

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

August 18, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair  
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Lawrence Plug  
Mr. David Jackson  
Mr. Troy Nauffts  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Mr. Clive MacGregor  
Mr. Myles McCallum

REGRETS: Mr. Scott MacPhee  
Mr. Ted Scrutton  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator  
Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor  
Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Sarah Pellerine, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. GAI THOMAS – Remembrance.....	3
3. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	3
4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – July 16, 2011 .....	3
5. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	3
6.1 Subcommittee Updates .....	4
6.1.1 Safety/Education .....	4
6.1.2 Bike and Trail Map.....	4
6.2 2011 Work Plan .....	4
6.3 Amended Terms of Reference.....	4
7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERED BUSINESS.....	4
7.1 Cyclist and Bus Education Video from Chicago.....	4
7.2 Active Transportation Plan Review Process .....	5
8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS .....	5
8.1 Correspondence – NONE.....	5
8.2 Petitions – NONE.....	5
8.3 Presentations.....	5
8.3.1 Community Development Model and Trail Development in HRM – Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning .....	5
9. REPORTS .....	5
9.1 Committee Members.....	5
9.1.1 Potential Modification of Bicycling Rules in Provincial Legislation .....	5
9.2 Staff .....	6
9.2.1 Provincial Agreement – Burnside Drive Extension – Information Report.....	6
10. ADDED ITEMS .....	6
10.1 Bike Lane Maintenance .....	6
10.2 It’s More the Busses Meeting .....	7
11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE.....	7
12. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 15, 2011 .....	7
13. ADJOURNMENT .....	7

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:03PM in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre, Halifax.

**2. GAI THOMAS – Remembrance**

The Committee held a moment of silence for Ms. Gai Thomas who passed away at the end of July.

The Committee would like to discuss how the Committee would like to remember Ms. Thomas and her contribution to HRM and the community. The Committee would like to have an accessible trike demonstration made during Bike Week in her honour.

**3. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS**

It was announced that in the last two months, since the bus maps have been placed on the website, the amount of traffic has increased. There was also a logo added to the website which shows which of the trails are wheelchair accessible. As well the process has been started of reviewing the bike and trails maps book, one thing being considered is a new cover. In relation to the website, it was noted from staff at the next meeting they would like to conduct a discussion around website improvements.

The Burnside Drive trail connection looks like it will be proceeding in the fall, Council needs to do a transfer of funds and it will go ahead. There will be a restart of the consultation process for the connection between the Chain of Lakes Trail and the downtown trails.

Over the next few weeks, construction of a new bike lane along Purcell's Cove Road will be taking place. As well there is a new bike lane along the Waverley Road and along Coldwell Road. Also there are 200 new bike racks to be issued within HRM.

**4. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – July 16, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Mr. Regan that the minutes of July 16, 2011 be approved as submitted. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

10.1 Bike Lane Maintenance

10.2 Discussion on It's More Than Busses Meeting

The agenda was accepted as amended.

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

## **6.1 Subcommittee Updates**

### **6.1.1 Safety/Education**

The Committee will meet in the fall to talk about the registration of bikes as well as some safety concerns surrounding cyclists. The Chair would like to discuss at the next meeting, what it means to register bikes and from there bring any concerns or questions back to the subcommittee.

### **6.1.2 Bike and Trail Map**

Discussed in the Updates and Announcements. Please see page 3.

## **6.2 2011 Work Plan**

The major item in the 2011 work plan is to look at the Active Transportation Plan review, based on the mandate, which states it must be reviewed every five years, and the last review was in 2006. A great deal of the review will be around the central HRM and looking at how people move around and address issues that arise. At the September meeting there will be a proposal presented from staff to the Committee as well as an overall work plan.

It was noted that Mr. Regan and Mr. Plug would like to have a hard copy of the Active Transportation Plan.

## **6.3 Amended Terms of Reference**

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee amend the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference to state that the Committee reports to the *Transportation Standing Committee* rather than *Council*. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

## **7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERED BUSINESS**

### **7.1 Cyclist and Bus Education Video from Chicago**

The video from Chicago was sent to the Committee for review along with Metro Transit staff. It was brought to the Committees' attention that Metro Transit was now using the video for training new bus drivers.

The Committee asked staff to look into the licensing and copy right laws around the video so that it could be put on the website.

The Committee noted they would like to look into having trail heads given civic addresses so that Metro Transit drivers could find the trails with more ease. The information will be brought to the next meeting. As well it was noted that the Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) would be working on an overhaul for trail signage this fall.

The Committee would also like to bring forward a question to 911 regarding cell phone GPS locations along the trails and if they are able to track where a person would be. The Chair will check with Police before the next meeting.

## **7.2 Active Transportation Plan Review Process**

This was already discussed under item 6.2, and will come from staff at the next meeting.

## **8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **8.1 Correspondence – NONE**

### **8.2 Petitions – NONE**

### **8.3 Presentations**

#### **8.3.1 Community Development Model and Trail Development in HRM – Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning**

Mr. Peter Bigelow gave a presentation to the Committee on the linear recreation trails around HRM.

It was noted there is roughly 275km of trails built in the HRM by community groups, most of which being rails to trails. These groups have leveraged over 10 million dollars for these trails.

The Committee will use this model and presentation as a framework for discussion down the road when it comes to reviewing the Active Transportation Plan.

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 Committee Members**

#### **9.1.1 Potential Modification of Bicycling Rules in Provincial Legislation**

Ms. Koblents gave an update on the revisions of the rules in the motor vehicle act concerning cyclists. She questioned if the Committee would like to submit their concerns collectively for the September meeting.

The two areas of concern were:

Question 5 regarding groups of cyclists along the highway, and that there be a cap of 15 riders per group. The concern from the Committee is that a cap like this would hurt local cyclist groups and they wondered how a group be defined. It was noted this would hinder road safety by having many smaller groups to pass rather than one group. The Committee would like to know if this is a rule in any other places in Canada, North America or worldwide.

Question 5 regarding cyclists dismounting their bike while going through a crosswalk. The concern from the Committee was around cyclists using trails with a roadway through the trail and if the cyclist would have to dismount in that situation. The Committee would like to note that in British Columbia they have narrowing so only one cyclist can pass through at a time on to the roadway, and the intersections have yield sign rather than stop signs.

The Committee is looking for clarification regarding penalties and wondered if it is always bike seizure or if a fine could be given instead.

## **9.2 Staff**

### **9.2.1 Provincial Agreement – Burnside Drive Extension – Information Report**

There was a minor update to the Burnside Drive Extension, the provincial contribution will be one million dollars, which is within the 2013 budget. It was noted that without this contribution the link between Bedford and Burnside would not be possible.

Mr. Regan spoke on behalf of HRTA, stating that HRTA was in support of this extension.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Nauffts, that the Active Transportation Committee compose a formal letter expressing support for the Burnside Drive Extension. MOTION PUT AND PASSED**

## **10. ADDED ITEMS**

### **10.1 Bike Lane Maintenance**

The Committee would like a request to be brought to the Transportation Standing Committee that there be regular maintenance on bike lanes and that money be put aside to cover the cost.

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee support the upcoming Transportation Standing Committee request for HRM bike lane maintenance standards. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10.2 It's More the Busses Meeting**

Mr. Regan gave a brief update from the meeting he attended, during which he put forward the importance of active transportation in the form of busses and trails.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE**

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE – September 15, 2011**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:10PM.

Sarah Pellerine  
Legislative Support