



**ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
July 21, 2014**

PRESENT: Ms. Lisa Pottie, Chair
Ms. Krista Daley, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Steve Craig
Mr. Yvon Clement
Mr. Bob Hayter
Mr. Mark MacKenzie
Mr. Troy Nauffts

REGRETS: Ms. Patricia Ann Gates
Mr. Troy Nauffts

STAFF: Supt. Cliff Falkenham, Halifax Regional Police
Mr. Darren Young, Project Manager, HRM Planning & Infrastructure
Mr. Ahmad Kidwai, Manager, Accessible Transit
Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Accessibility Advisory Committee are available online: www.halifax.ca/boardscom/access/index.php

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – NONE

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Fall Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility – *Chair*
- 8.2 Update on Accessibility Legislation in Nova Scotia – *Chair*
- 8.3 Tandem Bikes/Service Animal Park – *Darren Young*

**MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Mr. Hayter that the agenda be approved as amended.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

Councillor Craig updated the Committee on Community mailboxes. He stated that he has spoken with representatives of Canada Post, regarding design and accessibility and an agreement with Canada Post that will be going to Regional Council on July 22, 2014.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Active Transportation Plan Overview – *Mr. David MasIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor, HRM Planning and Infrastructure*

The following information was before the Committee:

- Staff recommendation report to the Transportation Standing Committee dated May 27, 2014.

Mr. David MaIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor, presented “Making Connections: 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan” to the Committee. The plan is an update for the 2006 functional plan and establishes a complete integrated and readily accessible region wide network.

Mr. MaIsaac informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Priorities Plan has three main objectives. These objectives are:

1. Engage stakeholders and the public to find out what is working and also where they feel the gaps are;
2. Review progress since the 2006 plan was approved; and,
3. Set priorities for the next five years.

Objective #1 – Engagement

Mr. MaIsaac stated to the Committee that the engagement process involved meetings with internal and external stakeholders, public open houses and an online survey to help in the development of the

priorities plan. He noted that there were many comments on the need to connect active transportation facilities. The public and stakeholders provided feedback on potential projects and programs and their input was among the key considerations in establishing priorities for the plan.

Objective # 2 – Progress Review

Mr. MacIsaac noted that there has been progress in developing the active transportation network since 2006. He reviewed a few of the highlights such as;

- Gaps in the sidewalk network have been closed and amenities such as accessible curb ramps at intersections and modern pedestrian signals are gradually being added to the inventory where appropriate.
- The off-road greenway network has grown from 68km to 135 km
- The number of kilometres of on-road bike lanes has grown from 15km to 108km
- There have been new initiatives to foster pedestrian and crosswalk safety; and
- Safety promotion and skills training is expanding.

Objective #3 – Future Priorities

Mr. MacIsaac stated that the priorities focus on connecting existing infrastructure, developing complete transportation networks, and making active transportation accessible to the greatest number of residents. He also noted that the plan recognizes that increasing walking and cycling requires investments in larger-scale infrastructure, smaller-scale infrastructure and education and promotion.

He informed members that the Active Transportation Priorities Plan recognizes that planning and implementing active transportation infrastructure and programs cannot be done in isolation from other priorities and needs.

Mr. MacIsaac finished by stating the theme “Making Connections” is central to the active transportation objectives. The goal of the plan is to make connections between where people live, work, shop, access transit, access services and attend school as easy and direct as possible by foot or by bicycle. He also stated that this plan will be going to the Transportation Standing Committee on July 23, 2014 and then to Regional Council on July 29, 2014.

The Chair thanked Mr. MacIsaac, on behalf of the Committee for his very informative presentation. A copy of Mr. MacIsaac’s presentation is on file.

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 Update – Accessibility Assessment HRM Owned/Operated Buildings

The following information was before the Committee:

- An Information report dated July 4, 2014

Mr. Darren Young, Project Manager, HRM Planning & Infrastructure, gave the following Progress Updates on HRM Owned/Operated Buildings:

- 98 door operators have been installed at 33 different HRM facilities;
- Accessibility pool lifts at 4 HRM pools;
- Accessibility Washroom upgrades at the North Woodside Community Centre, Eastern Shore Community Centre, Centennial Area and the Mooseland Community Hall;
- Accessibility upgrades at the Needham Centre including a platform lift from the first floor to the pool deck;
- Accessibility components added to over 10 parks such as swings and surface material;
- New elevator for City Hall; and

- Tactile Warning Surface Indicators for pedestrian crossings at the Bridge Terminal, Highfield Park Terminal, and the Bedford Hammonds Plains Community Centre.

Mr. Young stated that the 2014/2015 Work Plan includes planned project expenditures of over \$500,000.00. The projects will include additional door operators, Community Recreation Services accessibility audit on 34 locations, Community Park dock program, the replacement of audible fire alarms with strobe fire alarms, and items identified through the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

The Committee agreed to have Mr. Young provide quarterly updates.

The Chair requested that the Clerk's Office look into booking meeting the new Regional Library for the September 2014 meeting, so that the Accessibility Advisory Committee may have a tour of the new library.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Hayter that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee request HRM Communications to look at HRM accessibility initiatives over the past year, for internal and external communications.
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

7.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

7.2.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee – *Bob Hayter*

Mr. Hayter informed the Committee that the Active Transportation Standing Committee unanimously approved the "Making Connections: 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Priorities Plan".

7.2.2 Taxi & Limousine Group – *Pat Gates*

No update at this time.

7.2.3 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee – *Krista Daley*

Ms. Daley informed the Committee that a sub-committee has been formed in the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee, to plan a Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day in the fall of 2014.

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

8.1 Fall Town Hall Meeting on Accessibility – *Chair*

The Chair requested that the Accessibility Advisory Committee hold a Town Hall in the fall of 2014. She also requested that progress reports on accessibility would be made available.

The Committee felt that CP Allan High School would make a good venue and the possible dates being October 29th or October 30th 2014. The Committee agreed that the Mayor and all members of Regional Council be invited to the Town Hall Meeting.

8.2 Update on Accessibility Legislation in Nova Scotia – *Chair*

The Chair informed the Committee that the review of accessibility legislation for Nova Scotia will fall under the prevue of the Disability Council. She noted that members have been appointed and that sub-committees have been formed. She also stated that Ms. Patricia Gates sits on one of the sub-committees.

The Chair further informed members that that committee will have a report ready for February 2015 with hopes that the new legislation will become law in the fall of 2015 or the spring of 2016.

8.3 Tandem Bikes and Service Animal Park – *Darren Young*

Mr. Young informed the Committee that there is a need for storage of the tandem bikes. Councillor Craig stated that this should be looked at from staff of other departments.

Discussion ensued on the Service Animal Park.

Mr. Clement stated that any park would need to be an area close to a trail.

Site selection criteria for the park will be presented to the Off Leash Committee for consideration. The Committee expressed concerns that the park should be the same size or larger than the current one and to be used for Service Animals only. The final location of the park will come back to this Committee for input.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – September 15, 2014

The next regular meeting will be held on Monday, September 15, 2014, 4:00 p.m., in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, if the new library is not available.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:15 p.m.

Mr. Darcy Warren
Legislative Support