

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

August 7, 2013

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

STAFF:             Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
                      Ms. Roxanne Maclaurin, Solicitor  
                      Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. in the Council Chamber, City Hall, Halifax, Nova Scotia.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that the minutes of the July 3, 2013 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, as distributed, be approved.**

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Subsidized Annual Bus Pass – Councillor Watts
- 9.2 Visitor Parking Exemption – Councillor Watts
- 9.3 Update on Request for Taxi Report – Stakeholder Group – Councillor Walker
- 9.4 Update Road Network Plan – Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts requested that the Status Sheet be added as an item under Business Arising.

The agenda, as amended, was accepted.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**4.1 Correspondence**

**4.1.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition re: Bell Street Bike Lanes**

Correspondence received July 13, 2013 from the Board of Directors of the Halifax Cycling Coalition regarding reduction of the total length of bicycle lanes on the corridor as a result of a resurfacing/restriping project.

Councillor Watts expressed concern and asked why HRM had reduced the length of the lanes. The Deputy CAO indicated that he believed this to simply be an error and noted that he would look into the matter and report back.

**4.2 Petitions - None**

**4.3 Presentation - None**

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

### **5.1 Street Closure Policy or Special Events and Parades**

At the July meeting of the Committee Councillor Mason requested that this information item be included on this agenda for this meeting. The Information report dated May 13, 2013 was before the Committee. A breakdown of internal/external municipal costs for events for 2012 was distributed to the Committee.

Correspondence as follows was also distributed:

- From Paul MacKinnon, Executive Director, Downtown Halifax Business Commission regarding Charging for City Services for Events
- From Rod McCulloch, Co-Chair Blue Nose Marathon regarding charges for road closures and policing during the Marathon

Councillor Mason expressed concern that the usual benchmark cities were not used when preparing this report. He went on to indicate that the report was lacking in that it did not provide any breakdown of how other jurisdictions subsidize events. He noted that policing is a significant cost and that in other areas volunteers are used where HRM requires police (i.e. traffic control). He further noted that contractors use employees or private contractors for traffic control within HRM.

The Councillor expressed support for the organizations that had submitted correspondence. Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation and Culture, noted that the issues raised in the correspondence would require a policy change.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Fisher that staff prepare a report for consideration and possible recommendation to Regional Council with the intention of placing the street closure policy in the form of an Administrative Order that shall:**

- a) clearly outline current practices used by staff at the Special Events Task Force, timelines, and appeals process**
- b) allow for the use of private contractors and volunteers for road closures subject to compliance with the NS Temporary Workplace Manual and appropriate other legislation/collective agreements.**
- c) allow for establishment of a policy of waiving fees in lieu of grants subject to approval via Grants Committee or Special Events Advisory Committee as appropriate**
- d) create a notification system to abutters for street closure that allows for distribution of notices rather than petitions**
- e) require clear and comprehensive quotes on all regularly anticipated costs sufficiently before an event takes place in order to allow organizations time**

**to budget appropriately, and that only allows additional costs to be billed by HRM should identified exceptions or emergencies take place.**

A brief discussion ensued with members noting that there are inconsistencies in how costs are allocated. For example, there are no policing costs for events held in rural areas.

Councillor Dalrymple pointed out that urban events are significantly subsidized through HRM grants and these grants recognize the high cost of municipal services to the event.

Following a further brief discussion and questioning of staff, the **MOTION WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 Staff – None**

**7.2 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.2.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts advised that the Committee had met in July discussing Draft 3 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Strategic Plan and the annual Town Hall Meeting being held on September 30, 2013 at 6:30 p.m. in the Common Room, Dartmouth Sportsplex. The Councillor encouraged all members to attend the Town Hall Meeting. Councillor Watts further advised that Tanya Phillips of By-law Enforcement had given a presentation regarding by-law enforcement as it relates to accessibility.

**7.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts advised that no meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee had been held in July.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that staff investigate the possibility of utilizing Active Transportation funds to pave the shoulder of the road in rural areas to improve active transportation. Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, indicated he would look into the matter and get back to the Committee.

**7.4 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.4.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple (verbal)**

Councillor Dalrymple advised that the Committee had received a thorough orientation and would be developing a work plan with the help of a facilitator at the next meeting of the Committee.

## **8. MOTIONS**

### **8.1 Councillor Watts – Further Study of Potential for Agricola Street Bicycle Corridor**

Councillor Watts indicated that she has met with the North End Business Association and they are open to further study of an Agricola Street Bicycle Corridor.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee (TSC) requests that staff undertake further study of the potential for an Agricola bicycle corridor route that would include a parking management plan and report back to the TSC with the findings.**

Seeking to clarify the intent of the report, the Chair asked whether the Councillor anticipated that staff would carry out public consultation as part of the development of the report.

Councillor Watts indicated that she anticipated that staff would have a discussion with the Business Association and abutters.

The Deputy CAO cautioned that an Agricola Street Bicycle Corridor would be considered in the context of the Active Transportation Plan and that efforts should be made to not build expectations around the implementation of the corridor.

Councillor Fisher, noting that staff had already undertaken a thorough public consultation on the Agricola bike corridor, asked if it was a defined parking plan the Councillor was requesting.

Councillor Watts indicated that clarity on parking management was required relative to the Agricola bike corridor. She indicated that there were questions about the possible options around parking and that a defined parking plan would assist Council in making a decision.

Councillor Fisher noted that the public consultation then would be centred on parking management within the context of the Agricola bike corridor.

The Chair asked if staff were confident they understood what was being asked, to which Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Transportation Planning indicated yes.

## **MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

## **9. ADDED ITEMS**

### **9.1 Subsidized Annual Bus Pass - Councillor Watts**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that staff prepare a report on mechanisms to provide subsidized yearly bus passes to low income residents.**

Councillor Watts went on to request that staff survey programs in other municipalities and include information on how to define low income, the number of people potentially eligible in HRM for a subsidy, cost comparison to other subsidized Metro Transit passes, options for administering the implementation of the passes, and an overall cost impact analysis for the Metro Transit system.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that staff consider the transportation assistance presently provided by the Department of Community Services to low income earners.

A brief discussion regarding whether or not HRM could provide subsidized service in this manner ensued with Councillors pointing to programs such as the student bus pass and the Seniors Ride Free on Tuesday as precedent. Note was also made that HRM has a property tax rebate program which is based on income.

The Committee requested the report come back to the Committee in time to be considered in the 2014-15 annual budget.

### **9.2 Visitor Parking Exemption - Councillor Watts**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Walker that staff prepare a report examining the possibility of developing a short-term visitor parking exemption for Permit Parking Only areas to facilitate parking for care givers, service providers and other related short-term resident parking needs and would give staff the direction to examine the possibilities more fully and come back to TSC with a recommended approach.**

Councillor Watts indicated that she was seeking to further enable the existing policy allowing visitors to apply for a permit to address situations like those included in the motion.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **9.3 Update on Request for Taxi Report – Internal Stakeholder Committee – Councillor Walker**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

Ms. Denise Schofield, Manager, Regional Recreation and Culture, confirmed that the requested report was on target to come before the Committee in September. Councillor Walker indicated that the stakeholder group had no linkage to Council and suggested that an update report from the group to this Committee on a regular schedule was warranted.

#### **9.4 Update Road Network Functional Plan – Councillor Watts**

This matter was added during the setting of the agenda.

Councillor Watts advised that the Community Design Advisory Committee had recently discussed the Road Network Functional Plan. She went on to ask if there is to be a public consultation relative to the Road Network Functional Plan. She noted that all other plans have public consultation and that the expectation is there will be public consultation.

The Deputy CAO indicated he was not up to date on the details of the plan and would look into this aspect and get back to the Committee.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed concern regarding the wall work on Barrington Street and possible loss of synergies which might have been achieved with Irving. The Deputy CAO indicated that this was not the case.

Councillor Watts expressed concern regarding the loss of bus stops on Barrington and suggested that staff work with the developer to ensure access to service is restored as soon as possible.

### **10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

#### **10.1 Councillor Mason – Temporary on Street Parking**

Councillor Mason gave Notice of Motion that at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee scheduled for Thursday, September 26, 2013 he intends to move a motion requesting a staff report outlining the establishment of a temporary on street parking for residents who temporarily lose access to their parking due to road and sidewalk construction.

#### **11. IN CAMERA – None**

#### **12. NEXT MEETING - Thursday, September 26, 2013 – 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05 a.m.

Sherryl Murphy  
Deputy Clerk