

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES

September 27, 2012

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal
Councillor Debbie Hum
Councillor Bob Harvey

REGRETS:

Councillor Fisher

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 1:03 p.m. in the Dartmouth Council Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 5 & August 8, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Barkhouse, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee minutes of July 5 and August 8, 2012 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Information Item #2 – Winter Parking Ban – information report dated August 23, 2012
- 9.2 Information Item #1 – Five Big Moves for Transit – Update – information report dated June 11, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS

4.1 Correspondence - None

4.2 Petitions - None

4.3 Presentations - None

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – August 8, 2012

5.1 Councillor Hum - Truck Route Traffic on Kearney Lake Road

An information report dated July 12, 2012 that was deferred from the August 8, 2012 meeting was before the Committee.

Councillor Hum noted that she has received feedback from the Kearney Lake Residents Association on this matter. She clarified that the area of concern is with the south side of Highway 102/Kearney Lake Road. Councillor Hum indicated that she will be circulating this information report to local businesses and community organizations and will have the report tabled at the November Chebucto Community Council meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 MusGo Rider Rural Public Transit Pilot

A staff report dated August 29, 2012 was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Grant a request for \$10,000 from MusGo Rider for the operation of a community-based rural public transit pilot service in the Musquodoboit Harbour area, subject to HRM staff review prior to award of funding; and**
- 2. That funding come from account CTR00908 – Transportation Demand Management Program.**

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that MusGo Rider has provided sufficient information to staff, including their business plan and financial statements, and this program could be a pilot project for other community-led rural transit projects that may come forward for other areas of HRM.

Members of the Committee spoke in support of the MusGo program, and rural transit initiatives in general, but noted caution in approving operational funding to a community-led rural transit project without having a funding process in place to support such projects. Mr. Eddie Robar, Director, Metro Transit, explained that there is currently no mechanism in place to distribute funding and evaluate these services, to ensure accountability and that funding is being used effectively. The Committee also expressed concern with the precedent it may set to approve this request for funding.

Mr. Robar further explained that “subject to HRM staff review” would be a financial and legal review, as well as a review with the grants program, and that staff would undertake industry research for the development of program criteria.

With the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion on the floor was amended, as follows:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

- 1. Grant a request for \$10,000 from MusGo Rider for the operation of a community-based rural public transit pilot service in the Musquodoboit Harbour area, subject to HRM staff review *and development of criteria to***

fund community-led rural transit initiatives, prior to the award of funding to MusGo Rider; and

2. That funding come from account CTR00908 – Transportation Demand Management Program.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.3 MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL

7.4 MATTERS REFERRED FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

7.5 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.5.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Councillor Watts provided an update on the activities of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that they heard presentations from Placemaking Halifax on the evaluation of the painting of the Northwood and Black Street intersection, and the Sackville Rivers Association on plans for the Sackville Greenway. Public consultation sessions have been held on the cross town corridor initiative. The Active Transportation Plan review has started, and is going to focus group consultation before moving to public consultation.

7.6 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

7.6.1 Update from Councillor Blumenthal (verbal)

Councillor Blumenthal commented that he is very pleased with the accessibility issues in HRM owned and operated facilities that have been rectified with the help of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and in particular that at the end of September the Needham Centre will be an accessible facility.

8. MOTIONS

Notice of Motion of the following three items was provided at the August 8, 2012 meeting.

8.1 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Barkhouse, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the implications of priority clearing of bus stop shelters during winter snow events. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.2 Councillor Watts

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the Transportation Standing Committee request an information report on how current Metro Transit service standards have been decided upon.

Councillor Watts noted that this issue is arising further to recent discussions around ferry service. She is looking for a baseline and how that was reached, noting that this information would also be helpful for the new Councillors.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.3 Councillor Hendsbee

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of a double left-hand turning lane capacity off the MacDonald Bridge onto Wyse Road.

Councillor Hendsbee clarified that this is in an effort to minimize traffic in that area, noting that there have been recent traffic changes with the new Bridge Transit Terminal.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Information Item #2 – Winter Parking Ban – information report dated August 23, 2012

At the request of Committee members, Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager, Traffic & Right of Way, Transportation & Public Works, responded to questions about the upcoming Winter Parking Ban, in particular the communication strategy.

Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works, encouraged the cooperation and participation of everyone, noting that residents should report issues to the HRM Call Centre.

9.2 Information Item #1 – Five Big Moves for Transit – Update – information report dated June 11, 2012

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hum, that the “Five Big Moves for Transit – Update” information report dated June 11, 2012 be forwarded to Regional Council for their information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. NOTICES OF MOTION - None

11. NEXT MEETING – Thursday, October 25, 2012

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2012, at 1:00 p.m. in the Dartmouth Council Chamber, 90 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 2:10 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Five Big Moves for Transit – Update** – *information report dated April 30, 2012*
2. **Winter Parking Ban** – *information report dated August 23, 2012*
3. **Traffic Assessment of Caldwell Road** – *information report dated September 17, 2012*