



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 21, 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. Kirby Grant, 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/160721tsc-agenda.php>.

The meeting was called to order at 1:01 p.m. The Standing Committee moved into an In Camera (In Private) session at 2:30 and reconvened at 3:13 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 14, 2016 and June 23, 2016

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of June 14, 2016 and June 23, 2016 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Councillor Mosher requested that the Quinpool Road Parking Information Report be brought forward to the next meeting.

Additions:

15.1 Improved Taxi Safety – Councillor Walker

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2/3 majority vote required.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Motion Regarding the Reporting Structure of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

The following was before the Committee:

- A report dated July 11, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council request a staff report and recommendation on changes to the reporting structure of the Accessibility Advisory Committee as discussed at the Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting on May 16, 2016 and that this report be referred to the Transportation Standing Committee for review and comment prior to receipt by Regional Council.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 14.1.1 and 15.1. 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 Jerry Blumenthal, Canadian Association of Retired Persons (CARP) – Segways on HRM Sidewalks.

The following was before the Committee:

- *A handout from the Mr. Jerry Blumenthal*

Mr. Jerry Blumenthal commented that if HRM does not create a by-law to govern Segways, then HRM will be the only place in Canada allowing Segways on sidewalks. He explained that he is concerned with Bill 136, which allows Segways on sidewalks in Nova Scotia with the only regulations being that riders must wear a helmet and use a bell. He commented that there was a lack of public consultation in the development of the provincial legislation on the matter and that accessibility groups were not consulted at all. He noted that if bicycles are not allowed on sidewalks, Segways should not be either. He concluded that the sidewalks of HRM should not become a playground for motorized vehicles

The Chair thanked Mr. Blumenthal for his presentation.

The Standing Committee discussed the need for a staff report on the matter.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee waive notice of motion for the purpose of requesting a Staff Report

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

2/3 majority vote required

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report addressing:

- 1. Potential safety issues regarding Segways on sidewalks**
- 2. Best practises for municipal By-laws regarding Segways**
- 3. What latitude Halifax Regional Municipality has in regulating Segways, including, but not limited to, the regulation of speed and designated areas of use; and**
- 4. That the report also consider whether it is possible to address sidewalks as a separate entity from streets in terms of the Motor Vehicle Act.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.2 MEMBERS OF STANDING COMMITTEE

12.2.1 Councillor Waye Mason – Halifax Urban Greenway Association (HUGA) Trail license or easement

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A Request for Standing Committee Consideration form*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mosher

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the possible acquisition of a license or access easement in support of an active transportation trail along the aprons of the CN rail line from Inglis Street to the former Chester Spur (now the Chain of Lakes Trail).

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2.2 Councillor Tim Outhit – Process Update: Cogswell Interchange Traffic Management

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A staff information report dated July 11, 2016*
- *A Request for Standing Committee Consideration form*
- *A presentation regarding the staff report.*

Mr. John Spinelli and Mr. Mark MacDonald provided a presentation to the Standing Committee regarding options for re-routing vehicles during the Cogswell Interchange project.

The Chair thanked Mr. Spinelli and Mr. MacDonald for the presentation.

Moved by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker

That the Transportation Standing Committee receive the presentation.

The Standing Committee discussed the importance of frequent communication with stakeholders during this project.

Standing Committee members expressed concern with aspects of the proposed re-routing and emphasized that it is important to keep large trucks as close to the water as possible.

Standing Committee members discussed the challenges that roundabouts pose to large trucks.

Responding to questions of clarification from Standing Committee members, Mr. Spinelli commented that staff are working closely with stakeholders and that they have not downplayed the interruptions that the project will cause, but that stakeholders are being very cooperative and understand that the end results of the project will make the temporary inconveniences worthwhile. He continued to comment that staff are looking into practises that were successful in Europe and that wayfinding and communication will be key throughout the project.

Responding to comments that all Councillors should have the opportunity to hear the presentation, Ms. Jane Fraser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer explained staff will report to Regional Council on the project periodically and that an information report will to Regional Council in the future.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

12.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.3.1 Request for a Staff Report Regarding the Inclusion of Roll Call on all Halifax Regional Municipality Advisory and Standing Committee Agendas

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A Committee report dated July 11, 2016.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

That the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council request a Staff Report regarding the inclusion of Roll Call on all Halifax Regional Municipality Advisory and Standing Committee Agendas.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

12.4.1 Protected Bicycle Lane – Hollis Street

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- *A Committee report dated June 29, 2016.*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Rankin

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to help facilitate a Hollis Street Bicycle Lane protected pilot project in spring of 2017 and include a staff comment in regard to a long term strategy for an all ages and abilities biking facility and out of the downtown.

Members of the Standing Committee commented that they would be more comfortable with the motion if “facilitate” was replaced with the word “evaluate.”

The Mover indicated that this was a friendly amendment, as such, the motion now reads:

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee requests a staff report to evaluate the Hollis Street Bicycle Lane protected pilot project in spring of 2017 and include a staff comment in regard to a long term strategy for an all ages and abilities biking facility and out of the downtown.

MOTION PUT PASSED.

12.5 COMMITTEE UPDATES

12.5.1 Accessibility Advisory Committee

12.5.2 Active Transportation Standing Committee

The following was before the Standing Committee:

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

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the written updates.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Walker

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Rankin

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the use of Lane Light (RRFB) Rapid Flashing Beacons for crosswalks in HRM.

Councillor Walker distributed a data sheet regarding Lane Lights.

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre noted that there is a tender ready to go in four locations in order to test how effective they are.

Responding to questions of clarification, Mr. MacIntyre commented that two will be solar, two will be hard wired, and that they will be push buttoned activated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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 Contract Negotiations

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 Halifax Commuter Rail – Private and Confidential Report

This matter was dealt with at the end of the meeting.

15. ADDED ITEMS - NONE

15.1 Improved Taxi Safety – Councillor Walker

The following was before the Committee:

- *A Request for Standing Committee Consideration form*

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report for a strategy on moving forward on making taxis safer, including but not limited to universal education, in-car cameras, and barriers.

The Standing Committee discussed the proposed request for a staff report and commented that the report should also include increased visibility of roof light numbers, the potential need for by-law changes, the importance of stakeholder engagement and licensing standards, and the time-sensitive nature of the report.

The Mover indicated that all the additions are friendly amendments to the Motion on the floor.

As such, the motion now reads:

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report for a strategy on moving forward on making taxis safer, including but not limited to universal education, in-car cameras, barriers, increased visibility of roof light numbers, By-law changes, stakeholder engagement, and licensing standards and that this report come back to the Transportation Standing Committee at the September meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Mason

“Take Notice at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee I will move that the committee request a staff report regarding possible extension of hours of parking permit control on residential streets later than 4pm in areas adjacent to commercial zones with night operations.”

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

17.1 Mr. Derek Mathers, owner of yellow cab limited, commented that he is happy to see Councillor Walker move forward with the matter of taxi safety. He noted that there has also been three taxi drivers killed in their vehicle while working, and that this is about the safety of everyone. He explained that taxi brokers support the idea of in car cameras and that it will be important to involve drivers as HRM moves ahead with taxi safety, as they are the ones who have the most experience to add. Mr. Mathers thanked Councillors McCluskey and Ranking for their years of service to the people of HRM.

Mr. Vlado Ostarcevic, explained that he is a taxi driver in HRM and that he believes that the taxi roof light number should be larger and more visible and also displayed on the dash board. He suggested that there should be a meeting called to discuss what is going on with taxi drivers.

Mr. Tristan Cleveland, of the Ecology Action Center noted that the EAC welcomes the opportunity to explore potentially economically sustainable uses of rail transit in HRM. He noted that if Commuter Rail is to happen, it will be important to the success of the project to rezone areas in such that there are transit-oriented communities around the transit stations.

Mr. Ray Wagner, of Communities and Residents for Sustainable Transportation (CREST), noted that it is important to have choices for methods of transportation and that he is hopeful the proposal for commuter rail in HRM will bring the city into the next stage of transportation.

At 2:30 p.m. Councillor McCluskey moved to go to an In Camera (In Private) discussion.

At 3:13 p.m. the Transportation Standing Committee resumed public session.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

That the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to further explore the unsolicited proposal regarding commuter rail in Halifax Regional Municipality, and that staff return to Regional Council with the results of the discussion for further consideration.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

**Transportation Standing Committee Minutes
July 21, 2016**

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 22, 2016, 1:00, Council Chambers, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:14 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Assistant