



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES**

**June 16, 2016**

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

**REGRETS:** Mr. Scott Borden

**STAFF:** Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Jenny Benson, 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 the Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/160324atac-agenda.php>*

# Active Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes June 16, 2016

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:42 p.m.*

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

The Chair introduced Ms. Kelsey Lane, a new Committee member and the new Executive Director of the Halifax Cycling Coalition

Ms. Lane shared that the Halifax Cycling Coalition AGM is happening on June 20<sup>th</sup> at the Maritime Conservatory of Performing Arts.

Mr. Cleveland invited the Committee to the launch event for Fusion's Pitch for a Great Youth City happening on Friday June 24<sup>th</sup> 6:30pm-9pm at the Halifax Central Library, Top Floor. He noted that the details are on Facebook.

Mr. Regan shared the Trails Association AGM went well last month.

Ms. Pugh shared that the second phase of Blue Route is opening tomorrow (Tuesday June 17<sup>th</sup>) and invited the Committee to attend the launch event at 11AM.

## 2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 19, 2016

MOVED by Mr. Walter Regan, seconded by Councillor Mason,

**THAT the minutes from May 19, 2016 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee decided to move the presentations to the top of the agenda.

MOVED by Mr. Ben Buckwold, seconded by Mr. Regan,

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

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### 8.1.1 Ray Walsh, Manager of Parks – Bicycle Use in Parks

Mr. Ray Walsh, Manager of Parks, and Mr. Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation were in attendance to discuss and get feedback from the Committee in regard to bicycle use being permitted in Point Pleasant Park on weekends.

Currently on weekends there is a higher level of pedestrian and canine traffic so there are concerns around bicycles creating safety issues.

The Committee discussed the fact that there are four bicycle trails that end at Point Pleasant Park. They raised the idea of having a limited and strictly monitored route through the park. It was noted that concerns around cyclists speeding dangerously through the park could be counteracted by giving the police the tools needed to properly regulate such a route.

The Committee discussed other examples where multi-use trails work well and raised the idea of having a trial period. They also suggested that having a different path for cyclists would be ideal and discussed the idea of having a paved route that would also work well for rollerblades and wheelchairs.

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

##### **4.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition: Hollis Street Bicycle Lane – Concerns & Recommendations**

Correspondence from Ben Wedge, Chair, Halifax Cycling Coalition, regarding the Hollis Street Bicycle Lane was before the Committee.

Ms. Lane informed the Committee about challenges with vehicles parking in the Hollis Bicycle Lane. She requested that protective barriers be installed. Ms. Lane informed the Committee that the biggest challenge with protective barriers would likely be for deliveries. She suggested that the city take away some parking spots and create loading zone instead.

The Committee agreed that the installation of protective barriers would be beneficial but discussed challenges regarding the request to have this done by September 1<sup>st</sup>.

Ms. Lane also suggested the option of having a 24 hour stopping ban in the Hollis Street Bicycle Lane. The Committee discussed difficulties this could cause for taxis that would be unable to stop in front of condo buildings on the street. It was noted that this type of decision would require Council's input.

Mr. MacIsaac noted that there are also issues with the Lower Water Street bicycle lane so the city will have to examine the ideal scenario for cyclists going in both directions downtown.

The Committee discussed the need for more Active Transportation staff.

**MOVED by Mr. Walter Regan, seconded by Mr. David Jackson,**

**THAT the Committee request that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to help facilitate a Hollis Street Bicycle Lane protected pilot project in spring of 2017 with staff comments regarding a long term strategy for an all ages and abilities biking facility in and out of downtown.**

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

Ms. Lane emphasized the urgency regarding the parking issue on Hollis Street and noted that the negative feelings towards the bike lane are going to continue and grow if the issue isn't fixed. Mr. MacIsaac is going to discuss the idea of having a no stopping zone on Hollis from Cogswell Street to Terminal Road and report back to the Committee at the next meeting.

#### **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 - None**

**8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

**8.1 STAFF**

**8.2 STAFF UPDATES**

Ms. Debaie provided the following update to the Committee:

1. A culvert extension that will double as a greenway base is being installed by Halifax Water across the Long Lake water crossing on the North Preston Waterline Greenway. This extension will bring provide a connection once the remainder of the greenway is built. Plans in the future are to continue the greenway to the residential area of the village of North Preston.
2. Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway section through the Killam Property between Tupper Street and Parker Street is scheduled to go under construction in August or September.
3. The bridge by Jennifer Place in Cole Harbour that is an important part of the Bissett Greenway is in the planning stages. It is anticipated that construction could begin this construction season.
4. A section of paved active transportation greenway is nearing completion in the village centre of Porters Lake. This section is Phase 1 of a 2 phase plan. The second phase of the greenway will connect the existing section across the bridge on the William Porter Connector to the Blueberry Run on the other side (south? Side) of the interchange.
5. A stakeholder meeting is being scheduled for the functional planning of the Gaetz Brook Connector Greenway. The Shore Active Transportation Association has a temporary Letter of Authority to develop a functional plan for a section of greenway along the rail line. If they are successful in obtaining a Letter of Authority, they can proceed to detailed designs. The proposed greenway will connect Gaetz Brook to just outside Musquodoboit Harbour.
6. Work continues with consultants on the design of a bridge over the Sackville River and a culvert over Rankin Brook. Both are needed to complete this year's portion of the Sackville Greenway from Sackville Drive to Glendale Avenue.
7. Community Groups who are interested in submitting active transportation capital proposals for 17/18 are being invited to meet with AT staff prior to the August 19, 2016 deadline to make sure their projects are in line with the 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan.
8. 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.
9. Devonshire Ave. Bike lane was approved by Council in early May. Now completing detailed design and hope to have it tendered by mid-summer.

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10. We have met with the Province to discuss how to update the MVA to include modern bikeway/AT facilities, including signals. Process is moving along.
11. About to start a number of planning projects: e.g. Sidney Crosby Parkway, Woodside AT
12. Chain of Lakes to Peninsula AT Greenway is proceeding. AT Staff and stakeholders had a positive meeting 2 weeks ago.
13. Bike Week is over. Money is still available to support events all summer.

In response to questions from the Committee, Ms. Debaie explained that the wooden structures that serve as interfaces between trails and the street, called Chicanes, were provided by CN.

Mr. MacIsaac noted that there was a positive meeting with the consultants working on the bike lane coming on and off of the MacDonald Bridge. There will be a public consultation at some point. Councillor Hendsbee informed the Committee that this is item 7 on the Council agenda this week and asked that the information be circulated to the Committee.

### 8.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

The Committee discussed a news article stating that Council is looking at a surplus at \$5.4M. Mr. Cleveland suggested that this would be transformational for the Active Transportation Network and would change the kind of network that currently exists, allowing Halifax to complete the minimum grid of bike lanes. Councillors informed the Committee that the funds have already been spent on an interchange that has already been built.

Ms. Lane noted that Montreal has \$12 per person going towards bicycle projects each year, in Toronto it is \$6 per person but in Halifax it is only \$2 per person. The Committee agreed that a staff report on Halifax's per capita position would be useful.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that some recent staffing changes have taken place to increase staff capacity to work on Accessible Transportation matters.

MOVED by Mr. Water Regan, seconded by Mr. Tristan Cleveland,

**THAT the TSC consider ATAC's concerns that the current level of AT Staff capacity limits the implementation of the AT Priorities Plan and is resulting in missed opportunities to advance important projects and to benefit from partnerships with other levels of government and asks TSC to approve any recommendations to increase AT Staff resources that may come through the departmental review process, which ATAC understands to be currently underway.**

### MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee requested an update on the Trans-Canada Trail for the next meeting. Mr. MacIsaac noted that there is also a staff report being prepared on the trail that he can share with the Committee once it is completed.

Mr. Regan requested information on HRTA. He was informed that Regional Council has requested a staff report on the funding of recreational trails and motorized trails which will be looking at this issue.

Mr. MacIsaac noted that trails and corridors are also a big consideration for the Green Network. They will be going to Council this fall with an update and seeking direction.

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Ms. Lane noted that the Local Street Bikeway Policy was supposed to be released in March 2015 and asked when it was going to be released. Mr. MacIsaac said that it should be released in July.

**9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 21, 2016**

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.

Jenny Benson  
Legislative Support