

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 19, 2012

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Troy Nauffts  
Mr. Clive MacGregor  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Mr. Myles McCallum  
Mr. John MacLennan  
Ms. Wendy McDonald (Halifax Regional Trails Association alternate)
- REGRETS: Mr. Walter Regan  
Ms. Devon Peavoy  
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair  
Mr. David Jackson  
Mr. Lawrence Plug
- STAFF: Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator  
Mr. David MacIsaac, Transportation Demand Management Supervisor  
Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Mr. Dave McCusker, Regional Transportation Manager  
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

## 2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- The Chair informed the Committee of the Velocity Global conference in Vancouver June 26-29, 2012.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 15, 2012

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. McCallum that the minutes of March 15, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee agreed to add four items: an update on the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee, Links to Reports, Speed Limit Reduction, and an update on the Regional Council budget. The Committee also agreed to amend the order of business to allow items 7.1.3 and 8.1.4 to follow item 4.

**MOVED by Ms. Pugh, seconded by Mr. McCallum that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### 7.3 Presentations

#### 7.3.1 Switch: Open Street Sundays Project

Mr. Ben Buckwold, Community Planner, Cities and Environment Unit, Dalhousie University, provided a presentation on the Switch initiative to open a route of city streets for a set time to cyclists and other forms of active transportation. He outlined the international and Canadian history of similar projects. He explained the goals, community benefits and time frame of the proposed Halifax event and circulated a map of the potential route. In response to questions from the Committee, he provided details on the following:

- traffic police at signalized intersections to prevent cars entering the route while allowing some east-west traffic flow
- the event budget and funds raised to date
- how Switch will work with residents and businesses along and near the route to promote and support the event and to enable access to driveways as needed

- involving students in the event (target date September 9, 2012) as well as transit and HRM residents outside the peninsula
- outreach to AT and other non-profit organizations that may wish to have info booths along the route
- activity nodes for performance, street vendors, exercise demos, and food coordination with the HRM Special Event Task Force

Mr. Nauffts noted that guide dogs for the visually impaired cannot function well if sidewalks are blocked with vendor tables and this is also an issue for wheelchair users.

Mr. Buckwold stated that accessibility for everyone is a priority, that vendors could possibly be located where cars are normally parked and that he would bring Mr. Nauffts comments to the next Switch planning meeting.

Mr. Buckwold requested the endorsement of the Committee for the proposed event.

**MOVED by Ms. Barlow, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Action Committee endorse in principle the proposed Switch: Open Street Sundays event. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1.4 Staff Report**

Mr. MacIsaac introduced Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator, to the Committee. He provided members with updates on the following:

- the AT Review Plan is underway
- two public information meetings on the north-south bike corridor have been held with good participation and overall endorsement for the concept; once a decision has been made on the route, the matter will return to ATAC and then be forwarded to Peninsula Community Council
- more than 40 events have been approved for Bike Week and the information will be on the HRM website within two weeks
- existing street insert traffic “pucks” have been tested and do detect bikes to change signal lights at intersections, “pucks” specifically for bikes have been ordered; if cyclists have trouble with signal changes they should contact him
- the Chain of Lakes Trail connector will be discussed at the next meeting
- an opportunity to meet with national director of Canada Walks will be organized for ATAC members and other groups during her May 7-8, 2012 visit to HRM on May 17, 2012, there will be an AT open house for the Cow Bay area

The Committee entered into a discussion on the bike corridor, the concerns of Agricola Street merchants and the option of Local Street Bikeways, a concept that designs routes through side streets with signage, safe crossings and other forms of traffic

calming/car filtering that encourages new cyclists and high volume bike use. Mr. MacIsaac noted that this system is widely used in Vancouver and one study has shown it is safer than bike lanes on major routes. The Chair requested that staff provide the Committee with photographs or maps of current Local Street Bikeways in Vancouver so members could see how similar routes might function in HRM.

The Committee concluded the discussion and returned to the regular order of business.

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

### **5.1 Status of Active Transportation Review – Chair**

The Committee agreed to form a sub-committee to meet before the May 17, 2012 ATAC meeting and provide an update on the AT Review. Mr. MacGregor, Ms. Barlow, Mr. McCallum and a representative from HRTA will sit on the subcommittee.

### **5.2 Trail Maps -- Chair**

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the Bike and Greenway map will be available for distribution by Bike Week, if not sooner.

Ms. McDonald circulated copies of the Halifax North West Trails Map produced by the Halifax North West Trails Association.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

#### **7.1.1 Agricola Bike Corridor – Ms. Erica Penton**

The Chair noted the e-mail correspondence from Ms. Penton, circulated to members as part of the April 19, 2012 ATAC agenda package.

The Committee accepted the correspondence as information.

### **7.2 Petitions -- None**

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Switch: Open Street Sundays Project**

This item was dealt with previously, see page 3.

## **8. REPORTS**

## **8.1 Updates**

### **8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee**

The Chair informed the Committee that the sub-committee has not met. Mr. MacGregor circulated an updated Halifax Cycling Coalition draft handlebar flyer for first-time bike users. He stated that he would send the draft to the Legislative Assistant to be circulated to Committee members for any final comments.

### **8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

The Chair requested that Committee members forward to her any information they had on adult trike events during the 2011 Bike Week.

### **8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA)**

Ms. McDonald updated the Committee on the April 2012 AGM, the approved HRTA budget, the Sackville Rivers interpretative signage and April 26, 2012 webinar, and the new HRTA website which will include by-laws, minutes, and links. She noted that HRTA is working on civic numbers and transit connections for trails, and that off-leash dogs are an ongoing issue as are ATVs (the latter involving a NS Supreme Court ruling). She added that HRTA is involved in April events such as Volunteer Month and Earth Day.

Ms. Debaie explained the reorganization of the Facility Development Business Unit and its impact on AT, as well as the 2012/13 Capital Budget for 14 Community Trail Groups. She also provided updated on the following trails/greenways: the North Preston Waterline Trail and bridge; the extension to the Lawrencetown Cole Harbour Trail; the Bissett Lake Trail; the Forest Hills Connector; the Barrington Street AT Greenway as part of the Trans Canada Trail.

In response to the information that 200 Earth Day trees would be planted along the Barrington Street Greenway, Committee members exchanged views on tree density, safety, and buffering between pedestrians and cyclists. Councillor Hendsbee added an update on the Burnside Trail construction.

### **8.1.4 Staff Report**

This item was previously addressed, see page 4.

### **8.1.5 Committee Members**

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Halifax Cycling Coalition was focussed on the North-South bike corridor and on Bike Week. He added that several members of the Coalition recently organized a well-received event to drop in on four Agricola Street businesses, introduce themselves and buy products.

## **8.2 New Business**

### **8.2.1 Local Street Bikeways Discussion -- Chair**

This item was dealt with previously, see page 4.

## **9. ADDED ITEMS**

### **9.1 Update – Meeting with Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee**

The Chair provided an update on the meeting and dialogue between ATAC representatives and PPPAC. She added that the Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee was interested in meeting with a member of HRM staff experienced in the issue of multi-use trails, design standards, and trail conflicts.

### **9.2 Links to Reports**

The Chair stated that she was working on this matter and that if members had concerns about access to a report they should contact the Legislative Assistant.

### **9.3 Speed Limit Reduction**

The Chair informed members that Regional Council has approved sending a letter to the provincial Department of Transportation requesting an appraisal of lower vehicle speed limits on specific HRM streets and the authority to adjust limits.

### **9.4 Budget Approval**

The Chair informed the Committee of recent HRM budget approvals regarding AT.

## **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE**

## **11. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 17, 2012**

## **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort  
Legislative Support