



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
DECEMBER 3, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Darren Fisher
Councillor Barry Dalrymple

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor
Ms. Erin Flaim, Parking Strategy Business Lead
Mr. Eddie Robar, Halifax Transit Director
Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Scheduling Manager
Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Transportation Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCtransp/141203tsc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 2:30 p.m., and adjourned at 4:33 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 1, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Outhit that the minutes be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Councillor Walker requested Information Item No. 2 – Accommodating VON, Care Giver and Other Visitor Parking be added to the agenda for discussion.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts that Information Item No. 2 be added to the agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Outhit requested that Information Item No. 1 – Commuter Rail Feasibility Project Updates be added to the agenda, noting there had been some progress on the issue.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee by that Information Item No. 1 be added to the agenda. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

8.2 Petitions

8.3 Presentations

8.3.1 Halifax Transit - 2014/15 Q2 Halifax Transit KPI Report (information report dated November 10, 2014)

Due to a technical issue, this item was discussed following item 9.1.2. See page 5.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Hotspot Parking

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation dated October 15, 2014.*

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee defer implementation of a HotSpot Parking or similar style paid parking solution in the short term. And further that this type of paid parking solution be further assessed for potential implementation as a component of parking service governance implementation as outlined in the Parking Roadmap.

Councillor Watts inquired when HotSpot Parking might be implemented if there was support and agreement for it.

Ms. Erin Flaim, Parking Strategy Business Lead, responded that the project may be implemented depending on the arrangement made with HotSpot or another provider. Ms. Flaim also commented that parking meters were being considered in connection with the forthcoming Parking Strategy Roadmap report. Councillor Watts responded by questioning if the technology implemented through the Parking Strategy Roadmap may make HotSpot redundant. Councillor Watts also requested confirmation that the technology would not likely be implemented until 2016. Ms. Flaim confirmed the Councillor's statements.

Councillor Mason thanked Ms. Flaim for the report and stated approval for the recommendation. Councillor Mason questioned when the Parking Strategy Roadmap would come forward. Ms. Flaim responded that the Parking Strategy Roadmap would be brought to the Committee next quarter. Councillor Mason also commented that if new technology is not be implemented until 2016, old technology may be leveraged. He highlighted that unused meter heads such as those around the Nova Centre could be deployed in the interim.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Variable Message Signs Project Status

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation dated November 23, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Transportation Standing Committee provide direction to Halifax Regional Council to re-allocate the capital contribution for this project to other strategic transportation priorities for the 2015/16 Budget.

Councillor Hendsbee stated that the motion was inappropriate and he would be voting against it. Councillor Hendsbee highlighted that a similar motion was defeated as per the April 26, 2012 minutes of the Transportation Standing Committee as cited below. Councillor Hendsbee stated that commitment should be reaffirmed to the variable message sign project with the Halifax Harbour Bridges Commission (HHBC).

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request a staff report to examine the opportunity to move the allocated funds for Dynamic Message Signs to be considered for reassignment for other transportation priority needs. MOTION DEFEATED.

Councillor Watts voiced approval for the motion on the floor.

Councillor Fisher inquired whether a recommendation had been passed on the project, what direction had been given by Council or the Committee to date, and whether funding had been indicated to the HHBC on the project.

Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager, responded that the presentation given to the Committee in 2012 had not accompanied a recommendation. Mr. McCusker also stated that neither Council nor the Committee had given direction to move it forward, except for consideration in the budget.

Mr. McCusker also stated that upon approval of the budget, HHBC was advised that the portion of funding had been approved by Regional Council and staff had begun to draft an agreement.

Councillor Mason questioned what had changed with the project, why it could not be dealt with within the budget process, and whether this project would impact the relationship with HHBC.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer, indicated that although the presentation was made, nothing formally had come through the Committee to Council. Mr. Labrecque indicated that handling this through the budget process could have been another option. Mr. McCusker responded that the project has been tendered, awarded and is in construction now by HHBC. Mr. McCusker also indicated that HHBC has informally indicated a connection between the VMS project and the MacDonald bridge project.

The Chair inquired if the original project had been fulfilled. Mr. McCusker responded in the affirmative, that there was full budget approval from the HHBC to complete the project.

In response to a question from members of the Committee about where and in what measure the funds may be re-allocated, Mr. Labrecque stated that it would be Council's decision.

Councillor Watts stated that there has not yet been discussion or a firm commitment on the MacDonald bridge approach project with the HHBC. Councillor Watts reiterated her support for the staff recommendation. Councillor Watts inquired and Mr. Labrecque confirmed that staff would return to the Committee to indicate where the funds would be re-allocated.

Councillor Hendsbee asked that the motion be defeated. He stated that a commitment and obligation had been made by the Committee and the project had been approved in two budgets. Councillor Hendsbee highlighted that there were other locations around the metro where signs had been planned and that the signs were part of the traffic demand management program.

Councillor Fisher commented that although there was no Council direction, he would be voting against the recommendation.

The Chair declared the vote a tie and the motion to be lost.

MOTION DEFEATED.

The Committee discussed how to move the project to Regional Council for resolution. Councillor Mason questioned whether it would be the staff recommendation from the report on the floor for debate. For the purposes of clarity, the Committee agreed to include in the motion referral of the staff recommendation to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Watts that the recommendation given in the November 23, 2014 staff report "Variable Message Signs Project Status" be referred to Regional Council for resolution.

Councillor Hendsbee voiced opposition to the matter being forwarded to Council in this manner.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3.1 Halifax Transit – 2014/15 Q2 Halifax Transit KPI Report

At this time item 8.3.1 was presented and discussed.

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff information report dated November 10, 2014*

Mr. Eddie Robar, Director, Halifax Transit and Mr. David Reage, Manager Planning and Scheduling, presented the 2014/15 Q2 report as per the November 10, 2014 information report. Mr. Robar noted a caveat that ridership figures were calculated based on revenue. Mr. Robar highlighted that the focus on service increases over the last year was based on the ferry. He described service readiness, access-a-bus, and service complaints. Mr. Robar also provided updates on Halifax Transit technology project, describing the new GPS system and its pilot in June, 2015. Mr. Robar stated that they have written a Request for Quotation for the new fare box management system and would be releasing a Request for Proposal in the new year.

Mr. Reage gave an update on the Moving Forward Plan, stating that they would be releasing a draft to the public stakeholders and council in 2015, followed by a 10 week consultation phase on the draft network plan. Mr. Reage also provided an update on the Smart Trip program and E-Pass program.

At this time, Item 12.2, a briefing update was given on the Commuter Rail Feasibility Project. Mr. Reage provided an update, stating that the background assessment work was complete, evaluation and analysis was currently being performed and an Open House would be scheduled for January. Mr. Reage also added that they expected completion of the study by April 2015, at which point staff would be prepared to offer recommendations to Council. Mr. Reage commented that the Shape your City Halifax engagement portal would be used to further the study.

Councillor Outhit inquired regarding ridership on the late night ferry run. Councillor Outhit also asked for a comment regarding comparisons of ridership to other cities in the report. Mr. Robar responded that he did not have the statistics at hand but could provide it to the Committee later on. Regarding comparable cities, Mr. Robar responded that tourism in Victoria may account for the higher ridership.

Councillor Outhit stated that the Moving Forward plan feedback surveys should target non-users as well as users. Regarding the Commuter Rail study, he also stated that more than one open house would be required.

Councillor Watts asked how public consultation would happen in the Moving Forward plan. Mr. Reage responded that he could not give a full answer as the RFP had not yet closed for procuring a public consultation expert to create the process. He stated that they intended to do a finer grained consultation approach than was performed in the past, with a higher number of meetings. Councillor Watts encouraged Mr. Reage invite the consultant to meet with Councillors so that they could provide feedback.

Councillor Watts asked if the transit Go Time issue had yet been resolved. She also raised the issue of bus shelters, how they are implemented and contracted out. Councillor Watts inquired whether a staff report could be created that residents could refer to in terms of how the process worked for new bus shelters.

Regarding Go Time, Mr. Robar clarified that the issue had been resolved. Addressing bus shelters, Mr. Robar stated that growth of bus shelters is prescribed in a private contract at less than 10 shelters per year. He further stated that they did not pay for the maintenance of shelters. He indicated that they would be able to return to the Committee with a report.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the bus shelter program, including its delivery and contractual obligations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Mason questioned if the technology project would be implemented in time that a full year of baseline data could be obtainable before the system review in 2016. Mr. Robar stated that they would not have a full year of data by the time the Moving Forward plan would be implemented.

Councillor Mason asked Mr. Robar to address issues with the new ferry being out of service. Mr. Robar responded that three unrelated issues caused disruptions to service, including a voltage issue, clogged

fuel filters, and a human error. Mr. Robar clarified that there was no issue with the ferry itself and that it was in great condition.

Councillor Mason questioned if there would be flexibility in 2015 and 2016 to use collected data to address overloads. Mr. Reage responded that the issue could not be addressed currently, but more likely could be addressed after the Moving Forward plan is implemented. He clarified that there is currently no great depth of information on overloading due to the nature of how overloads are reported.

Councillor Mason inquired if it would be possible to obtain an on time service report so that problematic routes that were not meeting their times could be analyzed. Mr. Robar responded that reporting lateness could be provided once the technology was implemented but as of now it is anecdotal.

Councillor Fisher questioned if security had become an issue at the Woodside Park and Ride given the increase in users. Mr. Robar responded that a security guard had been put in place during the mornings to ensure those using the Park and Ride were ferry users.

Councillor Fisher also discussed the second stage of public consultation in the Moving Forward together plan, asking if the consultation would be of a different style than the last and able to engage previous stakeholders. Mr. Robar responded that there are no preconceived notions of when the design will be implemented and that the information received will dictate subsequent process. Mr. Reage added that his team's role would be to bring forward a plan that is implementable; he emphasized that the concerns of users would need to be balanced.

Councillor Fisher inquired if the second round of engagement would be different than the first, and if it would be more of an information sharing style. Mr. Reage responded that it would certainly be a different style of consultation as they would be looking for specific feedback on the draft plan.

Councillor Hendsbee stated that he would like to see more data on Metro Link and Metro X services and their performance. He also indicated that consultation on the Moving Forward plan should be held in rural areas and not just urban core areas.

Councillor Dalrymple thanked Mr. Robar for the update on commuter rail and stated he was looking forward to the open house. Councillor Dalrymple concurred with Councillor Outhit that there should be two open houses. He also stated that December 19th would be the cut-off date for rural papers to advertise for a meeting in mid-January. Mr. Robar stated that notification would be given by that date.

Councillor Dalrymple left the meeting at 3:58 p.m.

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts stated that the update was available in writing for review.

9.3.2 Accessibility of HRM Public Events

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff report dated November 3, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to develop standards and protocol for accessibility at municipal public engagement events, including examination of best practice standards and protocols that are used in other municipalities.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts

This item was addressed in Item 9.3.1.

9.4.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff report dated October 20, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee requests the Transportation Standing Committee review how Recreational Trails can be supported through planning and the Municipal Capital Budget process.

Councillor Mason stated that the recreational trails did not have a cohesive strategy as it was not in the Active Transportation Plan.

The Chair stated that the motion indicated that the task fell to the Transportation Standing Committee to perform the review.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts that Item 9.4.2 – Halifax Regional Trails Association be deferred until the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple

This item was addressed in item 9.3.1.

10. MOTIONS - NONE

11. IN CAMERA

This item was discussed at a later time. See page 7.

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Status Update: Accomodating VON, Care Giver and Other Visitor Parking

Councillor Walker voiced disapproval of the report, stating that the initial motion was passed in February 2013. Councillor Walker inquired regarding the delay of implementing the original request.

Mr. Labrecque responded that staff was attempting to consolidate many aspects that would impact the forthcoming Parking Strategy report. Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management, also responded that there were several issues over the past year brought up by Council that required amendments to the Parking Bylaw. Mr. Koutroulakis stated that the Traffic Authority does not have the ability to issue passes for someone to park for free, as it is regulated by the bylaw. Mr. Koutroulakis stated that staff was working on a draft report to be brought to the Transportation Standing Committee in February, 2015.

Councilor Mason stated concern over timing and commented that consolidation of issues was not always necessary. Councillor Mason also inquired if there would need to be a public hearing. The Chair responded that it would be up to Council.

11. IN CAMERA

This item was dealt with at this time during the in camera session.

11.1 Personnel Matter

Citizen and Councillor appointments to boards and committees in keeping with the Public Appointment Policy adopted by Regional Council in August 2011, to be found at: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/citizenrecruitmentpolicy.pdf>

This item was dealt with during the in camera session.

11.1.1 Citizen Appointments to Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee

The following motions were ratified in the public session:

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee:

- 1. Appoint one citizen to the Post-secondary Education position on the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee as outlined in the Private and Confidential staff report dated November 25, 2014.**
- 2. Appoint two citizens to the Transportation Professional positions on the Crosswalk safety Advisory Committee as outlined in the Private and Confidential staff report dated November 25, 2014.**
- 3. It is further recommended that the citizen appointments be released to the public following ratification and notification of the successful candidates. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

11.1.2 Citizen Nominations – Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM

The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the citizen nominations for the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM.

11.1.3 Citizen Nominations – Active Transportation Advisory Committee

The following motion was ratified in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the citizen nominations for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Mason

That Transportation standing committee request a staff report regarding the mitigation of development and construction impacts on neighbouring businesses, residents, and pedestrians, no later than May 1, 2015, including and not limited to consideration of:

- 1. Establishing standards and requirements for substantial, covered, plywood hoardings around construction sites in urban area;*
- 2. Ensuring continued sidewalk accessibility and access for pedestrians and those with mobility issues around construction sites including lane narrowing and drops to accommodate same.*
- 3. Possible elimination or reduce encroachment fees for items 1 and 2;*

4. *Established standards for street cleaning resulting from construction dirt and debris.*
5. *Requiring standards for notification of impacted and abutting businesses and residents regarding street closure, with progressively higher notification requirements the longer the street will be closed, and a clear communications plan that may involve developers, Halifax corporate communications, and local business improvement districts.*
6. *Review of regulations for obtaining and usage of parking meter bags by contractors and recommendations for establishing penalties for misuse;*
7. *Display of notification regarding ongoing development, similar to development proposal notices, on development sites, including information about the development, a case number to find out more information,*

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 22, 2015

14.1 Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Walker that the 2015 schedule be approved.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:33 p.m.

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Updates** (*briefing note dated November 25, 2014*)
2. **Status Update: Accommodating VON, Care Giver and Other Visitor Parking** (*information report dated October 30, 2014*)
3. **Multiple Parking Passes** (*information report dated November 18, 2014*)

Andrew Reid
Legislative Assistant