

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

January 27, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Hendsbee
Councillor Fisher
Councillor Barkhouse
Councillor Blumenthal
Councillor Watts
Councillor Hum
Councillor Harvey
Councillor Rankin

REGRETS: None

STAFF: Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public
Works/Traffic Authority
Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Melody Campbell, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. in Council Chambers, City Hall, Halifax.

ELECTION OF THE CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED BY Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Fisher that Councillor Rankin be nominated Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for further nominations, hearing none, the following motion was placed: **MOVED by Harvey, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Rankin accepted the nomination and the appointment as Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED BY Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Fisher that Councillor Watts be nominated Vice-Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for further nominations, hearing none, the following motion was placed: **MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Watts accepted the nomination and the appointment as Vice-Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

APPROVAL OF 2011 MEETING SCHEDULE

MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the 2011 Meeting Schedule be approved, as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Addition:

9.1 Councillor Watts - Travel rate for HRM employees traveling by bike

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Order of Business be approved, as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Standing Committee Structure, Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, presented the Standing Committee Structure presentation to the Committee.

7. REPORTS

7.1 Terms of Reference (draft) - Transportation Standing Committee

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, presented the Draft Terms of Reference to the Transportation Standing Committee.

Councillor Hum stated that Safe Communities should be incorporated into the Terms of Reference.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested that a sub-committee be implemented to work on safe community issues which would report to the Standing Committee.

The Terms of Reference will be further addressed at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

7.2 Motion of Regional Council - Winter Parking Ban

The following motion was passed at the January 11, 2011 Regional Council meeting.

11.4.1 Councillor Watts - Winter Parking Ban

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee engage the Traffic Authority to consider opportunities for a change to the hours of the winter parking ban in HRM

from 1 a.m. to 7 a.m. to the new hours of 2 a.m. to 5 a.m., or alternative recommendations which would enable greater access to on-street parking during the winter ban period. Recommendation of the Standing Committee to be submitted to Regional Council for consideration. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Discussion ensued among Committee members regarding the motion initiated by Regional Council regarding the Winter Parking Ban. The Committee requested that a staff report comes back to the Committee. The following points were brought forward by the Committee to be included in the staff report.

- The ability to tow and ticket during snow events; the capacity for vehicle towing; the ability to tow to enable Municipal crews to clear streets.
- The breakdown of authority of the Transportation Authority, HRM Council and the Province.
- A legal perspective of a change to the Motor Vehicle Act, and how this could affect the rest of the Provinces and its Municipalities.
- The issue of the arbitrary nature of the ban, and the ability to change the ban and its start and end dependent on the type of winter weather is being experienced.
- Considerations of a parking ban during storm/fall clean ups, special events, VIPs.
- Consideration of alternate street parking from one side of the road to another; off street parking sites; parking by resident application.
- The deputizing of municipal Supervisors; photo shoot vehicles with their plates that are parked on streets.
- Expand parking meters and time lines.
- The cost and equipment required for snow removal and its removal from city streets.
- The history of the parking ban.
- The difference of the ban pertaining to HRM and the Province including hours and exceptions.
- The cost of snow removal, how it affects the budget and what are the service standards.
- Flexibility to cost of changing ban to 5 or 6 a.m.
- The advantages and disadvantages of the ban for Municipal Operations.
- What constitutes a winter event.
- Consideration be given to policies in Winnipeg. Policies in Ottawa and Montreal were also mentioned.
- It was noted that the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal should contact HRM with a formal request to Council.

7.3 Transportation Demand Management Functional Plan

Mr. Dave McClusker, Manager, provided the presentation, Transportation Demand Functional Plan, to the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Transportation Standing Committee endorse the recommendation of the Regional Plan Advisory Committee in forwarding the Transportation Demand Management Functional Plan to Halifax Regional Council for its adoption in principle.

Councillor Fisher suggested that staff consider equity on parking fares for areas such as business parks and the downtown. He added that it is no free parking in the business park as parking is included on the cost of goods and services provided by the business.

Councillor Watts stated that the Parking Functional Plan should be addressed. She added that social marketing needs to be utilized in the planning process. She added that transit use has to be made more accessible. Mr. McCusker advised that this plan works well with the Parking Functional Plan. He stated that a staff person will be made available for marketing and will utilize programs for increased promotion.

Councillor Hum stated that there is a need to promote transit use and the use of car share programs. She advised that credit card parking meters with availability to update parking at central stations would be a beneficial tool for HRM. She suggested that staff consider different and new technologies in relation to parking meters.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that HRM needs to continue to work with other partners, ie. The Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission during the plan's implementation. He asked who would take the lead on the implementation of the plan. The Councillor noted that other partners may need to be included for funding opportunities. Mr. McCuskey advised that at this point the application of the plan would fall to HRM. He added that staff are working with other partners, agencies and other employers in HRM with regard to the plan's implementation.

Councillor Harvey stated that as long as there is affordable parking and low gas prices, cars will continue to use the roadways. He stated that there has to be a change in mindset of the community to use alternative transit.

Councillor Blumenthal suggested that one lane on roadways be made available for transit buses. Councillor Hum stated that the Bedford Highway was being considered for such an option.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that a more critical path and timeline should be put in place.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.4 Active Transportation Committee

7.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Councillor Watts provide a verbal update on the projects of the Active Transportation Committee.

7.5 Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM (formerly the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities)

7.5.1 Update from Councillor Blumenthal (verbal)

Councillor Blumenthal provided a verbal update on the projects of the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities to the Committee.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Councillor Watts - Travel rate for HRM employees traveling by bike

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that the Transportation Standing Committee request staff initiate a report on implementation of travel expenses for HRM employees who travel by bike for business purposes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE - Monday, February 28, 2011

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:07 p.m.

Melody Campbell
Legislative Assistant