

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

October 2, 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

STAFF:

Mr. Mike Labrecque, DCAO  
Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:04 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 17, 2013 (special meeting)**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee special meeting minutes of September 17, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Deletion:

- 4.3.2 Presentation - Lacewood Transit Terminal – Dalhousie Cities & Environment Unit

Councillor Walker requested that the following information reports be added to the November meeting agenda for discussion:

- Info Item No. 1 Taxi Medallion Proposal and Taxi Owner Licenses (information report dated September 9, 2013)
- Info Item No. 2 Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group Review (information report dated September 23, 2013)

Councillor Hendsbee requested that Bicycle Nova Scotia be invited to present at the November meeting and that the following information report be added to the November meeting agenda for discussion:

- Info Item No. 3 Paving Highway Shoulders for Active Transportation (information report dated August 29, 2013)

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Outhit, 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**

#### **4.3.1 Transit Training Orientation Program – Halifax Association for Community Living**

Information on the Halifax Association for Community Living Family Support Program was before the Committee.

Mr. Darren Watts, Family Support Facilitator & Program Coordinator, Halifax Association for Community Living, provided a brief overview of the organization, noting that they provide support to individuals with intellectual disabilities and their families in HRM, helping them to plan for the future and achieve their goals.

Mr. Watts presented details of the Transit Training Orientation Program to the Committee, explaining that the Transit Training Orientation Program includes two days of training and six to eight weeks of coaching, working to introduce people with intellectual or developmental disabilities to Metro transit and conventional transit. He indicated that being able to use transit helps individuals with intellectual disabilities achieve education and employment goals.

Mr. Watts reviewed supporters of the Transit Training Orientation Program, noting that Metro Transit is omitted from the list because they did not commit to support the program until yesterday morning.

Mr. Watts advised that the Halifax Association for Community Living has applied for an Aviva Community Fund Grant, and encouraged members to vote often and spread the word. Members requested that Mr. Watts forward the information.

At the request of the Chair, Mr. Watts reviewed the components of the program, including transit etiquette, route mapping, building fixed routes and complex trips, and safety tips. He indicated that the program is funded through the provincial NS Moves grant program.

At the request of Councillor Outhit, Metro Transit staff will follow up with an answer as to why there was a significant delay in support from Metro Transit for the program.

The Committee thanked Mr. Watts for the presentation.

#### **4.3.2 Presentation - Lacewood Transit Terminal – Dalhousie Cities & Environment Unit**

This item was deleted from the agenda during the approval of the order of business, at the request of the presenters.

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

#### **5.1 Update – Road Network Functional Plan**

Mr. David McCusker, Manager, Regional Transportation, provided a brief overview of the Road Network Functional Plan, noting that it is part of the Regional Plan and the ongoing five year review of the Regional Plan. He noted that it is based on a pattern of settlement and software to determine trip making for transit and active transportation uses and vehicular uses. Mr. McCusker noted that the Regional Plan contains a list of roadway projects over the next 25 years. He indicated that there is no separate public engagement for the Road Network Functional Plan, as it is a part of the Regional Plan and the five year review of the Regional Plan, and that together these plans will determine the need for roadways and will determine if there is a need to affect what the roadway projects are.

Responding to a request from Councillor Outhit for an update on plans for Highway 113, Mr. McCusker advised that he has no updated information at this time, although he will follow up.

Councillor Mason indicated that issues discussed at a recent Community Design Advisory Committee meeting includes the question of having consultation and review of the Road Network Functional Plan, transit priority measures, the Active Transportation Plan, and other functional plans every 5 years. He noted concern that the Road Network Functional Plan seems inflexible, and spoke in favour of having regular routine reviews to ensure it is in line with other plans.

Councillor Dalrymple inquired whether the functional plan includes a secondary exit or a set of ramps in Fall River. Mr. McCusker advised that this is not in Road Network Functional Plan, as it would not be considered a road network.

Councillor Fisher inquired whether there was public consultation for all of the other 20 functional plans. Mr. McCusker indicated he could not speak for all the functional plans, and further explained that consultation took place for the Regional Plan, and components of the Regional Plan were put into the Road Network Functional Plan.

Councillor Hendsbee spoke in favour of a third harbor crossing, noting that he hopes to see it in the next revision of the regional plan.

Deputy Mayor Rankin spoke in favour of having a broader discussion on this topic, given the growth anticipated to come forward in HRM. He noted past roadway improvements that were implemented, such as the Armdale Roundabout and adding the third lane to the Macdonald bridge, which were controversial items at the time with close votes, and turned out to be valuable improvements.

Councillor Outhit commented that society is changing as fuel becomes more expensive. He spoke in favour of using the harbours and basins before supporting a third bridge, and spoke in favour of continued public consultation to determine what the public would like to see.

Discussion ensued on the topic, and the Committee thanked Mr. McCusker for the update.

## **5.2 Commuter Rail Update**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, updated that the subject has not evolved much since the last update. Staff have recently communicated with CN Rail and Metro Transit staff are collecting background material on the history of commuter rail efforts in HRM.

Councillor Outhit indicated that while he is pro-rail, his support is not at any price. He feels that it is time to either move forward with the initiative or move on.

**MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Fisher, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a monthly update on the commuter rail plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Mason spoke in support of rail service, suggesting that HRM declare the rails as essential to keep them for future use.

Councillor Dalrymple commented that at a previous meeting, staff indicated that HRM was at an impasse with CN Rail. Mr. Labrecque indicated that HRM has sent a letter to CN asking them to participate in the study of commuter rail feasibility, and if there is no response staff will call to request a meeting.

Deputy Mayor Rankin suggested that Mr. Labrecque contact Mr. Robert Pace, Vice Chairman of CN Rail.

## **5.3 Update Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan – Moving Forward Together**

A copy of the Metro Transit presentation is on file.

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Delivery, presented an update on the Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan public consultation process to the Committee, including an overview of consultation methods, stakeholder focus group meetings, public engagement sessions, interactive boards, online engagement and promotion, and in-person outreach and mail-outs.

Ms. Hughes reviewed the next steps of the consultation process, noting that consultation closes on October 15<sup>th</sup>. Results will be tabulated and analyzed and a summary of results will be available in November.

Ms. Hughes responded to questions and comments from members.

Councillor Hendsbee inquired whether the consultation would have an impact on revisions being made to the Regional Plan, noting that he hopes there is an opportunity for adjustments to be made. Councillor Hendsbee further commented that HRM has to

be able to provide service to rural communities through community transit if not through Metro Transit.

The Committee thanked Ms. Hughes for the update.

**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 provided a brief update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, noting that they are working on their strategic plan. She also advised that the Committee hosted a town hall meeting earlier in the week, which was well attended with many issues brought forward, good responses from staff, and good feedback from attendees. Councillor Watts requested that the minutes from the Town Hall meeting on Accessibility be circulated to Transportation Standing Committee members for their information, once the minutes are approved.

**7.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

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

Councillor Watts provided a brief update on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that they are working on the active transportation plan review.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that there will be a community meeting on rural active transportation held on Monday evening in Porters Lake. A draft proposal will be prepared based on feedback at this meeting.

**7.4 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.4.1 Zebra Stripes at Uncontrolled Marked Crosswalks**

A report from the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee dated July 29, 2013 was before the Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Dalrymple, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the budget implications and options for zebra striping at all uncontrolled marked crosswalks in the Halifax Regional Municipality. The report should include the best**

**orientation of stripes, width and best practices for zebra striping and if available, local safety statistics.**

Councillor Fisher, a member of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee, commented that zebra striping is 30% more visible than traditional crosswalk markings.

Councillor Dalrymple, Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee, commented that this was a unanimous recommendation from the Committee, and that zebra striping is a priority of the committee.

Members discussed the motion, with the following concerns noted:

Concern that the paint may be slippery, and that it could be a safety hazard.

The importance of having crosswalks painted every season on time, and concern with having the capacity to handle the painting and upkeep of these crosswalks.

Concern that water-based paints being used now are less durable and the crosswalks would have to be painted twice per year.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, indicated that the water-based paints don't perform well in low temperatures and high humidity, although staff have confidence that the manufacturer will in time overcome these issues.

Councillor Fisher noted that at the recent Canadian Urban Transit Association conference, there were great paint products with grit to prevent slipping.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Councillor Dalrymple indicated that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee had a work planning session with a facilitator, and will continue this at their next meeting.

**8. MOTIONS**

**8.1 Councillor Mason**

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Transportation Standing Committee (TSC) requests a staff report outlining the establishment of temporary on street parking for residents who temporarily lose access to their parking due to road and sidewalk construction.**

Councillor Mason commented that residents in Halifax and Dartmouth are being ticketed when parking on streets when they lose their parking due to road and sidewalk construction.

Councillor Outhit indicated that he sent a memo to police and parking enforcement to not ticket residents on certain streets in Bedford when this has occurred.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION - None**

**11. NEXT MEETING**

Councillor Walker noted that the next regularly scheduled meeting date of November 6<sup>th</sup> falls during the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities fall conference. He proposed that the meeting be moved to November 13<sup>th</sup>, to which the Committee agreed.

The November 13, 2013 meeting will commence at 2:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 3:35 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

### INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Taxi Medallion Proposal and Taxi Owner Licenses** (*Information Report dated September 9, 2013*)
2. **Taxi & Limousine Liaison Group Review** (*Information Report dated September 23, 2013*)
3. **Paving Highway Shoulders for Active Transportation** (Information Report dated August 29, 2013)
4. **Correspondence from Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal dated September 10, 2013 re: Circumferential Highway Maintenance**