

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

August 10, 2011

- PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
 Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair
 Councillor David Hendsbee
 Councillor Darren Fisher
 Councillor Debbie Hum
 Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
 Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
- REGRETS: Councillor Bob Harvey
- STAFF: Mr. 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 1:08 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Quest Funding Application – Briefing Note (information only)
- 8.2 Councillor Watts – Request for Report - Audible Pedestrian Signals
- 8.3 Councillor Watts – Request for Report - Update on Accessible Low Floor Metro Transit routes

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

4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

4.1 Correspondence

4.1.1 Correspondence from Todd D. Hacquoil dated August 1, 2011 re: Access-A-Bus system

Correspondence from Mr. Todd D. Hacquoil dated August 1, 2011 re: Access-A-Bus system was before the Committee.

Mr. Reashor advised that staff had prepared correspondence in response to Mr. Hacquoil's letter, which was copied to all members of Council. Responding to questions from Committee members, Mr. Reashor advised that two other letters have been received with regard to recent changes with the Access-a-Bus system, and staff are working to clarify communication with all Access-A-Bus users.

4.2 Petitions - None

4.3 Presentation - None

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

Councillor Hendsbee arrived at 1:19 p.m.

7.1.1 Provincial Agreement – Burnside Drive Extension

A staff report dated August 5, 2011 was before the Committee.

Mr. Reashor reviewed the staff report with the Committee. Responding to questions from Committee members, Mr. Reashor clarified that the realignment of these funds is not cancelling funding for any projects, it is just switching the years of when the projects will be built.

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

- 1. Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Province to fund the construction of an active transportation corridor within the Highway 107 corridor parallel to the Burnside Drive Extension according to the terms described in the August 5, 2011 report; and**
- 2. Commit \$1,000,000 in funding from the 2013-14 Active Transportation Capital Program to the Burnside Drive Extension Active Transportation Corridor according to the Budget Implications section of the August 5, 2011 report.**

Discussion ensued on the staff report.

Councillor Watts commented that this is a significant opportunity to partner with the Province to implement an active transportation connection from Burnside to Bedford and Sackville, at a greatly reduced cost to HRM. She noted that the Burnside Business Commission is concerned with active transportation options for employees in the park.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that the Burnside Drive Extension take into consideration potential future capacity, and ensure that there be potential for six to eight lanes and the inclusion of transit lanes.

Councillor Hendsbee also inquiry as to how HRM will be involved with design standards, such as for the use of materials (double seal vs. asphalt vs. concrete).

Councillor Hum suggested that staff jointly hold public consultation with the Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, for feedback from the public on construction and design.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.1.2 Burnside Drive Active Transportation Corridor – Transfer of Funds

A staff report dated August 5, 2011 was before the Committee.
A revised page one of the August 5, 2011 report was circulated to the Committee (re-dated August 9, 2011).

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the transfer of \$400,000 from Project CTU01286 (Joseph Howe Drive Turn Lanes) to Project CTU00420 (Active Transportation Plan Implementation) in the 2011-12 budget year and transfer \$400,000 from Project CTU00420 to Project CTU01286 in the 2012-13 budget year, according to the Budget Implications section of the August 9, 2011 report. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL

7.2.1 Request for report re: feasibility of free transit trips for seniors (referred from August 2, 2011 meeting of Regional Council)

An extract of the motion approved at the August 2, 2011 Regional Council meeting with regard to Item 13.1 “Councillor Blumenthal – Request for a Report on the Feasibility of Free Transit Trips for Seniors” was before the Committee.

Mr. Reashor indicated that staff intend to prepare a report on this request, and will bring it back to the Committee. He commented that if any member has any concerns on specifics of this item, to forward it to staff to be addressed in the report.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Transportation Standing Committee request Metro Transit staff to investigate the feasibility of having a Senior’s Day on Metro Transit buses one day per week allowing seniors to ride the bus for free. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3 MATTERS REFERRED FROM STANDING COMMITTEES – None

7.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

There was no update to provide at this time.

7.5 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.5.1 Update from Councillor Blumenthal (verbal)

There was no update to provide at this time.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Quest Funding Application (Information only)

A Briefing Note dated August 10, 2011 was circulated to the Committee for their information.

8.2 Councillor Watts – Audible Pedestrian Signals

Councillor Watts indicated that she would like a staff report outlining the following with regard to audible pedestrian signals:

- why audible pedestrian signals are used
- impacts of the signals on neighbouring residents
- explanation of the technology used
- guidelines for that technology.
- why HRM chooses to use that technology
- what is the rationale behind the decision to use the signals
- notification provided to neighbours

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the technology and guidelines regarding the use of Audible Pedestrian Signals in HRM. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3 Councillor Watts – Update on Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Metro Transit Routes

Councillor Watts indicated that she is looking for a staff report to address the following information:

- how residents can access the ALF routes (the process)
- an update on anything new with the process or the ALF program
- discussion on this matter as it relates to the recent Human Rights issue

Mr. Reashor indicated that there was a recent human rights decision made on this issue, and that staff will be putting out some communication information on the topic.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report with an update on Accessible Low Floor (ALF) Metro Transit routes. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Blumenthal arrived at 1:54 p.m.

8.4 Councillor Hendsbee – LICs for roadwork – request for report

Councillor Hendsbee noted concern with the number of different applications and processes associated with the Local Improvement Charge (LIC) process in HRM. He indicated he would like staff to look at current practices and make recommendations needed to revise the policy.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report with clarification on the different applications and processes associated with Local Improvement Charges (LICs).

Mr. Reashor advised that a report is being prepared on this topic as per a previous request at Regional Council. The report will be brought to the Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE – Thursday, September 22, 2011

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, September 22, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:55 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant