

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 23, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Bob Harvey

REGRETS: Councillor Debbie Hum

STAFF: Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:07 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 26, 2011

Councillor Watts made a correction to the minutes with regard to her comments on page four respecting public art and the greening of roundabouts.

Councillor Fisher made a correction to the minutes on page 6 with regard to his comments on parking.

MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the minutes of May 26, 2011 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee report
- 8.2 Councillor Watts - Active Transportation Funding update

The Committee agreed to move Item 8.1 to the first order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1 Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee

A supplementary report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated June 21, 2011, was distributed to the Committee. The staff report dated March 28, 2011 was also before the Committee.

Ms. Cathy Mellett, Municipal Clerk, presented the supplementary report to the Committee on behalf of the CAO. She clarified that the Committee recommendation to Regional Council in April 2011 was referred to the CAO for his input. The CAO agreed with the recommendation for an industry liaison committee, and made some changes to the recommended membership.

Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, Animal and Taxi Limousine Services, Community Projects, responded to questions of clarification from the Committee, noting the following:

- Stakeholders were consulted, including members of the previous committee;
- The Committee's recommendation will be forwarded to Regional Council again;
- Membership was revised to remove the HIAA, TIANS, and the hotel industry, and add an accessible taxi license holder.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Repeal Administrative Order #38 Respecting the Creation of a Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee, and**
- 2. Provide direction to the CAO to have staff of Community Projects, Halifax Regional Police, constitute an Industry/Staff Liaison Committee with revisions to the proposed Terms of Reference as outlined in Attachment A of the June 21, 2011 supplementary report.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

4.1 Correspondence - None

4.2 Petitions - None

4.3 Presentations - None

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 ROAD NETWORK FUNCTIONAL PLAN

A staff report dated January 14, 2011, with attached Regional Plan Advisory Committee report and Road Network Functional Plan Final Report dated June 2010 was before the Committee.

A copy of the Roadway Network Functional Plan was distributed to members.

With the agreement of the Committee, Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, presented the Roadway Network Functional Plan and the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study together (Items 7.1 and 7.2).

Councillor Watts indicated that information on these initiatives was received late and she wants to ensure that there is enough time for Councillors and the community to understand the planning implications.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Road Network Functional Plan be referred for discussion at a Committee of the Whole session.

Councillor Watts asked for staff to provide further detail on “drastic increases in modal share” required, as indicated on page 24 of the Plan.

Councillor Watts indicated that she sees a contradiction with road functional development and the plan for strategic growth in outlying areas and that there needs to be an integrated and understandable process. As an example, she noted. p. 27 of the Road Network Functional Plan which includes “revisiting the central core planning approach set out in the Regional Plan (such as a more dispersed employment model that may reduce the impact on the peninsula’s limited access to traffic capacity)”. She noted that this points to a more dispersed employment model, whereas HRM by Design is focused on centralization in the downtown core.

Mr. McCusker responded that the Road Network Function Plan does not project employment or settlement patterns; data was used from the Regional Plan for the modeling. He noted that the Regional Plan was based on a concentration of future employment mass in the Regional Centre, which was an important element of HRM’s transportation management.

The Chair reminded the Committee that Council had already approved a mix of high and medium density, and that the Road Network Functional Plan is staff working with Council’s direction in this regard.

Councillor Watts commented that it would be helpful to have staff provide a supplementary report when this matter is brought to Committee of the Whole, responding to questions from Transportation Standing Committee members. It was noted that members should forward questions to staff to be included in this report.

With the agreement of the Mover and Seconder, the motion was amended as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Road Network Functional Plan be referred for discussion at a Committee of the Whole session in September, with a supplementary staff report addressing questions raised at the June 23, 2011 Transportation Standing Committee meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 BAYERS ROAD/HIGHWAY 102 CORRIDOR STUDY

A staff report dated June 1, 2011 was before the Committee.

A copy of the Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor Study was distributed to the Committee.

A package of Bayers Road / Highway 102 Corridor history of Council discussions containing minutes and reports from Regional Council meetings from 1996 to the present was distributed to the Committee.

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, presented the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study report to the Committee earlier in the meeting in conjunction with the presentation of Item 7.1 Road Network Functional Plan.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study be deferred to a future meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, after the Road Network Functional Plan has been discussed at a future Committee of the Whole session.

Councillor Watts noted that she is asking for the deferral because members need time to read all of the materials, and to fully understand the context of the Road Network Functional Plan before making any decisions on the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study.

Councillor Watts also noted that she would like the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor to be brought to Peninsula Community Council for discussion before the Transportation Standing Committee makes any recommendations on it.

Councillor Hendsbee arrived at 2:00 p.m.

With the agreement of the Mover and Seconder, the motion was amended as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study be deferred to the October meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, after the Road Network Functional Plan has been discussed at a Committee of the Whole session in September.

The Committee discussed the public consultation held with respect to the Study, and Mr. McCusker clarified that in 2009 advertised public consultation sessions were held with high participation. He clarified that specific property owners were not consulted.

Mr. Roger Wells, Supervisor, Regional & Community Planning, clarified at the request of the Committee that the Plan is at the point where staff are seeking direction from the Standing Committee and Council, and are not yet at the stage for further public consultation.

The Committee discussed the need for all of the information regarding this study to be available online, and that there be enough time for review of the documents.

Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works, advised that he is agreeable with the deferral of this matter pending further direction from Council on the Road Network Functional Plan. He noted that Planning Services would be involved in any future public consultation.

Mr. McCusker, at the request of the Committee, clarified the staff recommendation is not authorizing a road widening or the purchase of any property, it is preserving identified land for a future possible road widening. Staff would have to come back to Council for approval of the purchase of any property.

Councillor Barkhouse asked that staff consider holding a public engagement and consultation process at the earliest possibility during this process.

At the request of Councillor Fisher, Councillor Rankin stepped down as Chair and Councillor Harvey assumed the Chair.

Councillor Watts noted that there is no discussion in the consultant's report on the impact on pedestrian crossings of Bayers Road. She noted that there are budget implications that need to be considered as well as issues with the role of the provincial government in this process. Councillor Watts noted further that there will be CN Rail bridges that would have to be rebuilt at a high cost.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 HRM SMARTTRIP PROGRAM AND MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

A staff report dated June 1, 2011 with the SmartTrip MOU template and a SmartTrip brochure package was before the Committee.

Ms. Julie Wynn, TDM Program Specialist, presented the Smart Trip program to the Committee.

David McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, clarified that this program was developed as a result of the TDM Functional Plan. Staff hope to hire a full time administrator for the program using membership fees, and are looking to increase membership to do so.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCusker further clarified that there have been no membership fees charged to pilot project partners. Staff have been actively recruiting employers to take part in the program, but they hope that employers will eventually seek out participation in the program. Mr. McCusker pointed out that the table on page 3 of the report outlines the proposed fees.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Authorize the Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding on behalf of Halifax Regional Municipality with businesses who agree to participate in the SmartTrip program; and**
- 2. Approve the fees set out in Table 1 of the June 1, 2011 staff report for businesses participating in the program.**

Responding to questions from Councillor Watts, Mr. McCusker clarified that the intention of the program is to have zero budget impact, and that revenues and expenses may have to be balanced to do so.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.4 ELECTRIC VEHICLES

A report from the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee dated May 18, 2011 was before the Committee.

Councillor Hendsbee noted that the Regional Plan Advisory Committee has discussed the eventuality of the use of electric cars becoming more pronounced, and the future need for infrastructure to charge these vehicles. He suggested that a future option could be to install charging infrastructure at Park and Ride Terminals. Staff need to give consideration to what type of requirements would be necessary for this infrastructure.

Councillor Watts clarified that the Environment & Sustainability Standing Committee wanted the Transportation and Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committees to give some consideration to this issue and to make sure that long term planning for this infrastructure is considered.

MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee endorses recommendations one to five approved by the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee at their May 5, 2011 meeting, as follows:

- 1. Direct staff to prepare a corporate plan for location and investment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure for corporate fleet vehicles;**
- 2. Direct staff to prepare a policy for the incorporation of electric vehicle charging infrastructure in new facility development and recapitalization projects;**
- 3. Engage with the development community and the Nova Scotia Home Builders Association regarding reviewing the recommended actions from the British Columbia Electric Vehicle Charging Infrastructure Deployment Guidelines;**

4. **Engage with the Nova Scotia Automobile Dealers Association regarding expectations on market penetration of electric vehicles in Nova Scotia;**
5. **Direct staff to review revenue opportunities offered with the deployment of electric vehicle charging infrastructure.**

Responding to questions from Committee members, Mr. Reashor advised that if charging infrastructure were to be installed at service stations, there may have to be a by-law or planning process to regulate such activity.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.5 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.5.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Councillor Watts provided a brief update from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that the preliminary report on this past Bike Week was that it was a huge success, with great weather and great attendance of all ages at Bike Week events. She thanked the Bike Week Committee for their creativity and hard work, and also thanked volunteers, sponsors and staff.

With the agreement of the Committee, she requested that the Transportation Standing Committee send a letter of thanks to the Bike Week Committee.

7.6 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.6.1 Update from Councillor Blumenthal (verbal)

Councillor Blumenthal provided a brief update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, noting that the Committee is continuing work on the Accessibility Assessment of HRM owned and operated facilities. They are helping staff to identify areas of these facilities needing accessibility improvements.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 3.

8.2 Active Transportation Funding – Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts inquired as to the status of current active transportation funding for this year.

Mr. Dave McCusker indicated that staff have left some flexibility with the current active transportation funding because of a potential opportunity for cost sharing with the

province on the Burnside to Highway 102 active transportation connection. Discussions are ongoing and staff will be bringing this matter to the Committee soon for direction.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Wednesday, August 10, 2011

The July 28 and August 25th Transportation Standing Committee meetings have been cancelled and rescheduled to one meeting on Wednesday, August 10, 2011 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:18 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Vehicle Traffic Opportunities – CN Rail Cut