

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**November 19, 2009**

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Ms. Alison MacDonald  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Ms. Lauralee Sims  
Mr. Tom Boyd  
Ms. Gai Thomas

REGRETS Mr. Friedemann Brauer  
Mr. Michael Beiswanger

STAFF: Mr. Peter Bigelow, Real Property Management  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority  
Mr. Tylor McDuff, Legislative Support  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER .....	3
2.	COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES .....	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	4
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	4
5.1	Ms. Kelly L. Greenwood re: Park West School, Active and Safe Routes to School Committee Walking/Trail Infrastructure Improvement Project ...	4
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS .....	5
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS .....	5
7.1	Correspondence .....	5
7.2	Petitions .....	5
7.3	Presentations .....	5
8.	REPORTS .....	5
9.	ADDED ITEMS .....	6
10.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .....	7
11.	DATE OF NEXT MEETING .....	7
12.	ADJOURNMENT .....	7

**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**

Ms. Thomas reported a success surrounding the safety of pedestrians at the crosswalk at Windsor and Welsford streets. She advised that having gathered together various concerned citizens, a meeting with Councillor Watts and Mr. Reashor at the crosswalk in question was arranged. As a result, the crosswalk is being moved to south side of the intersection.

Mr. Regan reported that Halifax Trails had recently held a very successful trails camp. Many issues were discussed and reports will be forwarded to the Committee.

Councillor Watts reported that the Ecology Action Centre was working with Westmount Elementary School on planning safe routes to school. She indicated that a meeting was held with the Student Advisory Council and the Parent & Teacher Association.

Ms. MacDonald provided an update on the work being done to the MacDonald Bridge. She stated that, in previous situations, cyclists were asked to share the walking lane while work was being done and this was an unpopular solution. Ms. MacDonald noted that feedback has shown that keeping the bike lane open during the operations has been greatly welcomed by cyclists.

Ms. Janet Barlow of the Ecology Action Centre, who is filling in for Ms. Laena Garrison, was introduced. She provided an update on the Active and Safe Routes to School Program which involves seven schools: Westmount, Grosvenor, Shatford Memorial, John Macneil, Basinview, Park West, and Bedford/Sackville.

Ms. Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, reported that she had attended workshops at Acadia regarding Promoting Active Transportation on Community Trails.

Mr. McDuff, Legislative Support, was introduced to the committee.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - September 17, 2009**

**MOVED BY Ms. MacDonald, seconded by Ms. Sims, that the minutes of September 17, 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 Construction on the Fairview Overpass - Ms. Lauralee Sims
- 9.2 School Travel Planning - Ms. Janet Barlow
- 9.3 Facilitated Meeting Update - Councillor Jennifer Watts
- 9.4 Board and Committee Reform Update - Councillor Jennifer Watts

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

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

Mr. Orengo entered the meeting at 4:28 p.m.

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

- C Reasons to Support Requests for Park West Active and Safe Routes to School Committee Required Infrastructure Improvements was submitted
- C Excerpt from Park West School Active Transportation Report, November 2007 - Infrastructure Requirements was submitted
- C Park West School - Existing Active Transportation Access Routes was submitted

Ms. Kelly L. Greenwood, with the Park West School Active and Safe Routes to School (ASRTS) Committee, presented to the Committee regarding the available pathways accessing the school. She noted that some improvements have been made, for example to the Thackeray Walkway leading to the school from the north, however a priority area concerns access from the cul-de-sacs to the south, where 25% of the student population resides. She reported that the Park West ASRTS Committee would like to see the trail flattened and paved for maintenance throughout the winter as this lack of complete year-round access contradicts HRM Active Transportation Policies.

Ms. Barlow added that all studies on the subject of active and safe routes to school show that when a route is taken away, parents and students do not always take the alternative longer route and often switch to driving as a result. She noted that this increase in vehicles increases traffic congestion and affects the safety of students walking to school.

Mr. Bigelow responded to Ms. Greenwood's concerns. He provided an overhead view of Clayton Park West School and the access paths. He noted that the Berkshire Pathway,

leading to the school from the south, had been closed by resolution of Regional Council due to vandalism. He added that upon a year and a half of further review, including a CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) audit, staff's recommendation was to permanently close the path which Regional Council also approved.

Mr. Bigelow added that flattening and paving the area in question would cost \$80,000 due to the difficult terrain. The Parkwest ASRTS Committee had written to HRM staff and a response was sent by Mr. Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administration Officer outlining what was possible in terms of solutions. Councillor Wile had asked residents if they would fund the project via an area rate and they voted no. Mr. Bigelow indicated that three trails remain to be completed in the area.

Ms. Greenwood advised that the Park West School ASRTS Committee's main goal was for the southwest path to be maintained year round.

Ms. Barlow noted that this was going to be a larger issue at additional schools in the future noting that the challenge for this Committee would be to get these issues moved up in priority.

Mr. Bigelow indicated that the Regional Trails Program was quite large and involves working with various stakeholders to ensure adequate coverage. He noted that the spines are first priority, followed by community trails, then connector paths and wilderness trails.

A discussion regarding possible solutions ensued. Mr. Bigelow indicated there was a 'Pathways' line in the budget that could potentially be accessed. There were also Capital funds, provincial grants, School Boards and Health Boards.

Mr. Bigelow noted that schools were one of the prioritized destinations in the Active Transportation Plan and that the staff recommendation would be that the Committee figure out where this issue sits on the priority list.

Mr. Bigelow suggested that staff present a complete trails overview including Capital information to the Committee at a future meeting.

**MOVED BY Ms. Barlow, seconded by Ms. Thomas, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee come up with recommendations on the priority that school have in the Infrastructure and Maintenance Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

**7.1 Correspondence - None**

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentations - None**

**8. REPORTS - None**

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 Construction at the Fairview Overpass**

Ms. Sim expressed concerns regarding available infrastructure at the Fairview Overpass. She noted that the Province had indicated that they would be allowing for a sidewalk and a 1.5 metre wide shoulder, however, it was up to the municipality to determine how that would be integrated.

Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority, indicated that plans included a pedestrian bridge as well as to connect all pathway systems.

Mr. Reashor advised that this was a critical area and that a study is being undertaken to determine how everything will be connected with existing infrastructure.

Mr. Bigelow indicated that the completed report and update will be circulated to the Committee in January of 2010.

**9.2 School Travel Planning**

Ms. Barlow requested the opportunity to present to the committee on the School Travel Planning Committee.

The item will be added to the agenda for December 17, 2009.

**9.3 Facilitated Meeting Update**

The Committee agreed to meet from 2:00 to 6:00 p.m. on January 21, 2010.

The Chair indicated that a professional facilitator will attend the January meeting. In the meantime, a Community Developer will be calling Committee members to ascertain feedback.

**9.4 Board and Committee Reform Update**

Councillor Watts reported that Council was reviewing all board and committee structures and that staff were preparing a report on the subject which could affect the Committee. She noted that under the proposed structure there would be four groups: finance, community development, planning and transportation, and environment.

The Legislative Assistant will send the report to Committee members.

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr. Regan invited the Committee to a trail opening on December 5, 2009 at 10:00 a.m. beside the True North Restaurant in Bedford Place Mall.

**11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting was scheduled for December 17, 2009.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Tylor McDuff  
Legislative Support