

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

August 16, 2012

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. David Jackson
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Janet Barlow
Ms. Devon Peavoy
- REGRETS: Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. John MacLennan
Mr. Myles McCallum
Mr. Lawrence Plug
- STAFF: Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator
Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 21, 2012	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE	3
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE	3
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	3
7.1	Correspondence -- None	3
7.2	Petitions -- None	3
7.3	Presentations.....	3
7.3.1	Active Transportation Plan Review Presentation – Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator	3
7.3.2	North-South Peninsula Bicycle Corridor Update -- Mr. David Maclsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management	4
8.	REPORTS	5
8.1	Updates	5
8.1.1	Safety and Education Sub-Committee	5
8.1.2	Bike Week Sub-Committee	5
8.1.3	Halifax Regional Trails Association	5
9.	ADDED ITEMS	5
9.1	Vacancies on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee	5
10.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE	5
11.	NEXT MEETING DATE - September 20, 2012.....	5
12.	ADJOURNMENT	5

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre. Three visitors were introduced: Ms. Gabrielle Gallagher, HRM Active Living Coordinator, Mr. Mike Lightstone, Chronicle-Herald and Mr. Josh DeJong, HRM summer student.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan informed the Committee of the Sackville Rivers Association annual auction and dinner on September 14, 2012.
- Mr. Clive MacGregor noted that the Halifax Cycling Coalition would have a booth at the Switch Open Street Sunday event on September 9, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. and would use the opportunity to gather more public feedback on the proposed Agricola Street bike corridor.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 21, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the minutes of June 21, 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 vacancies on ATAC under item 9.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor 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 -- None

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Active Transportation Plan Review Presentation – Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator

Ms. Jacobs provided an update on the following points:

- Highlights of the previous five years
- The increase in residents using forms of active transportation
- How potential AT projects are identified and evaluated
- New Provincial and HRM legislation and policies and the ongoing collaboration with the province
- Upcoming stakeholder consultations in September 2012 and public consultations in October/November 2012 to prioritize and develop AT route options

Committee members emphasized the importance of the Hantsport railway trail opportunity, the Boardwalk Around the Harbour initiative, adequate Bike Week grants and the need for clarity on whether new paths and sidewalk are prioritizing active transportation or recreation. Members suggested including coffee shops and all retailers of bike equipment as stakeholders who should be invited to information sessions. Members also expressed concern about developers building trails without consistent standards or maintenance, how AT statistics are generated and used and the need to collaborate with the Province on this data.

7.3.2 North-South Peninsula Bicycle Corridor Update -- Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management

Mr. MacIsaac provided a presentation to the Committee and introduced Mr. Mike Connors, P.Eng, who is assisting in the assessment and design of the proposed corridor routes. Mr. MacIsaac noted that residents are invited to try the routes on public rides taking place through August and September. He outlined the stakeholder and public feedback gathered to date on the route options and the preliminary data on the Agricola Street area parking capacity and occupancy. He stated that staff will expand on that research and will do a survey of area businesses and residents. In response to questions, he clarified that staff have been asked for a final recommendation of one route but that it was open to the Committee to recommend a combination of options.

Committee members expressed concern about the safety of proposed routes that may alternate between dedicated lanes and sharrows, stating that traffic calming has to be significant. Members questioned the perception of the corridor having a negative impact on Agricola businesses and noted that parking studies do not consider how other patrons interact with those businesses.

The Chair requested that staff re-examine the proposed Windsor Street route with a view to maintaining the bike lanes up to intersections without interruption. Members agreed that of the five original proposed routes, staff should now focus on three options.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that staff consider prioritizing the bike corridor options of Windsor Street, Agricola Street, and the Local Street Bikeway in order to return to the Committee with a recommendation of one route or a combined route. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. REPORTS

The Chair requested that, due to time constraints, subcommittees send any specific updates or reports by e-mail to the Legislative Assistant for distribution to the Committee members.

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

See Item 8, above.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

See Item 8, above.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

See Item 8, above.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Vacancies on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee

The Chair noted that this was Mr. Jackson's last meeting and the Committee thanked him for his contribution.

The Committee also expressed its appreciation to Ms. Gregory, Legislative Assistant.

The Chair noted that Mr. Nauffts had also stepped down and there were now two vacancies to fill. She asked members to encourage applicants and requested that Ms. Gregory send application information and the link to Committee members.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - September 20, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support