



**CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 22, 2015**

PRESENT: Ms. Janet Barlow, Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Mr. Kelsey Green, Vice Chair
Ms. Krista Daley
Ms. Lucille Reid
Ms. Jill McGillicuddy
Sgt. Steve Calder

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor Darren Fisher
Mr. Terence Simms
Ms. Anne James
Dr. Ashan Habib

STAFF: Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Traffic Services Supervisor, Traffic and Right of Way
Mr. Taso Koutrolakis, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant
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 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/csac/150122agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 10:06 a.m., and the Committee adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. in the Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

It was noted that Committee member Terence Simms had resigned from the Committee as of January 2015.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Chair turned the meeting over to Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support.

Mr. Warren called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Ms. Reid that Ms. Janet Barlow be nominated as Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

Mr. Warren called three times for future nominations. There being none, it was **MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Daley that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Mr. Warren declared Ms. Janet Barlow Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

Mr. Warren turned the meeting over to Ms. Barlow.

Ms. Barlow called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Daley that Mr. Kelsey Green be nominated as Vice Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

The Chair called three times for further nominations. There being none, it was **MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Councillor Mason that nominations cease. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Barlow declared Mr. Green as Vice Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 27, 2014

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Mr. Green that the minutes of November 27, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Ms. Reid, seconded by Ms. Daley that the agenda be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Briefing from Norm Collins re: Presentation to Board of Police Commissioners on Crosswalk Enforcement Unit in Halifax Regional Municipality.

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the Halifax Regional Police memorandum dated December 10, 2014 that provided to Board of Police Commissioners for their January 12, 2015 meeting entitled: Updated-Proposal for Crosswalk Enforcement Unit submitted by Norm Collins

Mr. Norm Collins informed the Committee that he had made a presentation to the Board of Police Commissioners on December 8, 2014, regarding the formation of a Crosswalk Enforcement Unit in Halifax Regional Municipality. He noted that there was no discussion on the proposal at the meeting.

The Committee agreed to address Item 7.2.4 - Request for Presentation from Halifax Regional Police on their plans for crosswalk enforcement at this time.

7.2.4 Request for Presentation from Halifax Regional Police on their plans for crosswalk enforcement – Janet Barlow

Ms. Barlow requested that a presentation from Halifax Regional Police be made at the next regular meeting regarding crosswalk enforcement. The Chair requested that the presentation include reasons for or against a Crosswalk Enforcement Unit, and what steps Halifax Regional Police are taking in regards to crosswalk enforcement. Ms. Barlow noted that this was part of the Crosswalk Safety Action Plan.

Sgt. Calder responded that there would be no action taken on the formation of a Crosswalk Enforcement Unit as the Halifax Regional Police (HRP) had made their decision. Sgt. Calder noted that HRP have assigned areas where there are crosswalk issues, monthly themes and that crosswalk safety is held three times per year. Sgt. Calder advised that he would seek additional clarification and report back to the Committee on any questions they may have regarding what HRP is doing for crosswalk safety in HRM.

Councillor Mason reminded members that the responsibility for the day to day activities of the police department, including the enforcement of law, lies with the Police Chief as per section 38(5) of the Nova Scotia Police Act. . He further explained that the Crosswalk Safety Work Plan was part of the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan and it was the responsibility of Regional Council on how to proceed with the recommendations from this Committee.

In regard to the Committee seeking additional information/clarification, it was noted that the Committee could request this information from staff or by making a request to the Transportation Standing Committee.

Mr. Koutrolakis reminded members that the Committee had already outlined their goals to the Transportation Standing Committee in their Crosswalk Safety Work Plan, which have also been incorporated into the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, approved by Regional Council.

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee requests a presentation from Halifax Regional Police in regard to their plans for crosswalk enforcement in HRM for their next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4.2 Review of 2014 Crosswalk Safety work Plan

The following was before the Committee:

- 2014 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee Work Plan Goals

The Chair informed the Committee that goals one through three (1- 3) have been implemented and were ongoing. Goal four (4): Enforcement – Increase non-monetary penalties would be addressed under item 5.1.

Additional information was provided as follows:

Goal Five (5): Standards – Appropriate standards in place to reflect differences in local urban/suburban/rural areas.

- DalTRAC is helping to develop a mechanism for more community input through the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee. The Halifax Regional Municipality now has a Traffic Authority and standards are being addressed.

Goal Six (6): Traffic Control Measures – Improve Traffic Control Measures

- pedestrian friendly designs at intersections are part of Capital Projects
- Increase pedestrian visibility is ongoing
- Installations of reflective tape and signs facing pedestrians at crosswalks as a pilot have been addressed in previous reports to Halifax Regional Council and have been rejected.
- Decreasing of speed limits: the Province approved a pilot project on speed reduction in certain areas that is still ongoing
- Pilot Flashing Beacons: a report is going to the Transportation Standing Committee January 22, 2015 recommending a pilot project on flashing beacons; this is included in the 2015 - 2016 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan
- It was recommended that Regional Council reject the use of inroad crosswalk signs.
- It was noted that unless National Standards change the use of neon coloured signs to identify crosswalks would not be used as a pilot project

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Mr. Green that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee requests a staff presentation on the 2015 – 2016 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan once it has been approved by Halifax Regional Council. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Discussion re: Draft Recommendations to the Province for Increasing Non-Monetary Penalties for Crosswalk Violations (*Deferred November 27, 2014*)

The following was before the Committee:

- A draft of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee's recommendations to the Province for increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations

The Committee discussed their draft recommendations to the Province for increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations. The following changes were made:

- Paragraph three (3) should read: The Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that *Halifax Regional Council* write a letter to the Province of Nova Scotia *suggesting it re-evaluate* changes to the Motor Vehicle Act with respect to non-monetary penalties.
- Last paragraph should read: Also, the Committee recommends *researching* the disparity of applying different fines at different types of crosswalks in the Motor Vehicle Act.

Mr. Taso Koutrolakis, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way noted that the Transportation Standing Committee may request a staff report that would include input from Transportation and Right of Way, Halifax Regional Police and Halifax Regional Municipality Legal Department.

MOVED by Ms. Daley, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee forward their recommendations to the Province for increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations to the Transportation Standing Committee for approval and recommendation to Halifax Regional Council that the Mayor write a letter to the Province suggesting it re-evaluate changes to the *Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act* with respect to non-monetary penalties, as outlined by the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence

The following correspondence was received: Gary Vaters dated December 12, 2014; Cheryl Whytock dated December 15, 2014; Morris Givner dated December 10, 2014; and Adam Grant dated December 10, 2014.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

Councillor Mason exited the meeting at this time and it was noted that quorum has been lost.

7.1 CROSSWALK SAFETY AWARENESS DAY SUB-COMMITTEE

7.1.1 Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Summary Report

The following was before Committee:

- Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Summary Report from the Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Sub-Committee

The Chair informed the Committee that the Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day was a success. She thanked HRM Corporate Communications staff on their work in coordinating the event held on November 5, 2014. She further provided an overview of the summary report to the Committee.

Ms. McGillicuddy noted that the Halifax Regional School Board had informed parents and schools of the Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day through its website.

7.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS

7.2.1 Update on the preparation of the Crosswalk Safety Idea Café with DalTRAC – Dr. Ashan Habib

The following was before the Committee:

- An update from Dr. Habib entitled: Information Café: Crosswalk Safety (Draft)

Mr. Taso Koutrolakis, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way informed the Committee that he would be meeting with Dr. Habib to finalize a date for the Crosswalk Safety Idea Café.

The Chair reminded members that as part of DalTRAC's request to the Committee, members are to participate in the event as facilitators.

7.2.2 Discussion re: crosswalks on private properties and Municipal mandate

The Committee agreed to defer discussion of this matter to their next meeting.

7.2.3 Discussion re: "Hands Out" practice

Ms. McGillicuddy informed the Committee that the Halifax Regional School Board follows the decisions of the Department of Education. She explained that the students are taught to stop, look and listen before entering a crosswalk. The rationale being that if a student puts their hand out, they are most likely to enter the crosswalk with their hand out and keep going without looking or listening. Ms. McGillicuddy indicated it was not considered best practise to use the "Hands Out" method.

7.2.4 Request for Presentation from Halifax Regional Police on their plans for crosswalk enforcement – Janet Barlow

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

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. IN CAMERA - NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 26, 2015

The next regular meeting of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, February 26, 2015 in the Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Mr. Darcy Warren
Legislative Support