

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

September 17, 2009

PRESENT:

Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Ms. Lauralee Sim
Ms. Gai Thomas
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo
Mr. Michael Beiswanger
Mr. Tom Boyd
Ms. Laena Garrison

REGRETS:

Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Ms. Alison MacDonald
Mr. Walter Regan

STAFF:

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer
Mr. Jeff Spares, Senior Design Engineer
Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management
Planner
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 at 4:06 p.m. at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Scrutton advised that he was glad to hear the news regarding the Chester Spur Line active transportation corridor and thanked all involved.

Councillor Watts indicated that the Ecology Action Centre was hosting a free talk on September 28, 2009 at 12:00 p.m. regarding the impact of car traffic on quality of life.

Ms. Sim advised that the Halifax Cycling Coalition was also glad to hear the news regarding the Chester Spur Line active transportation corridor.

The Chair indicated that any community group was welcome to forward best practice information to Chebucto Community Council to aid in the construction and implementation of the Chester Spr Line active transportation corridor.

Mr. Boyd indicated that he had read in the paper that the Step Up program wished to participate in the Committee and in getting more people active.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, advised that the National Capital Commission would be a good place to look regarding trails as well as the Walk 21 program as it promotes education, infrastructure and pedestrian movements.

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, stated that she was proud of the implementation of the Preston Waterline Trail which was an add on to the contract with Halifax Water; noting that the only parts left to complete were one bridge and top coating.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 25, 2009

MOVED BY Mr. Brauer, seconded by Ms. Sims, that the minutes of June 25, 2009, be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

9.1 Pedestrian Crossing Times at Signalized Intersections - Mr. Roddy MacIntyre

- 9.2. Temporary Vacancy/Filling of the TDM Coordinator Position - Mr. Roddy MacIntyre
- 9.3. Accessibility for Pedestrians in Construction Areas - Ms. Thomas
- 9.4. Pedestrian Advocacy - Councillor Watts

MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Beiswanger, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Ms. Kelly L. Greenwood re: Park West School, Active and Safe Routes to School Committee Walking/Trail Infrastructure Improvement Project

Correspondence from Ms. Kelly L. Greenwood dated June 5, 2009 was before the Committee.

Ms. MacInnis advised that she had met with Ms. Greenwood several times regarding this matter; noting that Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning, and Mr. Blair Blakeney, Coordinator of Facility Development - Parks, had been the primary contacts in dealing with this issue and could provide further information.

MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Scrutton, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request that staff and Ms. Greenwood attend the next meeting scheduled for November 19, 2009 to provide more information on the matter. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS - NONE

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Pedestrian Crossing Times at Signalized Intersections - Mr. Roddy MacIntyre

Mr. MacIntyre indicated that a walking speed of 1.2 metres per second was the national standard for pedestrian crossing times; noting that some intersections in HRM used a lower walking speed of 1 metre per second in areas closer to seniors' homes, for example. He stated that if conditions existed that warranted a change in pedestrian crossing times staff would investigate and possibly change the time. Mr. MacIntyre also noted that calls regarding pedestrian issues had decreased somewhat since more countdown signals had been installed throughout HRM. He indicated that residents could contact Traffic Services staff to make them aware of areas that may require a slower pedestrian crossing time.

Councillor Watts advised that residents could contact their Councillor regarding these issues as well.

Mr. MacIntyre indicated that the intersection at Duffus Street and Novalea Drive was going to be fixed over the next two years by having the roads narrowed and a roundabout installed. He advised that he could do a time check in the interim.

Mr. MacIntyre advised that traffic services staff tried their best to make push buttons accessible and were attempting to fix older installations which may not be wheelchair friendly.

Councillor Watts indicated that residents could call the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000 to report a push button that was not functioning and a work order would go through.

9.2. Temporary Vacancy/Filling of the TDM Coordinator Position - Mr. Roddy MacIntyre

Mr. MacIntre advised that the TDM Coordinator position had been advertised again in August of 2009 and that the competition had since closed and the applications were now with HRM Human Resources staff.

9.3 Accessibility for Pedestrians in Construction Areas - Ms. Thomas

Ms. Thomas advised that consideration should be taken for those in wheelchairs with regards to accessibility and curb cuts when a sidewalk was closed due to construction.

MOVED BY Ms. Thomas, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request that staff remind contractors of the obligation to provide an alternate and accessible sidewalk route for pedestrians in construction areas.

A discussion on the motion ensued.

Mr. Jeff Spares, Senior Design Engineer, advised that contractors were obligated to provide accessibility when a sidewalk was closed due to construction. He noted that HRM staff would not close both sidewalks at once when working on capital projects.

Ms. Thomas noted that it was also difficult for persons in wheelchairs in construction areas as paving was only done at the end of a project which made curbs even more difficult to access.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 Pedestrian Advocacy - Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts advised that she received calls from residents who had concerns regarding pedestrian movement. She indicated that she tried to send these residents options for resources they could look at themselves such as the Ecology Action Centre Pace Car Program and the Crosswalk Report. She suggested that an information session with staff regarding pedestrian safety including a history of what had been done in HRM

would be helpful. Councillor Watts also asked the Committee if there were any additional resources that she could provide to her residents.

The Vulnerable Road Users Committee was suggested, however, it was noted that this Committee comprised of provincial and HRM staff had not met in a year and a half.

The Chair advised that Gobal and CTV had partnered to do more ads regarding pedestrian safety. She noted that it would be beneficial to have a representative from the provincial government, HRM staff and Halifax Regional Police to discuss this matter.

Ms. Garrison entered the meeting at 5:09 p.m.

The Chair requested ideas for the future direction of the Committee. The following topics were noted:

- C Transparency; including a public presentation item on each agenda;
- C The need for a comprehensive Share the Road Campaign in HRM which will be undertaken by a subcommittee including Ms. Sim, Councillor Watts, Ms. Thomas and Ms. Garrison;
- C Pedestrian and crosswalk safety and education.

Ms. Garrison left the meeting at 5:32 p.m.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for November 19, 2009.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:32 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following items were added as information:

1. BLT Walks - Introducing Nordic Walking
2. Project Substitutions - Municipal Rural Infrastructure Fund (MRIF) (*Report submitted at the September 8, 2009 meeting of Regional Council*)
3. Closure of June Street to Vehicular Traffic at West Street (*Report submitted at the September 8, 2009 meeting of Regional Council*)
4. Licensing of Bicycles (*Report submitted at the September 8, 2009 meeting of Regional Council*)
5. CN Rail Line - Potential Active Transportation Corridor and Community Committee (*Extract of Regional Council minutes dated August 11, 2009 & Report submitted at the September 14, 2009 meeting of Chebucto Community Council*)