

CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

January 23, 2014

PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Ms. Janet Barlow, Vice Chair  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Sgt. David Reynolds  
Ms. Lucille Reid  
Dr. Ashan Habib  
Mr. Ben Wedge  
Ms. Krista Daley  
Ms. Jill McGillicuddy  
Ms. Jamey-Ellen Klenavic

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher  
Mr. Stephen Stone  
Mr. Kyle Miller

STAFF: Ms. Marilyn Smith, Volunteer Services  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant  
Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager TPW  
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:15 a.m. in the Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1846 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 19, 2013 & January 7, 2014 Special Meeting**

**MOVED by Dr. Habib, seconded by Mr. Wedge that the minutes of December 19, 2013 and January 7, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Ms. McGillicuddy and Ms. Klenavic entered the meeting at this time.

Addition:

7.1 Update on Transportation Conference 2016 – Dr. Habib

The Committee agreed to address Item 6.1 – Policy/Standards: Sidewalks – Mr. Taso Koutroulakis as the first Order of Business.

**MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Ms. Reid that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Item 6.1 was addressed at this time.

**6.1 Policy Standards: Sidewalks – Mr. Taso Koutroulakis**

Mr. Taso Koutrolakis, Manager of Transportation and Public Works made a presentation on Crosswalk Policy and Standards. He stated that the determination of whether a crosswalk needs to be marked is based primarily on the necessity to create a gap in traffic. He noted that crosswalks will not be marked at locations where pedestrian safety may be compromised:

- Where visibility is restricted by horizontal or vertical alignment;
- Where stopping sight distance is insufficient due to prevailing operating speeds;
- By complex lane configuration and usage;
- Transportation Association of Canada Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide was developed to promote uniformity across the Country for pedestrian crossings and is used as a guide by Halifax Regional Municipality.

Mr. Koutrolakis explained crosswalk infrastructure and informed the Committee that underground infrastructure may interfere with the proper placement of poles and that

the placement of pedestrian ramps in desired location is not always possible due to location of catch basin.

Mr. Koutroulakis further explained that there are numerous existing crosswalks in the downtown core and continue to receive requests for more but they do not meet the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines for spacing requirements and that lighting is also an issue.

A copy of the presentation is on file and online at:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/csac/documents/PresentationforCrosswalkCommitteeCrosswalkInfo.pdf>

Councillor Barry Dalrymple entered the meeting at this time and assumed the Chair; Ms. Barlow took her seat.

#### 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

##### 4.1 Work Plan Session – Ms. Marilyn Smith, Volunteer Services

The Work Plan Session continued after Item 6.1 with Ms. Marilyn Smith, Volunteer Services.

With the permission from the Chair and Committee, Councillor Steve Craig spoke to the Committee asking that the Committee set priorities. He also stated that the budget is of importance and that the Committee takes this into consideration. Councillor Craig stated that it would be Regional Council's decision on the final recommendations.

The Committee entered into discussion on the work plan.

The following changes were made to **Goal 1: Education**: educate public about crosswalk safety in Halifax Regional Municipality and Nova Scotia:

**Action:** Crosswalk Safety campaign (e.g. Distractions Kill Campaign month long efforts)

**Resources:** two more, two week sessions; one of which to be end of November/early December, other to be determined at a later date

**Desired Outcomes:** Increase awareness

**Action:** create and implement an annual Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day

**Desired Outcomes:** Sub-committee formed end of March 2014, Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day late November 2014

**Action:** awareness of existing crosswalks

**Action:** Zebra Markings

**Person/Group/Responsibility:** HRM, Corporate Communications (work with Traffic and Right of Way on timing)

**Time Frame:** early June 2014 when zebra crosswalks painted

Dr. Habib questioned whether HRM should continue with “Distractions Kill” or with the use of another campaign, suggesting the possibility of a more positive campaign.

The Chair stated that the “Distractions Kill” campaign has already begun. The Chair informed the Committee that the Transportation Standing Committee has recommended Zebra Stripes (Option 2) to Regional Council at a cost \$155,000.00. The Committee received a copy of this as Information Item 2.

The following changes were made to **Goal 2: Evaluation and Data** – Target Enforcement based on Data/Evidence (location, time of year, days etc.):

**Action:** improve data collection by developing partnerships among those already collecting data (HRP, DalTRAC, RCMP, HRM Traffic, SNSMR, NSTIR, HRSB)

**Responsibility:** DalTRAC, Dr. Habib

**Action:** Ask for on-going dedication/prioritization of existing resources to be assigned to deal with data collection issue (pedestrian accident data)

**Responsibility:** Chief of Police- HRM, Superintendent of RCMP (DalTrac Support)

**Time Frame:** end of February 2014 (already being implemented by HRP)

**Action:** Data analysis, interpretation and reporting

**Responsibility:** HRM Police

**Resources:** Staff time

**Time Frame:** On-going Annual Report

**Outcomes:** Traffic accident and evaluation – standard reporting (based on best practices)

**Performance Indicators:** Electronic copy of report provided yearly

The following changes were made to **Goal 3: Evaluation and Research:**

**Action:** Follow up from research- develop and implement a program for community volunteers

**Action:** Monetary penalties for pedestrian motor vehicle violations (such as increased points, defensive driving course, mandatory exam re-writes)

**Action:** Increase enforcement of crosswalk violations in marked and unmarked

**Responsibility:** HRM Police

**Time Frame:** 2014 – 2015 onwards

**Outcomes:** increase targeted enforcement

The following comments were made by Committee members on Goals 1 and 2:

Ms. Daley commented that in the winter it is difficult for pedestrians and vehicles to use the roads, sidewalks and crosswalks.

Sgt. Reynolds informed the Committee that Halifax Regional Police (HRP) has three analysts in place to collect and review data. He also stated that if a Crosswalk Safety Day is approved that HRP would assist.

Councillors Mason and Craig exited the meeting at 11:00 a.m.

Ms. Barlow questioned Sgt. Reynolds regarding careless driving charges and if they are being issued. Sgt. Reynolds responded that this is difficult to do. He informed the Committee that if a death did occur it would be a \$700.00 fine. Sgt. Reynolds stated that HRM need to encourage the Province to create new laws and have them added it to the Motor Vehicle Act.

Due to time constraints, the Chair requested that members review the sections on Traffic Control and Standards and track any changes or suggestions for the next meeting. He also stated the importance of completing this Work Plan at their January 30, 2014 special meeting.

## **5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **5.1 Correspondence**

**5.1.1 Ivan Miller dated December 13, 2013**

**5.1.2 Brad Milligan dated January 7, 2014**

**5.1.3 Norm Collins dated January 17, 2014**

**5.1.4 Norm Collins dated January 21, 2014**

The Committee received the following correspondence for their information.

**5.2 Petitions - None**

**5.3 Presentations - None**

## **6. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **6.1 Policy/Standards: Sidewalks – Mr. Taso Koutroulakis**

This item was addressed earlier in the meeting, see page 3.

## **7. ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 Update on Traffic Conference 2016 – Dr. Habib**

Dr. Habib informed the Committee that a presentation was made in Washington, DC for the Traffic Conference 2016. He informed the Committee that there were four bids for the conference and that the final decision would be made in January 2015. Dr. Habib thanked the Committee for its support.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATES – January 30, 2014 Special Meeting and February 27, 2014 regular scheduled meeting.**

A Special Meeting of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee will be held on January 30, 2014 for the purpose of completing the Work Plan.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:04 p.m.

Mr. Darcy Warren  
Legislative Support