

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

May 21, 2009

PRESENT: Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Ms. Lauralee Sim
Ms. Laena Garrison
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo
Ms. Alison MacDonald

REGRETS: Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Linda Mosher
Ms. Jean Rennie
Mr. Michael Beiswanger

STAFF: Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer
Mr. Jeff Spares, Senior Design Engineer
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order without a quorum present at 4:06 p.m. at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

7.3.3 Making Tracks Program - Ms. Cheyenne Dickinson, Community Advisor, Active and Safe Routes to School

Ms. Cheyenne Dickinson, Community Advisor, Active and Safe Routes to School, provided the presentation on the Making Tracks Program. Highlights were as follows:

- C The program has been running for approximately seven years;
- C The program provides school travel planning via an in depth five step plan which looks at barriers and addresses issues in creating active and safe routes to school;
- C A la carte programs were available including a walking school bus, walk to school day and walk to school week;
- C The program was working more towards policy and infrastructure advocacy;
- C A hands on pilot project to offer active transportation safety skills planning took place from April of 2007 to March of 2009;
- C Training was meant to take multiple sessions for children and youth to build skills and was developed to be fun and activity based;
- C The training was developed to help meet school circular criteria;
- C Youth mentors and adult leaders are trained to impart skills to keep the plan going long after initial training;
- C Students were given a passport card outlining each skill they have learned in training which was meant to be brought home to their caregiver so the students could pass on what they have learned.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

- C Walking, cycling and skateboarding modes were tested;
- C Inline skating will be tested soon as it is not in as high demand as the other modes;
- C An indoor skateboarding program for gym floors which began in the United States called Skate Paths was adopted as it gives students a chance to try this mode in a controlled environment.

Ms. Garrison entered the meeting at 4:16 p.m. and quorum was achieved.

- C The program was being presented between now and November of 2009 and summer institutes on all four modes will be taking place in Truro;
- C The program has support from the Department of Education.

In closing, Ms. Dickinson indicated that further information could be found at www.saferoutesns.ca.

A discussion ensued with Ms. Dickinson responding to questions. She advised that, for safety purposes, the age groups for each mode were ages five to nine for walking, ages ten and up for skateboarding and cycling and ages fifteen and up for youth mentors.

Ms. Dickinson also noted that the Making Tracks Program would like to address modified active transportation plans for children with mobility issues or disabilities and that she was hoping to work with the IWK on this matter.

Ms. Garrison stated that the Committee may want to look at integration between active transportation modes and public transit as people were often turned away when trying to take a bicycle or skateboard on board a bus.

Ms. Dickinson advised that the Making Tracks Program had completed an international best practices report which included the Can Bike course. She indicated that elements from this report were brought into the program.

The Committee thanked Ms. Dickinson for her presentation.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair.

The Committee wished to defer nominations for Chair and Vice Chair to the next meeting.

It was noted that it was the Committee's decision as to whether a citizen or Councillor was Chair. It was also noted that the Chair did have the ability to step down during a meeting to address an issue that may be of particular concern to them.

Members expressed concern that while the full Committee compliment as outlined in the Terms of Reference was fifteen (15), there were currently only eleven (11) appointed members. Quorum for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee was currently *not less than 50% + 1 of the voting members*; which was eight (8) when taken from the total of fifteen (15). Therefore, the Committee was concerned that there would be difficulty obtaining and maintaining quorum for meetings prior to the Committee compliment being filled.

MOVED BY Ms. MacDonald, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that quorum for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee be amended to *not less than 50% + 1 of the*

***appointed members* rather than *not less than 50% + 1 of the voting members* in the Terms of Reference. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - April 1, 2009

Amendments:

Mr. Brauer was present

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee requested that the minutes state that the *Committee* may wish to hold an open house meeting during Bike Week

MOVED BY Deputy Mayor Hendsbee, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that the minutes of April 1, 2009, be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletions:

8.3 Walk 21 and Walkability Audit - Staff and Councillors

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Regular Meeting Date

The Committee agreed to hold their next meeting on June 25, 2009, at 4:00 p.m.

The Committee agreed to a regular meeting date of the third Thursday of every month from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Bloomfield Centre.

The Legislative Assistant will distribute the 2009 meeting schedule.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Nova Scotia Bikeways Report - Mr. Brauer, Bicycle Nova Scotia Representative

- C A copy of the Nova Scotia Bikeways: Scoping the Blue Route presentation was submitted.

Mr. Brauer provided the presentation on the Nova Scotia Bikeways Report. Highlights were as follows:

- C An annual Nova Scotia Biking Summit has taken place for the past four years;
- C The 4000 kilometre Route Verte bikeways network in Quebec was used as an example of the kind of infrastructure Nova Scotia could use in building active transportation into daily lives;
- C A provincial bike coordinator from Quebec provided a presentation on Route Verte for Bicycle Nova Scotia;
- C Education and infrastructure were required as a means of encouraging people to be active;
- C Bicycle Nova Scotia was put in charge of hiring consultants from Eastwind Cycle to put together the Nova Scotia Bikeways Report: Scoping the Blue Route which would be modelled after Route Verte in Quebec;
- C The Bikeways Vision states that all municipalities should have safe bikeways and infrastructure planning which would come into transportation planning at both municipal and provincial levels;
- C The cycling structure was geared towards both residents and visitors as there was great opportunity for economic development in bicycle tourism which would lead to the routes almost paying for themselves over time;
- C Potential cycling routes would have the goal of connectivity;
- C Local progress has already been made as well as in the Annapolis Royal area where the community worked with the RCMP and local Transportation Department to map out bike routes;
- C A study was also done by several municipalities in Pictou County to see how to advance their bicycle commuting.

It was noted that the Nova Scotia Bikeways Report was now available online and would be linked to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee agenda for May 21, 2009.

It was noted that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities (UNSM) now had an Active Transportation Committee which included a representative from the TRAX program.

The Committee agreed that they would review the Nova Scotia Bikeways Report and add it to the next meeting agenda for discussion.

7.3.2 Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Provincial Policy - Ms. Garrison

This item was deferred to the June 25, 2009, meeting due to lack of time.

7.3.3 Making Tracks Program - Ms. Cheyenne Dickinson, Community Advisor, Active and Safe Routes to School

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 3.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Trans Canada Trails - Greenways - Vision and Core Principles

C A copy of the Trans Canada Trails - Greenways - Vision and Core Principles report was before the Committee.

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, advised that she had submitted this report for the Committee's information; noting that stage one of the trail would run from Musquodoboit Harbour to Point Pleasant Park when completed.

Regarding motorized use of trails; it was noted in the report that any new parts of the Trans Canada Trail were required to be non motorized in the summer, however, all existing trails would be shared use as half in HRM were currently motorized.

Ms. Garrison indicated that she had attended a presentation at the UNSM conference regarding people's experience with shared use trails. She noted that several ideas such as the implementation of traffic calming devices and rutting had been discussed.

Mr. Scrutton noted that the Committee may want to discuss the abandoned railway shared use trail that was implemented in Yarmouth County as a model.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee and Ms. MacDonald left the meeting at 5:18 p.m. Quorum was lost.

8.2 HRM Greenbook/Checklist Update

Ms. Debaie advised that another Regional Trails Greenbook meeting would be taking place on June 17, 2009. She indicated that she would provide an update to the Committee at their next meeting.

8.3 Walk 21 and Walkability Audit

This item was deleted from the agenda under the Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for June 25, 2009.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:21 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant