



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
September 10, 2014**

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

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant
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 Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCtransp/140910tscAgenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m., and adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 23, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the minutes of July 23, 2014 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, requested that the Committee consider deferring item 9.1.3 “Traffic Calming Policy” to the next meeting, to allow him time to discuss with staff the origin and criteria of the matter, to facilitate a better discussion with the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that item 9.1.3 “Traffic Calming Policy” be deferred to the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The following Information Items were added to the agenda for discussion:

- 8.3.3 Information Item #1 – The Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan Update (information report dated Aug. 22/14)
- 9.1.1(i) Information Item #2 - Accessible Taxis and Owner/Operators (information report dated May 16/14)
- 9.1.1(ii) Information Item #3 - 2013 Annual Review – Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group (information report dated May 6/14)

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts, 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

Correspondence was received on item 9.1.4 Bikeway Partnership with Dalhousie University, and was circulated to the Committee.

8.2 Petitions - None

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 Halifax Transit - 2013/14 Q4 Halifax Transit KPI Report

The following information was before the Committee:

- An information report dated June 30, 2014
- A copy of the staff presentation

Mr. Eddie Robar, Director, Halifax Transit, presented the Halifax Transit 2013/14 Fourth Quarter report. A copy of Mr. Robar's presentation is on file.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, Mr. Dave Reage, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, advised that the RFP for the Lacewood Transit Terminal has been awarded to Avondale Construction. He noted that design work will take a few more weeks and construction will then be started.

Responding to an inquiry from Councillor Dalrymple, Mr. Reage advised that CPCS Transcom, the consultant selected to prepare the commuter rail feasibility study is an international company, and their project manager, Mr. George Kaulbach, formerly oversaw maritime infrastructure for CN Rail. He advised that they are working through the details of the study timeframe.

In response to a question from Councillor Watts, Mr. Robar advised that staff will have a detailed design specification in place for voice announcement transit buses toward the end of September, and will have more details for the next quarterly update.

8.3.2 Halifax Transit - 2014/15 Q1 Halifax Transit KPI Report

The following information was before the Committee:

- An information report dated August 22, 2014

Mr. Robar commented on elements of the 2014/15 first quarter report, noting that it included lost service hours in conventional transit as per the Committee's request. He noted that staff were not able to include data on service readiness, but will try to collect that data for the second quarter report. Mr. Robar clarified that data is currently collected manually, and with the upcoming technology upgrades, staff will be in a better position to collect reliable data. He further noted that staff will endeavor to include benchmark Canadian Urban Transit Association industry standards in the next quarterly report for comparison.

Responding to an inquiry from Councillor Watts, Mr. Robar confirmed that quarter to quarter conventional service hours will change, taking into consideration, for example, snow and winter storm related incidents in the winter months.

In response to a further inquiry from Councillor Watts, Mr. Robar indicated that with the upcoming technology upgrades, staff will have better data on the specifics of bus defects.

Councillor Mason thanked staff for the quarter by quarter comparison information, and suggested that a three to five year comparison with a trend line will be useful when the new technology upgrades are implemented, to see trends as they emerge.

Councillor Mason further suggested that having data on the expanded Woodside Ferry service, and the Metro X service would be useful in demonstrating how such investments have a positive impact on the municipality. Mr. Robar indicated that ferry service ridership is still done by a manual count once a year, and again the technology upgrades will provide better data.

Responding to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Fisher, Mr. Robar advised that ridership and revenue figures are based on an average fare of \$1.06 per boarding. Mr. Robar further clarified that when the new ferries join the fleet in 2015 and 2017, the Woodside I will be kept as an extra vessel, for when a ferry is taken out of service for repairs.

In response to a question from Councillor Walker, Mr. Robar confirmed that the store/coffee shop is still included in the Lacewood Transit Terminal design. Councillor Walker commented that when the terminal is operational, he hopes the routes of mainland north will be redesigned to include Mount Royal. Mr. Robar confirmed that the Moving Forward plan will include a redesign of the routes in that area.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired about opportunities for slight adjustments to transit routes. Mr. Robar indicated that annual service plans are presented to Council, and would be Council's opportunity for route adjustments.

8.3.3 The Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan Update

The following information was before the Committee:

- Staff information report dated August 22, 2014

This information report (Information Item # 1) was added to the agenda for discussion during the approval of the order of business.

At the request of Councillor Watts, Mr. Reage indicated that the details of the consultation process are still being worked out, but they intend to hold a larger number of smaller meetings to discuss with stakeholders what the future transit network could look like and gather feedback on whether that would meet the needs and expectations of users.

At the request of Councillor Watts, Mr. Reage indicated that staff would bring back an overview of the consultation process once details are developed.

Mr. Reage noted that there are some parts of the system that work extremely well, and some successes that shouldn't be changed for the sake of change. With regard to the examination of a transfer based system, staff believe that transfers will drive up riders travel time. He commented that Halifax does not have a grid street network, a multi-modal bus-subway system, or the population to support a high frequency transfer based system.

Councillor Outhit suggested that non-riders be consulted to find out what it would take to get them to take transit. He suggested a different format for consultation with non-riders, such as setting up in a shopping mall to solicit feedback.

Councillor Mason inquired whether the Moving Forward plan will identify key "choke points" coming into the downtown where key investments such as bus by-passes would alleviate traffic problems. Mr. Reage indicated that Strategic Transportation Planning staff are working on transit priority opportunities.

Responding to an inquiry from Councillor Outhit, Mr. Robar indicated that staff are taking a step back and looking at the resource requirements for moving forward with the plan. He noted that the criteria from the public included simplifying the transit network, and staff do not believe they can achieve that criteria through a full transfer based system.

Councillor Watts requested a memo or email update from staff describing the potential change in direction.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Amendments to By-law T-1001 and Administrative Order No. 39 Respecting the Regulations of Taxis and Limousines

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated June 16, 2014

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Kevin Hindle, Supervisor, Regional Licensing, commented that this matter originates from discussions at the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group, a presentation at the February 5, 2014 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee by the Halifax Taxi Drivers Owners Association and housekeeping items picked up by staff.

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

- 1. Adopt By-law T-1001, which includes amendments to By-law T-1000, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis, Accessible Taxis and Limousines, as set out in Appendix B of the June 16, 2014 report;**
- 2. Adopt amendments to Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulation, as set out in Appendix D of the June 16, 2014 report; and**
- 3. Authorize HRM Traffic Services to request the Province of Nova Scotia to amend the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act in support of a pilot project enabling taxis to stand at authorized Fire Hydrants.**

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Watts, Mr. Hindle clarified that the requirement for taxi drivers to carry such items as a fire extinguisher, first aid kit, seat belt cutter, etc. is included as part of CSA D4 09 certification for accessible taxis, and have been included in the amendments to Administrative Order #39.

Councillor Walker noted that section 40.0 of By-law T-1000 regarding Taxi Owner's License Limitations was struck and replaced with a new section 40.0 License Limitations. Mr. Hindle clarified that if By-law T-1001 is adopted, the waiting list of applicant for new taxi owner's licenses would no longer be necessary as the accessible taxi licenses would be available on demand. Responding to further questions from Councillor Walker, Mr. Hindle confirmed that the intent of the by-law is for all taxis in HRM to eventually be accessible taxis.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Hendsbee, Mr. Hindle advised that there are currently 72 multiple owner licenses being held in the municipality, and when these licenses are returned, they will no longer be available as multiple owner licenses. Mr. Hindle further clarified at the request of Councillor Hendsbee that rates set out in Schedule 3 of the By-law are based on mileage and distance.

Councillor Hendsbee corrected the spelling of locations in Schedule 3 of Appendix C of the June 16, 2014 staff report, as follows:

- Bellmont to Belmont
- Montegue Rd to Montague Rd
- Raindbow Heaven to Rainbow Haven

Councillor Hendsbee asked that the Appeals Standing Committee be provided an update of the proposed changes. In response to an inquiry from Councillor Hendsbee regarding driver security, Mr. Hindle confirmed that there is nothing in the By-law that would prohibit a driver from putting up shields or cameras. He noted that industry feedback was that drivers do not want such security matters mandated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair suggested that a presentation be provided to Regional Council.

9.1.1(i) Information Item #2 - Accessible Taxis and Owner/Operators

The following information was before the Committee:

- An Information Report dated May 16, 2014.

This information report (Information Item # 2) was added to the agenda for discussion during the approval of the order of business.

In response to an inquiry from Councillor Walker, Mr. Hindle advised that the current number of accessible taxis is 48, and that approximately one year ago there were 33.

Responding to concerns from Councillor Walker with regard to drivers not charging the meter rate, Mr. Hindle clarified that the By-law stipulates two options for charging fares; by using the meter calculation, or by negotiating a fare up front between the passenger and driver. He noted that the passenger has the right to ask that the meter be used.

Councillor Walker commented that these options are not being communicated to passengers. Mr. Hindle suggested that this could be clarified in the Passenger/Operator Code of Ethics.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Passenger/Operator Code of Ethics include for clarification that the by-law stipulates there are two options for charging fares; a fare may be negotiated between operator and passenger prior to departure, or the passenger may request the meter be used to calculate the fare. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

At the request of Councillor Walker, Mr. Hindle confirmed that licenses are not transferrable.

9.1.1(ii) Information Item #3 - 2013 Annual Review – Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group

The following information was before the Committee:

- Information Report dated May 6, 2014.

Responding to concerns about the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group meeting privately, and not publically advertising agendas and minutes, Mr. Hindle advised that those concerns were brought forward last year and minutes, agendas and meeting notices are now posted on the HRM website under the Taxi Service Division. Meeting notices are also posted on industry websites. Mr. Hindle also advised that meeting agenda items have also been brought forward from the industry.

Councillor Walker noted further concerns that it is difficult go get through to the Taxi Division through the 3-1-1 call centre, and has been hearing that it takes a long time to have calls returned. Mr. Hindle advised that the standard is to return calls within 3 days, and calls are regularly returned the same day.

Councillor Mason questioned why this Group is not a Committee supported by the Clerk's Office. Mr. Hindle advised that the Group was moved away from the traditional HRM Committee structure several years ago to become a staff-industry-passenger liaison group.

9.1.2 Rural Road Standard for Multi-Use Trail, Seven Lakes, Porters Lake

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation/information report dated August 25, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker, that the Transportation Standing Committee accept the staff recommendation in the August 25, 2014 report that crusher dust not be accepted as the surface course of a sidewalk in the right-of-way at the Seven Lakes Development, Porters Lake.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated he placed the staff recommendation on the floor to allow for debate, and asked the Committee to not support the motion. He clarified that when the Seven Lakes development proposal came forward, it included a proposal to have an active transportation trail as a part of the road network, but because of regulations in the Condominium Act, the trail had to be located within the road right of way. Councillor Hendsbee clarified that the trail is intended as an active transportation trail, not a sidewalk, and crusher dust would be the best surface material. He noted that there are many crusher dust trails throughout the municipality.

Mr. Peter Duncan, Manager, Infrastructure, clarified that a sidewalk is a walkway within the public right-of-way.

Responding to an inquiry from Deputy Mayor Fisher, Mr. Duncan indicated that he did not believe there to be any crusher dust trails within the right of way within the Municipality.

Ms. Thea Langille, Major Project Planner, indicated that staff had many discussions on the trail feature of the development, discussing whether it would be considered private land, public land, or park land.

Ms. Langille clarified at the request of Deputy Mayor Fisher, that the linear trail along the road is the feature in question.

Councillor Dalrymple questioned why using crusher dust on the trail would be an issue, noting that would not necessarily need to be plowed in the winter, and could be left snow covered for cross country skiing. He inquired whether there is something in municipal regulations that would required it to be plowed.

Mr. Duncan indicated that there is no law that says it has to be maintained, although the municipality has operated in the past that if a trail is within the right of way, that it should be maintained to HRM standards.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, indicated that there may be an element of liability associated with not maintaining a trail on a municipal right-of-way in the winter. He noted that once a trail becomes a public asset, it comes with becomes the public expectation that it be maintained. Mr. Labrecque suggested that the Committee may wish to request a supplementary report responding to issues of liability and maintenance.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that this matter be deferred for a supplementary report on issues of liability and maintenance. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.3 Traffic Calming Policy

The following information was before the Committee:

- A recommendation report dated August 14, 2014.

During the approval of the order of business, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

Councillor Dalrymple left the meeting at 3:55 p.m.

9.1.4 Bike Lane Partnership with Dalhousie University

The following information was before the Committee:

- Staff recommendation report dated August 25, 2014.
- Correspondences from Patricia Creighton and Patricia De Meo.
- A copy of the staff presentation.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council authorize the Chief Administrative Officer to enter into an agreement with Dalhousie University for the construction and pilot operation of a protected bike lane on University Avenue as described in the August 25, 2014 staff report.

Councillor Mason noted that abutting land owners Dalhousie University and the Nova Scotia Archives support the initiative. He commented that there will be a loss of parking, although he hopes it will be offset by the increase in cycling. Councillor Mason noted that cycling infrastructure such as bike racks and repair stations are highly used, and commented on the large number of people that already bike to work at Dalhousie. He suggested increasing metered parking on Henry, Edward and Seymour Streets.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired whether there is any long term vision for reconfiguring University Avenue.

Mr. Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner, clarified that HRM has been working with Dalhousie on this pilot project related to cycling infrastructure and indicated that this is an opportunity to advance the direction of the Active Transportation Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS - None

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts

The following was before the Committee:

- An Advisory Committee Updates document for July/August 2014.

Councillor Watts updated that the next annual Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility, hosted by the Accessibility Advisory Committee will be held on Wednesday, October 29th at 6:30 p.m. in the cafetorium of the Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre, 202 Innovation Drive, Bedford.

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts

The following was before the Committee:

- An Advisory Committee Updates document for July/August 2014.

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple

The following was before the Committee:

- An Advisory Committee Updates document for July/August 2014.

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Hendsbee

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to provide a policy and fiscal framework for Regional Councillors to make requests for pilot projects to suggest slight service adjustments to any Metro Transit route as an attempt to enhance quality and increase service reliability of existing transit routes.

Due to time constraints, this item was deferred to the next meeting.

10.2 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on implementing a change to process for the purchase of parking passes to allow for purchase of multiple passes at one time, preferably electronically.

Councillor Watts noted that there is already a parking pass permit process in place, and the intent of this motion is to examine allowing for the bulk purchase of on-street parking passes, using the example of a business or restaurant securing space for their customers.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.3 Councillor Watts

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of having designated car share spots in the right of way in locations approved by the Traffic Authority.

Watts - Would like this addressed within the parking strategy review underway. Outside on row, have an opportunity for a car share parking spot.

The Committee agreed to defer this item to the next meeting pending clarification from staff.

11. IN CAMERA

11.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes – July 23, 2014

MOVED BY Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the minutes from the July 23, 2014 In Camera session of Harbour East-Marine Drive Community Council be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12. ADDED ITEMS - None

Councillor Walker requested an update for the next meeting on the VON parking status sheet item.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Wednesday, October 1, 2014, 2:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 3rd floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:04 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

- 1. The Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan Update** (*information report dated Aug. 22/14*)
 - 2. Accessible Taxis and Owner/Operators** (*information report dated May 16/14*)
 - 3. 2013 Annual Review – Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group** (*information report dated May 6/14*)
 - 4. Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update** (*briefing noted dated September 2, 2014*)
-