



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
September 17, 2015**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair  
Councillor Waye Mason, Vice Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Ms. Terry Walker  
Ms. Julie Tompa  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Councillor Tim Outhit

**REGRETS:** Ms. Janet Barlow  
Mr. John Hawkins  
Mr. David Jackson

**STAFF:** 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 4:02 p.m. and adjourned at 5:50 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall, Halifax.

Committee members made a number of community announcements.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 20, 2015**

Ms. Hanita Koblents pointed out an error on page three of the minutes from August 20, 2015. Under item 7.1.1 the word “accepted” should read “excepted.”

**MOVED by Councillor Wayne Mason, seconded by Ms. Julie Tompa that the Minutes of August 20, 2015 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

**MOVED by Councillor Tim Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason that the order of business be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**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 Presentations**

**6.3.1 Main Street Dartmouth Business Improvement Association: Active Transportation: Assets/Opportunities/Challenges in the Main Street Dartmouth Area**

The following was before the Committee:

- *A presentation entitled Active Transportation: Assets, Opportunities and Challenges in the Main Street Dartmouth Area*

Mr. Paul Dec, Urban Planning Consultant on behalf of the Main Street Dartmouth and Area Business Improvement Association delivered a slideshow presentation to the Committee. He explained that the Main Street Dartmouth area is under transformation and outlined the elements of the Main Street Business Improvement District:

- 1 kilometer radius
- 167 businesses (restaurants, retail, beauty, financial, real estate, home and specialty services)
- 45 health and wellness facilities
- 6 churches
- Schools: elementary, junior high, high school, college

Mr. Dec explained that apartment buildings can be built as of right in this area and that the Dartmouth Municipal Planning Strategy states that the Main Street Area should be designed to “invite residents to walk or bicycle to obtain their daily needs...” (Dartmouth MPS, p. 92). In order for the MPS to be carried out, improvements for pedestrians and cyclists are required.

Mr. Dec showed a series of maps and discussed the challenges that the district poses to pedestrians and cyclists, such as long gaps between crosswalks and gaps in bike lanes. One of proposed improvements would involve purchasing a piece of road that would allow for a pedestrian right of way via the proposed Hartlen Street extension. The presentation concluded with a video simulation of a travelling down the proposed Lakecrest Bike Ramp.

Mr. Dec responded to questions of clarification from Committee members:

Councillor Mason asked if the proposed bike ramp could be closer to street level. Mr. Dec responded that it is certainly a possibility.

Councillor Hendsbee questioned who would advance staff asking Council to look at acquiring the road required for the Hartlen Street extension and asked how the proposed changes differ from the current AT plan. Mr. Dec responded that the proposed changes are in line with the current AT plan.

Ms. Koblents commented that if the proposed Hartlen Street extension is not wide enough to be a road, it could be a pedestrian path or a public square.

The Committee discussed the importance of the Dartmouth Councillors seeing the presentation and suggested that the presentation be given again at the Harbour East Marine Drive Community Council meeting. Councillor Hendsbee suggested that Mr. Dec contact Councillor Gloria McCluskey, Chair of HEMDCC. The Committee decided to forward the presentation to the Transportation Standing Committee.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee forward the presentation entitled Active Transportation: Assets/Opportunities/Challenges in the Main Street Dartmouth Area to the Transportation Standing Committee for their information. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 STAFF**

#### **7.1.1 ATAC Evaluation - Staff**

The following was before the Committee:

- A copy of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Evaluation

Ms. Catherine Barnstead introduced herself to the Committee and explained that as part of her internship in the Clerk's office she is reviewing a number of HRM Committees to see how they might be changed or improved to best serve HRM.

Beginning with a review of the past work of the Active Transportation Standing Committee, Ms. Barnstead commented that the Committee had provided useful guidance during the development of the Active Transportation Plan as well as knowledgeable feedback on active transportation infrastructure such as bike racks and bike lanes. Ms. Barnstead observed that, in addition to this advisory role, the Committee also provides a useful forum for the exchange of information between committee members, staff, the Transportation Standing Committee, and the groups represented by ATAC. Overall, the feedback given about the work of the ATAC was very positive.

Moving to the issues experienced by the Committee, Ms. Barnstead suggested that a lack of quorum, the absence of key projects now that the AT Plan is in the implementation phase, and the fact that the role of the Committee is sometimes unclear, detracts from the efficacy of the Committee. She explained that Staff would like a formal means of utilizing the ATAC for advice on projects related to the Active Transportation Plan, but that the process for this is unclear. Also, the mandate may not accurately reflect the Committee's role in regard to Bike Week and budgetary considerations.

Ms. Koblents commented that it would be helpful to get updates from Staff other than just HRM Staff, such as Ms. Elizabeth Pugh from Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, and perhaps even from the resident members at large.

Councillor Outhit commented that quorum is likely an issue because there are three vacancies and the vacant positions still count towards the number of members required to be present for quorum to be achieved.

Councillor Mason requested that Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant, send out descriptions of the three vacant positions to Committee members.

Ms. Koblents suggested that part of the reason why active members may not show up for Committee meetings is because the Committee is not called upon to do real work, and thus Committee members do not feel motivated or needed. Ms. Julie Tompa concurred.

Ms. Koblents commented that she would like to be able to ask the advice of the Committee on a broader range of topics.

The Committee discussed their role in advising on budgetary considerations and suggested that it might be useful to give a presentation to the Transportation Standing Committee on an annual basis.

Committee members commented that it is important for the Committee's Terms of Reference to accurately reflect the work done by the Committee and that the TOR should be reviewed annually by the Committee.

Ms. Barnstead provided the following three options for Committee discussion:

Option 1 – dissolve Committee

Option 2 – Leave it as it is

Option 3 – Utilize ATAC in a more advisory capacity to staff and request changes to in the TOR to reflect that role.

The Committee unanimously supported Option 3.

Ms. Barnstead listed the following as the recommendations for altering the Terms of Reference for the Committee:

- Allow informal means of providing advice to staff
- Alter in regards to Bike Week to reflect a broader mandate to provide advice and support education initiatives regarding Active Transportation
- Remove reference to budget
- Consider Staff Report to Council re: including a representative of walking/pedestrian groups in HRM on the committee through expression of interest

Ms. Barnstead assured the Committee that she would provide an update at next meeting.

### **7.1.2 Active Transportation Staff**

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that staff are working on next year's program. The Hollis Street project is paved and pre-marked and completion is imminent. Staff is expecting to receive a report about the MacDonald Bridge by the end of the month. Work is ongoing for the Rannie Drive and Devonshire projects and the University Avenue case is scheduled to go to court on September 27, 2015.

**7.1.3 Regional Trails Staff**

Ms. Jessie DeBaie gave a verbal update to the Committee:

- The Sackville Greenway project Phase 1 partial section will go under construction on September 21 and is expected to be finished in mid November. There will be no paving this year.
- The Halifax Regional Trails Association received a letter in August informing them that the 2016/17 HRTA budget would be focused on Greenway projects that with the 2014 AT plan.
- An Active section through the village of Porters Lake is going under construction this month. The village section is part of the Porters Lake AT plan and will be partially constructed and paved this fall, weather permitting.
- The repair work on the asphalt that was causing erosion behind the trail and the loss of trees has been completed. The asphalt section has been repaired to correct water flow and the bank behind has been rehabilitated and stabilized.
- Several HRTA groups have received notification that they will be receiving Connect 2 grants. They are as follows: Shore Active Transportation, Sackville Greenway, Cole Harbour Parks & Trails.
- Tendering will take place this winter to construct the small section of the Dartmouth Harbourfront through the Killam property that has remained unfinished for several years. This is a long waited completion of a popular urban greenway.
- HRM Active Living plans another trail challenge this year. The idea behind the challenge is to have individuals and families out on many different trails this October. When information becomes available the AT committee will be informed.

**7.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association - None**

**7.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee - None**

**7.4 Committee Members**

Ms. Elizabeth Pugh commented that the first section of blue route was opened in early August and planning will continue throughout the winter months.

**7.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee - None**

**8. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: October 15, 2015**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

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

Cathy Collett  
Legislative Support