisory Committee could be incorporated with an updated Bicycle Map. Councillor Fougere advised that she would contact Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, to discuss this opportunity.

**6. REPORTS**

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

C Active Transportation Plan maps and the November 2005, Issue No. 2 of the Active Transportation Plan News were before the Committee.

Mr. Chris Lowe, Project Manager, and Mr. Joe Lily, Consultant, SGE Acres, addressed the Committee, providing an update of the Active Transportation Plan, and providing an overview of the Active Transportation Plan map, during which the following was noted:

- C 95% of comments received regarding the Plan are proactive.
- C The Plan is scheduled to be completed in February 2006, with a presentation to Regional Council to follow.
- C Feedback from rural public consultations revealed an interest for a village square concept to best determine layout of highways, sidewalks, and trails, linking of community centres, schools, and recreation centres, an interest in paving roads and shoulders, the extension and paving of trails, and linking trail systems and transit hubs.
- C Feedback from urban public consultations revealed an interest in a more extensive system of on-road links between active transportation routes and public transit.
- C Feedback from public consultation with youth revealed an interest in in-line skating as a means of active transportation, avoiding steep slopes on active transportation routes, and a caution toward off-road routes for personal safety reasons.
- C The focus of the Active Transportation Plan is to engage non-active people in active transportation. The Heart and Stroke Foundation has shown support of this initiative in order to prevent and rectify obesity.
- C In the new year, policies will be developed with regard to media programs, signage, changes to the *Motor Vehicle Act*, and other active transportation policies, along with holding further public consultations.
- C There are no major capital cost projects involved in the Plan, and the intention is for the Plan to be implemented over a number of years, involving a community engagement program.
- C The HRM Bicycle Map was used as a reference for developing the bicycle portion of the Active Transportation Plan.
- C Routes between universities were identified in the Plan, along with major employment centres.

With regard to innovative funding opportunities, Mr. Lowe discussed a concept for a village square active transportation program, taking examples from a previous Provincial 'main street program'. He advised that other non-governmental organizations will be approached for creative funding ideas and implementation will focus on low cost projects. Mr. Lowe noted that implementation will take place over a number of years to extend funds and some funding may be available from gas tax revenue.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis advised that further information and maps are available on the Active Transportation Plan website at [www.halifax.ca/activetransportation](http://www.halifax.ca/activetransportation).

## **6.2 Share the Road signs - John Smith**

This item was discussed under Item 7.2 - Added Items.

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

### **7.1 New Business**

#### **7.1.1 Membership - Removal of Automobile Association Representative**

This item was not discussed.

### **7.2 Added Items**

Councillor Fougere advised that each new bus ordered by HRM will have pre-installed bike racks at an extra cost of \$1,000 per bus. Councillor Fougere further advised that on December 13, 2006, Regional Council approved a list of Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund projects, the formula for which allows for 80% of funds to be spent on rural projects, and 20% on urban projects. The urban portion for HRM is \$3.41 million, which will include three new transit buses with bike racks, paving shoulders along the Bedford Highway and construction of the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail, the Halifax Urban Greenway (phase one), and the Shubie Park Trail.

Mr. Ken Reashor introduced Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator, Traffic and Right of Way Services. Mr. Reashor advised that he, Ms. MacInnis, Mr. MacIntyre, and Mr. Alan Taylor, Transportation Planner, have met to discuss bikeway priorities and plan to review these priorities with Bicycle Nova Scotia representatives.

Mr. Ward Skinner commented that he would like to see stronger pavement markings and larger signs involved with the Share the Road sign initiative. Ms. MacInnis clarified that the size of the Share the Road signs are the standard national size indicated in the Transportation Association of Canada manual.

Ms. Laena Garrison advised that she had spoken with an employee of the IWK Children's Hospital, who suggested implementing a 'Bikes First' bike lane concept, which would more clearly identify bike lanes. Ms. MacInnis advised that the Federal government is in the draft stage of identifying a uniform national bike lane symbol to be stencilled on roadways. She further advised that there are funds from the Bikeways budget allocated for the implementation of this project.

Ms. Laena Garrison commented that Ms. Renee Lyons of the Atlantic Health Promotion Research Centre indicated an interest in attending a meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee to discuss potential funding opportunities in order to push forward bikeways infrastructure plans. Councillor Fougere suggested that Ms. Lyons contact Mr. Ken Reashor

with any information on programs or sources of funding that have not yet been explored by HRM.

Ms. Garrison advised that she has received funding in the amount of \$2,500 to be used by March 31, 2006, for an active transportation project, and she would like to use these funds for a street opening. Councillor Fougere advised that she is currently awaiting information on corporate sponsors for a similar event in Ottawa, where the River Parkway is shut down every Sunday, seasonally, for the use of cyclists and in-line skaters. The Councillor noted that corporate sponsors are required to cover costs associated with rerouting buses and litter clean-up. She suggested that Ms. Garrison speak with the special events task force to discuss what resources would be required and the cost associated with holding the event. Ms. Garrison noted that she plans to hire a student to coordinate the street opening event. Ms. MacInnis suggested that Ms. Garrison contact the National Capital Commission for further details on the Ottawa event. Mr. Reashor indicated that the Traffic Authority could consult the EMS and transit maps to help determine a suitable street to hold the event, which was suggested be held on a Sunday.

Mr. Skinner distributed an updated status report on the Bike Plan. He indicated that he would like to review the list with Mr. Reashor, Ms. MacInnis, and Mr. MacIntyre as there are a number of projects on the list that may not go through and some new projects that have not been added to the list. Mr. Skinner commented that the Bike Plan is to be updated every five years, and it has now been three years since it was created. He further suggested that the status report, once up-to-date, should be posted on the Bikeways Advisory Committee website. It was indicated that the status report will be incorporated into the Active Transportation Plan.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The Committee agreed to meet on January 18, 2006 to make capital budget recommendations.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:55 pm.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant