

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

February 7, 2007

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Mr. Ward Skinner, Vice Chair  
Mr. Friedemann Brauer  
Mr. Peter Williams  
Ms. Candace Stevenson  
Mr. William Webster  
Ms. Laena Garrison

**REGRETS:** Councillor Jim Smith  
Councillor Patrick Murphy  
Ms. Leslie Dubinsky  
Ms. Heather Deighan

**STAFF:** Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services  
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, TDM Planner, Regional Planning  
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Regional Trails Planner, Regional Planning  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, Real Property  
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority  
Ms. Christina Sears, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:07 p.m. in the Councillor's Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor, City Hall.

Ms. Emily Hatcher, Public Relations Co-op Student, was introduced and advised that she is attending the meeting today on behalf of the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED BY Mr. Ward Skinner, seconded by Mr. Friedemann Brauer, that the minutes of September 20, 2006 be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

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

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

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

**4.1 Status Sheet Items**

There are no outstanding status sheet items.

**4.2 Bike Week Update**

Mr. Ward Skinner provided a brief update on Bike Week, noting the following:

- There are new Chairs appointed to the Bike Week committee, Ms. Maria Jacobs and Ms. Hanita Koblents;
- The committee will submit an application for funding in the amount of \$5,000.
- In addition to this, funding will be raised through events.
- Bike Week will be held Saturday, June 2, 2007 through Saturday, June 9, 2007. There will be an auction and a rodeo for the kids.

The Chair advised that she will not be able to attend.

**4.3 ALM Bridge Connection Presentation- Mr. Ken Reashor**

Mr. Ken Reashor advised that the process began with an open house for public consultation and feedback. He noted that the creation of the conceptual designs is based on the information gathered. Mr. Reashor advised that a second open house was held to present concepts and obtain public input into the top three concepts.

Mr. Reashor presented the ALM Bridge Connection options to the Committee, noting the following:

- The first option is an elevated structure that goes along the North side of North Street at Gottingen Street. This option maintains the existing route to Barrington Street, following the current route that is there today;
- The second option is a similar elevated structure that also maintains the connection to Barrington Street through to the existing loop. This option however lands in the median at North and Gottingen Streets;
- The third option goes under the bridge, comes around and back up at the top of the bridge, where pedestrians currently cross. From there cyclists would walk their bike in the direction of their travel;
- The fourth option is an elevated structure that goes under the bridge, and crosses over the North Street ramp towards Barrington Street. This option crosses over the ramp, goes along the south side of North Street and gives a direct connection to Brunswick Street. Additional property becomes an issue with this option which would require a land acquisition, which has not been explored at this point;

Ms. Maria Jacobs arrived at 12:17 p.m.

- The fifth option is an elevated structure that crosses over the existing bike path and over the North Street access to the bridge, connecting to Brunswick Street. This option is not free flowing, as it requires stairs;
- The sixth option uses the existing ramp. This option crosses the west bound North Street ramp that comes up from Barrington Street. This option goes directly across a lane of traffic, and therefore this option is unsafe and is not supported;

Ms. Roxane McInnis left at 12:19 p.m.

- There were three preferred options identified through a rating system during public consultation, as follows:
  - Option one was ranked first choice;
  - Option two was ranked third choice;
  - Option three was ranked fourth choice;
  - Option four was ranked second choice;
  - Option five scored zero points;

- Option six was not evaluated because it was unsafe.

Laena Garrison arrived at 12:24 p.m.

- Discussion was held based on the rating system:
  - Connection to streets;
  - Sightings;
  - Relative cost, not absolute cost;
  - Multiplication factor.

Mr. Reashor reviewed the costs of each of the top three options, as follows:

- Option one would cost approximately \$1,713,000.
- Option two would cost approximately \$863,000.
- Option three would cost approximately \$1,870,000.

Mr. Reashor indicated that cost sharing is not an option and there is \$400,000 sustained in the reserve fund to go toward this project.

Ms. Laena Garrison suggested funding by way of corporate sponsors.

Mr. Friedemann Brauer commented that the safe and smooth integration of cyclists into the traffic is missing from the current bridge connections. For example, if the land was marked clearly, motorists at the stop sign on North Street would have to yield to cyclists coming off the bridge. He noted concern with regard to the amount of money proposed for this project, when there are simpler solutions available for the proper integration of cycling traffic at both ends of the bridge.

Discussion ensued regarding the relationship between motorists and cyclists.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Reashor suggested that the next step be to provide these options to Council in the form of an information report, and to present to Council when the budget is available.

The Chair suggested putting forth a recommendation to Council from the Committee and endorsing it as a special project, looking for funding separate from the Bikeways budget.

**MOVED by Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Mr. William Webster, that the Bikeways Advisory Committee endorse Option #1 for the ALM Bridge Connection and recommend that funding options for this special project be explored through infrastructure, green initiatives, or similar project funding to supplement the already existing funding. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Ms. Laena Garrison, seconded by Mr. Ward Skinner, that the Bikeways Advisory Committee request that staff bring forward at a future Committee meeting proposed bikeways improvements to the ALM Bridge, including both ends of the bridge. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Reashor advised copies of the presentation will not be available to members of the Committee and the public until the information has been provided to Council.

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

**6. REPORTS - NONE**

**7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 New Business**

**7.1.1 Change from Bikeways Advisory Committee to Active Transportation Advisory Committee**

- A copy of the draft Terms of Reference of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee was before the Committee.

The Chair advised that it is being recommended to Regional Council to change the Bikeways Advisory Committee (BAC) to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC). The Chair briefly review the Terms of Reference with the Committee, with the following comments noted by members:

- The mandates of the BAC and the ATAC are connected and working toward the same goal;
- The cycling community may feel a sense of loss;
- A member representing the interests of seniors should be included on the Committee, and a volunteer could be recruited from Northwood Manor;
- A student/youth member would be a valuable addition to the ATAC; however, it would be difficult for a student to leave school to attend meetings;
- A tourism representative should be included in ATAC membership;
- A suggestion to hold a luncheon with residents practicing the different modes of active transportation, such as roller blading and skate boarding, to collect ideas, issues and concerns;
- Collaboration with groups such as Safe Routes to School and Go For Green.

Responding to questions and concerns of Committee members, the Chair advised the following:

- Appointments to the ATAC will be made by the Membership Selection Committee;
- The Bike Plan will not be lost with the formation of the ATAC;
- HRM does not have a tourism department; however, Destination Halifax is the entity responsible for marketing HRM;
- All forms of active transportation will be taken into consideration with the ATAC, including transportation on HRM's many waterways.

The Committee agreed to discuss this matter at the next meeting prior to the Terms of Reference going before Council for approval.

**7.2 Added Items - NONE**

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE**

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, March 15, 2007.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 1:42 p.m.

Christina Sears  
Legislative Assistant

