

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

January 24, 2013

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

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

OTHERS

PRESENT:

Councillor Lorelei Nicoll  
Councillor Steve Craig

STAFF:

Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works  
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 13, 2012**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee minutes of December 13, 2012 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee agreed to move item 8.1 Motion - Councillor Walker to immediately follow item 4.2.

Deletion:

7.3.1 Councillor Watts – Update on public consultation process for Metro Transit Restart (oral)

The Legislative Assistant updated that staff have advised that Metro Transit Restart will be presented to Regional Council in February prior to coming to the Transportation Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Correspondence**

**4.1.1 Correspondence from Halifax Community Health Board re: Crosstown Connector**

Correspondence from the Halifax Community Health Board dated January 14, 2013 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Transportation Standing Committee accept the correspondence. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4.2 Petitions – None**

### 8.1 Councillor Walker

*“To request that Regional Council request a staff report for a full review of the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Committee and how it is working, in response to concerns from taxi drivers.”*

Notice of Motion was provided on December 13, 2012.

At the request of the Committee, Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager, License Standards, provided an overview of the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group.

Councillor Walker noted that he has been hearing a number of concerns from taxi drivers with regard to the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG), including whether the structure of the group meets the needs of the people that work in the industry. He noted concern that drivers are not getting input into decisions and are not being heard.

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report for a full review of the Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group and how it is working, in response to concerns from taxi drivers.**

The Committee discussed the motion, with the following comments and questions were raised for inclusion in the report:

- Is the current structure of the TLLG the right structure?
- Who should be a member of the TLLG? Should a Councillor be a member?
- Is the TLLG meeting the needs of all of the people who work in the industry?
- Concerns with a lack of engagement with drivers, and how they are being heard.
- That the report include information on how complaints are being heard, including issues drivers have been experiencing with Bylaw T 1000.
- Complaints with a lack of communication with drivers, and what is the communication plan for the TLLG.

Councillor Watts requested that the minutes of TLLG meetings, which are currently only circulated to members of the TLLG, be made more widely available. Ms. MacDonald confirmed that this can be done.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that HRM should transfer responsibility of the taxi industry to the Nova Scotia Utility & Review Board. Ms. MacDonald advised that staff are looking into this option.

Councillor Outhit inquired whether it would be within the scope of the Transportation Standing Committee to invite driver representatives to provide feedback on what would make the TLLG better. Ms. MacDonald advised that there are a number of new members starting with the group next month, and staff will be clarifying the roles and responsibilities with the group at that time. Councillor Outhit noted that in that case his suggestion may be premature and could perhaps be considered in the future.

Mr. Jim Donovan, Manager, Municipal Compliance, discussed the parameters of the requested report and advised that staff met with drivers from the Halifax Taxi Drivers Association about the purpose of the Group. He indicated that staff will continue to work on building relationships with the taxi industry.

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **4.3 Presentations**

#### **4.3.1 Sustainable Transportation - Timothy Papandreou, Sustainable Streets-Strategic Planning & Policy, San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency**

Ms. Pam Cooley, President, CarShareHfx, advised that for the fourth anniversary of Car Share Halifax they brought Mr. Timothy Papandreou to Halifax to speak at a public event, and thought it a good opportunity for the Committee to hear from him as well on what is being done in San Francisco to create a sustainable transportation system. Mr. Papandreou is Deputy Director of Sustainable Streets-Strategic Planning & Policy with the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA).

Mr. Papandreou indicated that Halifax and San Francisco face similar transportation opportunities and challenges, including a compact peninsula surrounded by water and connected by bridges, with a growing population of students, seniors and families. Mr. Papandreou presented an overview of the agency, SFMTA transportation strategies, integration, demand management, infrastructure support, and partnerships. A copy of Mr. Papandreou's presentation is available online.

Discussion followed the presentation with Mr. Papandreou responding to questions.

The Chair thanked Ms. Cooley and Mr. Papandreou for attending. Ms. Cooley invited members to attend public events being held for CarShareHfx's fourth anniversary.

## **5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

### **5.1 Update - Commuter Rail Study (oral)**

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects, Metro Transit, reviewed the recent history of this matter with the Committee. She updated that the status of the study has not changed since the last update, because CN Rail is not willing to participate in the study until litigation between HRM and CN with regard to bridge maintenance is resolved. Ms. Hughes advised that staff will be exploring ways to move the study forward.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor, noted that there is a legislative provision in the *Canadian Transportation Act* that allows the

agency that regulates the industry to give orders in certain circumstances, which may be an option.

Ms. Grant reviewed the January 10, 2012 Regional Council motion directing staff to engage CN Rail in participation in the study, and indicated that the approach discussed here today would be within the scope of that motion.

Councillors also encouraged discussions with Via Rail. Ms. Hughes clarified that Via Rail does not operate commuter rail service, with the exception of Go Train in Toronto and maintenance of tracks for commuter rail in BC.

The Committee urged forward progress on this matter, and asked for a further update at the next meeting.

## **5.2 Update - Mainland Halifax North-Bedford Corridor Transportation and Wastewater Servicing Strategy (oral)**

Mr. David McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager, provided a brief overview of the study. There are five locations for potential infill within the study area where developers are asking for greater density than what existing land use by-laws permit. The idea of the study is to test the impact of those densities on transportation and infrastructure demands. The study will include three scenarios for levels of transit investment through active transportation, transit and car traffic.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Mr. McCusker advised that the consultant has committed to completing the study by the end of March 2013, noting that it is an ambitious schedule.

Councillor Outhit noted the importance of this study for residents of Districts 16 (Bedford - Wentworth) and 10 (Halifax - Bedford Basin West) and the Regional Plan 5 year Review, because of major development applications coming forward.

Discussion ensued on the study, with Mr. McCusker responding to questions. Councillors noted concern with developments being approved prior to the completion of this study.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

## **7. REPORTS**

### **7.1 STAFF - None**

### **7.2 MATTERS REFERRED FROM REGIONAL COUNCIL**

#### **7.2.1 Councillor Appointment to Metro Transit Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee**

Councillor Watts noted there is a Councillor vacancy to be filled on the Metro Transit Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Watts, that Councillor Mason be nominated as Council representative on the Metro Transit Accessible Transportation Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **7.3 MATTERS REFERRED FROM COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

#### **7.3.1 Councillor Watts - Update on Public Consultation Process for Metro Transit Restart (oral)**

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the order of business. Refer to page 3.

### **7.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **7.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts provided an update on recent activity at the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, including:

- A presentation from the Institutional Bike Group about an integrated active transportation plan for the area.
- Public consultations on the HRM Active Transportation Plan Review will be taking place in March and April 2013.

### **7.5 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

#### **7.5.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts provided an update on recent activity at the Accessibility Advisory Committee, including:

- A presentation on a proposal for an accessibility map of HRM, using a crowd sourcing model.
- Discussion on accessibility improvements at the Emera Oval including parking and pedestrian safety.
- The Committee will be undertaking a strategic planning session to set a 3-5 year plan to set goals on issues of accessibility.
- A discussion on sidewalk standards and the implications for accessibility will take place at a future meeting.

## **8. MOTIONS**

### **8.1 Councillor Walker**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Refer to page 4.

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10.1 Councillor Watts**

“Take notice that, at the next regular meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, to be held Thursday, February 28, 2013, I intend to move a motion to request a staff report examining the ability to have transit impact study on development proposals.”

**11. IN CAMERA**

**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>

**11.1.1 Citizen Appointments to HRM Committees**

An In Camera session was held following the adjournment of the regular meeting for the purpose of dealing with this matter.

**11. NEXT MEETING – February 28, 2013**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, February 28, 2013, at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:39 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

## **INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Transit Funding Sources** – *information report dated November 20, 2012*