



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 19, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Terry Walker
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Walker Regan
Ms. Juile Tompa
Mr. David Jackson

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit
Mr. Jeremy Josey
Ms. Janet Barlow

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Cathy Collett, Legislative Support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online:

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:04 p.m. and adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

Community Announcements

Committee members noted a number of community announcements.

The Vice-Chair welcomed the new members and the Committee held a roundtable of introductions

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 20, 2014, and December 15, 2014 (Notes).

MOVED by Walter Regan, seconded by Councilor Mason that the minutes of November 20, 2014 and notes of December 15, 2014 be approved as presented.

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

Additions:

- 7.4.1 Queries from the Halifax Cycling Coalition – Ms. Terry Walker

Deletions:

- 6.3.1 Pro Walk, Pro Bike, Pro Place Conference – Ms. Janet Barlow

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions- None

6.3 Presentation

6.3.1 Pro Walk, Pro Bike, Pro Place Conference – Janet Barlow

This item was deleted from the agenda during approval of the agenda, as Ms. Barlow was unable to attend today's meeting. The presentation will be rescheduled for a future meeting.

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Active Transportation Staff:

Public Engagement for University Avenue Protected Bike Lane (verbal update)

Ms. Hanita Koblents informed the Committee that there will be a public open house held at Dalhousie University regarding the University Avenue bike lane sometime in the next few weeks and that the date will be announced within the next few days. Councillor Hendsbee questioned what communication

strategies will be used and reminded the Committee about the importance of being inclusive. Mr. David MacIsaac informed the Committee that there is an established list of stakeholders and all will be contacted. The Committee indicated their interest in participating in the open house and Staff responded to questions from Committee members.

7.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Jessie Debaie noted:

- A large part of the Halifax Regional Trails Association budget and carry forward funding will be dedicated to the Sackville Greenway this year.
- Regional Trail Staff are no longer part of Parks and Recreation but are being transferred to TPW under Manager Dave Hubley in Project Planning and Design Services.
- The Shore Active Transportation Association (SATA) has signed a contract with WSP for a feasibility study for the Acadian Marsh Greenway.
- HRM has recently signed a contract with WSP for a preferred alignment and facility types route plan to connect the Mainland North Linear Parkway to the Larry Uteck AT Greenway in the north and to the Chain of Lake Greenway in the south.
- Ekistics Planning and Design has been engaged by the Penhorn Lake Trail Association to provide a concept plan for the Penhorn Lake Greenway. A public consultation meeting for the community is planned for Monday, February 23 from 7:30 – 9:00 at Alderney Elementary School.
- Cole Harbour Parks and Trail Association is getting detailed design for a bridge to finish the Bissett Lake at the Jennifer Place end at Cole Harbour Road. Jennifer Place Construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2015.
- Chain of Lakes Trail was paved before Christmas as part of the Halifax Water waste water project and the Chain of Lakes Re-instatement. The Greenway has been completely paved and landscaped. Due to the onset of winter the greenway has been stamped as substantially complete, although some required upgrades are scheduled for spring.
- The Shubie Watershed Environmental Protection Society is planning to turn a provincial K-Road into an Active Transportation Greenway in the Waverly Fall River area. The group is ready to do a survey tender and is presently waiting on the ground breaking permit from the provincial TIR.
- A council report is in the queue for Council to decide whether or not to take over the responsibility for the Shearwater Flyer section of Trail from where it connects to the Salt Marsh Trail at Bissett road at one end and to Pleasant Street at Corsair Drive, just past Shearwater, at the other.
- A McNabs Island Council report is being drafted and scheduled to go to Council in March. The Friends of McNabs Island were denied funding since the Provincial Park Island is not considered an AT greenway of the Main Greenway Spine as per the 2014 AT Plan.

7.2 HALIFAX REGIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION

Mr. Walter Regan informed the Committee that plans are moving ahead to begin Phase 1 construction for the 2km Sackville Greenway Section B along the Halifax Water easement between Old Sackville Road and Glendale Avenue in the 15/16 budget season. The Sackville Greenway was originally to be one of the first locations where the first McDonald Bridge deck panels would be used for a bridge. However, that bridge placement has been extended for 1 year. The Sackville Greenway is one of the priority greenways from the 2014 AT Plan. The group has applied for NS Health and Wellness funding as well.

Mr. Regan raised the question of how to get funding for trails within parks that are not encompassed by the Active Transportation plan. He also emphasized the need for more HRTA Staff. The Committee discussed the structural differences between recreational trails and active transportation trails. Councillor Mason suggested that the new members of the Active Transportation Committee be provided with copies of the Active Transportation maps. Ms. Koblents advised that she would provide copies of the Active Transportation Plan for the new members of the Committee. Ms. Koblents suggested that trails outside

the AT plan are also outside of the Committee's mandate and Councillor Mason suggested and that Mr. Regan bring his concerns to the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee.

7.3 BIKE WEEK SUB-COMMITTEE

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that there have already been two meetings held for Bike week, which this year will be held from June 5 – 14. There will soon be an announcement about welcoming community groups to apply for small grants, likely next week, and will be announced on the Halifax Bike Week Facebook Page. The planning for the 5 or 6 signature events is already underway. The theme for this year's Bike Week is "Riding for Healthier Halifax."

7.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

7.4.1 HALIFAX CYCLING COALITION

Ms. Terry Walker inquired about the numbers from the Screenline Bike Count that came out in November 2004 and Mr. MacIsaac indicated that he would pass them along. She also inquired about the area parking supply study on Agricola Street and the Committee indicated that this was related to the parking road map. Mr. MacIsaac explained that this was part of the AT priorities plan and that of one of two potential routes will be recommended to Council after stakeholder engagement. The Committee discussed the subject of municipal parking. Ms. Walker informed the Committee that she attended the community event, "Big Lift," and that the Halifax Bridge Commission advised that there are three different plans for changing the approach to the bridge when it is resurfaced. Ms. Koblents suggested that there will soon be a report coming to Council under the Capital Budget and that Council will give direction on how to structure and engage the project.

7.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY COMMITTEE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

10. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL MEETING SCHEDULE AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 16, 2015.

The Committee approved the meeting schedule and agreed to cancel the March meeting because it occurs during March Break. The Committee considered rescheduling the June meeting to sometime during Bike Week with the potential for hearing presentations from interested groups at this meeting. Mr. Regan suggested a presentation could be given at this time of how far Trails and Active Transportation has come since 2006. Mr. Buckwold suggested that the AT plan already contains much of this information. Mr. MacIsaac asked if they could discuss this idea further at another meeting. The Committee agreed to add an update on the subject to the agenda of the next meeting. The Committee agreed to move the June meeting to June 11 to coincide with Bike Week.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Committee accept the yearly meeting schedule as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:52 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support