



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 23, 2016**

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Outhit, Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Russell Walker
Councillor Linda Mosher

STAFF: Ms. Jane Fraser, Acting Deputy CAO
Ms. Sarah Knight, Solicitor
Ms. Cathy Collett, 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/160623tsc-agenda.php>.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

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

The Committee agreed to move the In Camera (In Private) section to the end of the agenda, after public participation.

The Committee agreed to hear any members of the public who would like to speak regarding 12.1.2 Crosswalk Flag Program prior to the Committee's discussion regarding the Staff Report on this matter.

MOVED by Councillor Russell Walker, seconded by the Councillor Waye Mason

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2/3 majority vote required.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Clerk noted that correspondence was received for item 12.1.2. This correspondence was circulated to members of the Standing Committee. For a detailed list of correspondence received, please refer to the specific agenda item.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Presentation from Crosswalk Safety Society of Nova Scotia

The following was before the Committee:

- *A handout from the Crosswalk Safety Society of Nova Scotia*

Mr. Scott Guthrie of the Crosswalk Safety Society of Nova Scotia provided a hand-out to Standing Committee members outlining the material of the presentation. Referring to the hand-out, Mr. Guthrie emphasized that the crosswalk flags are not only beneficial when they are used by pedestrians to cross the street, but that they also increase visibility of the crosswalk itself and, as staff have indicated, 87% of drivers yield to the crosswalks that have crosswalk flags. Mr. Guthrie indicated that the Crosswalk Safety Society would like that crosswalk flags be allowed to be installed as they currently are and continue to be managed by the society.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Prospect Road Sidewalk

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated May 12, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Reg Rankin, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

That the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council not direct the installation of the proposed sidewalk until such time as recommendation 5 from the approved 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan is implemented to provide a framework for systematic evaluation of active transportation infrastructure requests.

Councillor Walker commented that it should be noted that it is a very short piece of sidewalk under consideration and that something should be addressed as to whether it is a safety issue or not.

Mr. Dave Hubely agreed to make a note of this.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

12.1.2 Crosswalk Flag Program

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated June 6, 2016*
- *Correspondence from Mr. Bill Campbell, Walk 'n' Roll Halifax*

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mosher

That the Transportation Standing Committee forward a recommendation to Regional Council directing staff to prepare an administrative order outlining a policy, process, and criteria for the allowance of crosswalk flags to be placed at crosswalks.

The Committee discussed the benefits that the program provides to communities, while recognizing the important role of the traffic authority. The Committee recognized that the staff recommendation is missing a piece regarding a crosswalk safety working group and that it may be useful to consider the possible role of the Crosswalk Safety Society.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the staff recommendation be amended to include a reference to governance.

AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.

As such the motion now reads:

That Transportation Standing Committee forward a recommendation to Regional Council directing staff to prepare an administrative order outlining a policy, process, governance, and criteria for the allowance of crosswalk flags to be placed at crosswalks.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Integrated Mobility Plan Update

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated May 30, 2016*
- *Staff presentation on the Integrated Mobility Plan*

Mr. Rodney McPhail and Mr. Bob Bjerke provided a presentation outlining the staff report. Emphasizing that public engagement is always important to Regional Council, Mr. McPhail explained that there will be three rounds of public engagement that will include the use of social media.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Rankin

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee forward the report dated May 30, 2016 to Regional Council for Information and recommend that Regional Council also receive a presentation from Staff.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.4 2015/16 Q4 Halifax Transit KPI Information Report

The following was before the Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated June 3, 2016*
- *A staff presentation regarding the KPI report*

Mr. Dave Reage provided a staff presentation regarding the 2015/16 Q4 Halifax Transit KPI Information Report

Councillor Walker left the meeting at 2:19 p.m.

MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason, seconded by Councillor Gloria McCluskey

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the report.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.2.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee Reporting Structure

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A staff information report dated June 3, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

That the Transportation Standing Committee requests that Regional Council direct the Office of the Municipal Clerk to propose changes to the reporting structure of the

Accessibility Advisory Committee with consideration of the Committee's discussion at their May 16, 2016 meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference Revision

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A staff information report dated June 3, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mosher

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a Staff Report considering the suggested changes to the Terms of Reference provided in the discussion of the matter at the May 16, 2016 Committee meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.3.1 Policy for Regularize Participation and Funding Consideration for HRM Partnered Trail Association

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A Committee report dated May 26, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Rankin

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding possible creation of a policy to regularize participation and funding consideration for HRM-partnered trail associations with such national, provincial, and regional trail identification programs that may be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4 COMMITTEE UPDATES

12.4.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A written update of the Accessibility Advisory Committee*

12.4.2 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Update

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A written update of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee*

MOVED by Councillor Gloria McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the written updates.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS - NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

Council may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following:

14.1 Property Matter

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land in regard to

14.1.1 Ross Road Realignment Capital Budget – Private and Confidential Report

The following was before the Committee:

- *An In Camera (In Private) Staff Report dated May 25, 2016*

This matter was dealt with in Open Session.

MOVED by Councillor Gloria McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Waye Mason

That the Transportation Standing Committee endorse the design of the Ross Road Realignment as a priority for 2016-17 and recommend to Audit and Finance Standing Committee to recommend to Regional Council that funding be approved as outlined in the Private and Confidential staff report dated May 25, 2016.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14.2 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 matter was dealt with in Open Session.

14.2.1 Citizen Nomination to Active Transportation Advisory Committee – Private and Confidential Report

The following was before the Committee:

- *An In Camera (In Private) Staff Report dated June 16, 2016*

MOVED by Councillor Waye Mason, seconded by Councillor Reg Rankin

That the Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Appoint one (1) applicant, as outlined in the discussion section of the private and confidential staff report dated June 16, 2016, to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee for a term ending November 30, 2018**
- 2. Not release this report to the public**
- 3. Release the name of the citizen following Council's ratification and notification of the successful candidate.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Russell Walker

Take notice at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee to be held on July 21, 2016 I will ask for a staff report on the use of Lone Light (RRFB) Rapid Flashing Beacons for crosswalks in HRM.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

17.1 Mr. Jerry Blumenthal of Halifax indicated that he was speaking on behalf of the Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP). He explained that in January, the Province passed a bill allowing Segways on the sidewalks, but that no accessibility groups were consulted. He noted that he is not against Segway tours in which there are guides in the front and the back of the group, but that he is concerned about private citizens purchasing the devices and using them on the sidewalks of HRM. He questioned why Segways would be allowed on the sidewalks if bikes are not. Mr. Blumenthal noted that there are many people in the North End of Halifax with vision and hearing impairments, in addition to many seniors. He commented that Segways will make the sidewalks unsafe for these residents and requested that HRM conduct thorough research as to the safety concerns regarding Segways on the sidewalks. He noted that it is the prerogative of municipalities to create by-laws regarding Segways and that he hopes HRM will do so.

Mr. Max Rastelli commented that he respects everyone's opinion on the matter of Segways and that there was a two-year pilot project regarding Segway regulations in which the public was consulted. He explained that the data compiled indicates that Segways are safe on sidewalks. He noted that it is not fair to compare Segways to bicycles as they are much more maneuverable. He noted that there are already strict regulations and speed limits in place regarding Segway use in Nova Scotia.

Councillor Mason questioned the safety concerns regarding silently running vehicles and questioned whether it is appropriate to have Segways on congested streets such as Spring Garden Road.

Responding to a question from Councillor Mason, Mr. Max Rastelli informed the Standing Committee that Segway riders are required to have a horn or a bell. He stated that, as a Segway tour operator, he avoids congested areas. He noted that Segways do well in crowded spaces and that his first experience with Segways was in Rome, which is much busier than Halifax.

Ms. Milena Khazanavicius of Halifax commented that she has nothing to say against Mr. Max Rastelli or his business, but that Segways do not belong on the sidewalks in HRM. Guide dogs are trained to avoid traffic and vehicles, and having Segways on the sidewalks would make it difficult for them to do their job. She explained that while public consultation was conducted regarding Segways, it was not conducted in all of Nova Scotia and did not engage accessibility groups or people with a disability. Ms. Khazanavicius submitted two pieces of correspondence for the public record from members of the public who were unable to attend the meeting and who wished that the letters would be read on their behalf. The pieces of correspondence were from Ms. Janet Brush and Ms. Johanna Stork.

Ms. Pat Gates of Halifax commented that she has multiple disabilities and is very active. She explained that she frequently uses the Access a Bus and is often in locations waiting for the bus such as the new Central Library and that she would not hear the hum of a Segway to know if one was approaching. Ms. Gates expressed her hope that HRM would thoroughly research the safety of having Segways on the sidewalk in HRM. She commented that she does not have an issue with Segways in general and she believes healthy communities are for everyone, including people with disabilities and seniors

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Mr. Barry Abbot of North End Halifax thanked the Standing Committee for the opportunity to speak. He commented that he has no issue with Segways in parks and trails that are wide enough to accommodate them, but that the sidewalks in Halifax are too narrow to safely accommodate Segways.

**18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 21, 2016, 1:00, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall,
1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Assistant