



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**May 19, 2016**

**PRESENT:** Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair  
Councillor Waye Mason, Vice Chair  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Mr. David Jackson  
Mr. James McMillin  
Mr. Scott Borden  
Ms. Julie Tompa  
Ms. Tristen Cleveland  
Councillor Hendsbee  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh

**REGRETS:** Councillor Tim Outhit

**STAFF:** Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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

*The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/160324atac-agenda.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. and adjourned at 5:55 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. and Committee members shared community announcements.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2016 and March 24, 2016**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Regan

**THAT the minutes of February 18, 2016 and March 24, 2016 be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Addition:

8.2 Committee Member Updates:

8.2.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition:

- Update on Agricola Street Bicycle Corral
- HCC Feedback on Plans to Improve and Extend the Bike Lane on South Park Street, Halifax (agenda item 8.1.1)
- Hollis Street Bicycle Lane – Concerns and Recommendations

The Chair advised that if the Committee agreed to add this item, he suggested that it be dealt with after 7.3.1, to which the Committee agreed.

At the request of Councillor Mason, the Committee agreed to deal with item 8.1.1 as the first order of business.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the agenda be approved as amended.**

Two-third majority vote required.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Mr. Walter Regan expressed his appreciation to Councillor Mason for setting up a meeting between him and Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation. He advised that the meeting was in regard to HRTA and that, ultimately, he and Mr. Anguish agreed to disagree, but that it was a very good discussion and he was appreciative of the opportunity.

For the information of the Committee, Councillor Hendsbee advised that at the May 10, 2016 Regional Council meeting, Council passed a motion in regard to a report from the Grants Committee that will see staff prepare a supplementary report with recommendations in regard to recreational trails, including motorized, that are not part of the HRM Active Transportation network or municipal parks programming.

At the request of the Chair for an update on the motions the Committee passed at the last meeting, Councillor Mason advised that the Transportation Standing Committee deferred the matter pertaining to *On Street Bicycle Parking Policies* to September, when the Pilot Project for the Agricola Street bicycle

parking will have finished its second year. With regard to the Trans Canada Trail motion, Councillor Mason advised that the Standing Committee passed a motion requesting a staff report.

- 5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE**
- 6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**
- 7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**
  - 7.1 Correspondence - None**
  - 7.2 Petitions – None**
  - 7.3 Presentations**
    - 7.3.1 Bicycle Nova Scotia – Blue Route Corridor Planning**

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

- 8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**
  - 8.1 STAFF**
    - 8.1.1 Staff Presentation/Committee Feedback on Plans to Improve and Extend the Bike Lanes on South Park Street, Halifax**

Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, addressed the Committee with regard to the extension of the bike lanes on South Park Street, Halifax. He advised that staff are on the last phase and will go out to the public for feedback once more and will then work with WSP on the comments received and options. He added that by mid-fall staff expect to have the options refined and to provide a recommendation, and will bring the matter to Council in the late fall or early 2017. He then introduced Mike Connors from WSP, and he provided the presentation on the South Park Street Bicycle Lane Improvement and Extension, Preliminary Design Options. A copy of the presentation can be found in the official file of this meeting. Highlights of the presentation are as follows:

- There are four project objectives:
  - Review opportunities to enhance existing bike lanes
  - Extend bike lanes south to Inglis Street
  - Review the various implications (traffic impacts; on-street parking; loading; and transit)
  - Prepare detailed design drawings
- Challenges:
  - Intersections – will have to take away lane capacity
  - On-street parking – area is very high demand for on-street parking
  - Curb access- consideration has to be given to taxi stands and bus stops
- Option A is Buffered Bike Lanes – most important with this option is that it gets cyclists out of the 'door zone'; and it is easy to implement.
- Option B is the Protected Bike Lanes – incorporates a vertical element (parked cars) which makes the cyclist feel comfortable as well as a horizontal element. Challenges associated with this option are snow removal; intersections; and accessibility to get across the bike lane to the curb.
- With Option A, there would be a loss of 38 existing parking spaces, and Option B would have a loss of 54 existing parks spaces.
- Option A would be more easily to implement than Option B.

A discussion ensued and Mr. Connors and Mr. MacIsaac responded to questions.

In response to a question from the Chair as to the best way the Committee could assist staff on this matter, Mr. MacIsaac advised the Committee members to send any comments and suggestions directly to him.

At 5:01 p.m. Ms. Tompa retired from the meeting.

Mr. Buckwold, stepped down from the Chair to present the next agenda item. Councillor Mason, Vice Chair assumed the Chair.

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Bicycle Nova Scotia – Blue Route Corridor Planning**

Mr. Ben Buckwold, Bicycle Nova Scotia provided a presentation on the Blue Route corridor planning, focussing on how the Blue Route will connect into HRM and the urban centre. The Blue Route is a province-wide project to create a continuous network of bicycling infrastructure. The Committee discussed the possible options for the Blue Route to connect into HRM.

Following the presentation, Mr. Buckwold assumed the Chair.

During the course of discussion, the issue of a funding gap was raised and there was consensus among the Committee that there was merit in having staff look at a policy that would clarify HRM's position on supporting national, provincial, and regional trail identification programs—such as Trans Canada Trail or the Blue Route—that have been approved by Council and, in particular, in respect to the consideration of funding criteria for HRM partner trail associations.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Mr. Cleveland

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding possible creation of a policy to regularize participation and funding consideration for HRM-partnered trail associations with such national, provincial and regional trail identification programs that may be approved.**

#### **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

At 5:39 p.m. Councillor Mason retired from the meeting.

### **8.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES**

#### **8.2.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition**

The following was submitted from the Halifax Cycling Coalition:

- Update on Agricola Street Bicycle Corral
- HCC Feedback on Plans to Improve and Extend the Bike Lane on South Park Street, Halifax
- Hollis Street Bicycle Lane – Concerns and Recommendations

The Chair advised that the information on the Agricola Street Bicycle Corral was an update and did not require any discussion from the Committee.

The Chair advised that the information submitted on the Hollis Street Bicycle Lane expresses concern over parked cars, and loading and unloading within the Bike Lane, and contains suggestions for the committee to make a recommendation to the Transportation Standing Committee.

Mr. MacIsaac advised that the Hollis Street Bicycle Lane is a two-year pilot project and this year the focus for staff is on determining how many bicycles are using the lane and figuring out where the problem areas

of the bike lane are located. In response to a question, he indicated that as part of their review staff is looking at the issue of loading/unloading in the bike lane.

At 5:44 p.m. Councillor Hendsbee retired from the meeting.

The Chair noted that the concerns expressed by the Halifax Cycling Coalitions are valid and the matter would be placed on the next meeting agenda for discussion, and possibly a presentation by the Halifax Cycling Coalition.

With regard to the information submitted on the South Park Street Bicycle Lane by the Halifax Cycling Coalition, he noted that a copy has been provided to staff and he encouraged other Committee members to send their comments directly to Mr. Maclsaac.

### **8.1.2 Updates from Active Transportation and Regional Trails Staff**

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator and Mr. Maclsaac provided the following updates to the Committee:

- Bike Week events are shaping up for the week June 3- June 12. The events calendar is available on the web site [www.halifax.ca/bikeweek](http://www.halifax.ca/bikeweek).
- The kick off to Bike Week will be the Mayors Bike Ride on the Chain of Lakes Greenway. The meeting place is the CAA Centre on Joseph Howe Avenue on Thursday, May 24 3:30 – 5:30.
- A section of paved active transportation greenway is presently being constructed in the village centre section of Porters Lake. The greenway section will be paved and connect the school and Metro X transit terminal. The village section was recommended in the Porters Lake AT Plan and is recognized as an advancement of AT outside the urban centre.
- The Shore Active Transportation Association has a temporary Letter of Authority (LOA) from NS Department of Natural Resources for the section of abandoned rail line from East Chezzetcook to the outskirts of Musquodoboit Harbour. The LOA gives the group the authority to do functional planning and bridge assessment but not for construction.
- Work ongoing with a consultant hired to locate, design and oversee construction of the bridges over the Sackville River and Rankin Brook. Both are needed to complete this year's portion of the Sackville Greenway from Sackville Drive to Glendale.
- Planning and consulting work is ongoing with WSP and a landowner stakeholders committee including HRM, TIR and Halifax Water for the planning exercise to connect the Chain of Lakes Greenway along North West Arm Drive to the Walter Havill Intersection. At the latest stakeholder meeting several options were provided. The one most likely to be given top priority is the option along the east side of the highway.
- Devonshire Ave. Bike lane approved by Council in early May. Now completing detailed design and hope to have it tendered by mid-summer.
- We have a meeting set up with the Province to discuss how to update the MVA to include modern bikeway/AT facilities, including signals.
- We are continuing to gather input from the public and stakeholder on the South Park St. Bike lane improvement and extension project. We anticipate coming back to the public with updated options in mid-fall.

### **9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – June 16, 2016

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Support