



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 20, 2016**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason, Vice Chair
Ms. Ella Dodson
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Julian West
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Kelsey Lane
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Ms. Julie Tompa
Mr. James McMillin
Mr. David Jackson
Councillor Tim Outhit (absent)

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor
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 Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/161020atac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

Prior to the start of the meeting, the Chair welcomed two new appointees to the Committee – Ms. Ella Dodson, the ‘Walkability’ representative on the Committee, and Mr. Julian West, from Ecology Action Centre, replacing Tristen Cleveland.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 15, 2016

MOVED by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the minutes of September 15, 2016 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. Regan advised that at the next meeting he would like the Committee to have a discussion on Active Transportation Recreation (ATR) funding. The Chair pointed out that at a previous meeting the Committee forwarded a recommendation to the Transportation Standing Committee with regard to staffing matters, but was advised that it would not go forward because the recommendation was outside the scope of the Committee’s and the Transportation Standing Committee’s terms of reference. The Chair indicated that he believed a discussion on ATR funding would also be outside the scope of the Committee’ mandate.

Ms. Dodson requested that staff working on The Centre Plan project be invited to attend a future meeting for discussion on active transportation in regard to The Centre Plan.

Ms. Lane advised that she had an update to provide on the Agricola Street Bicycle Counter, and would do so under Committee Member Updates.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Dodson

THAT the agenda be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

- 4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**
- 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 Presentation - None**
- 8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**
 - 8.1 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

8.1.1 Discussion – “Big Moves” – AT Project Discussion

The Chair advised that with current initiatives like the Integrated Mobility Plan, the Centre Plan, and other planning activity in the City, it was a good opportunity for the Committee to consider how these planning processes may create an opportunity for large scale movement on some prioritized projects of the Active Transportation Plan. The Chair explained that the Committee needs to have consensus on those items it feels are important and establish a strategic viewpoint on how it sees moving forward on the priorities plan will be most effective.

A discussion ensued and the following comments and feedback were provided:

- Staff is considering whether projects like the Minimum Grid and Protected Bike Lane pilot projects can be accelerated under the Integrated Mobility Plan.
- Regional Connectivity across the Municipality, in particular, the Trans Canada Trail is important
- There should be a focus on traffic calming in residential neighbourhoods and this would result in those streets becoming part of the Grid, expanding walkable and cycling areas, and wouldn't necessarily mean more active transit money to be spent.
- Keep a focus on the goal of achieving 37 kilometres of protect bike lanes, and that the Integrated Mobility Plan may be a way to help implement this.
- Suggestion that steps be taken to enable an Open Street Policy on weekends
- It was noted that currently the only avenue to pilot a project is through a temporary construction permit, and it was noted that the City of Seattle has a specific permit to allow temporary infrastructure to be piloted, and it was suggested that the committee consider if something similar could be done around here.

In response to a question, Mr. MacIsaac advised that he would follow up on whether there had been a list of projects submitted for Canada 150 funding, and provide a copy of the list if available.

A brief discussion was held on the processes around the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP) and the Centre Plan and how the Committee could have a conversation with staff about active transportation projects, IMP, and the Centre Plan, and the following motions were put forward:

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Ms. Lane

THAT the Integrated Mobility Team be invited back to the Committee to discuss Integrated Mobility Plan big moves/active transportation projects.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT staff be invited to speak to the Committee in regard to active transportation in the Centre Plan.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

In response to a question, the Chair advised that he received the final report from WSP in regard to a connection of the Chain of Lakes Trail to the Halifax Peninsula. He explained that it proposed two options—either a protected bicycle facility on the existing bridge of the CN rail cut, or an AT bridge adjacent to it. The recommendation of the consultant to add a protected bicycle facility on the bridge with the existing road width was rejected by Provincial staff because it did not comply with regulations for lane widths and spacing.

As the discussion concluded the Chair summed-up the key issues out of today's discussion as follows: Minimum grid network; region trail network; walkability; and the bridge connection in regard to the Chain of Lakes Trail connection to the Peninsula.

8.2 STAFF UPDATES

Mr. David MacIsaac provided staff updates.

In response to a question, Mr. MacIsaac indicated that he was not aware of any request by the Municipality to the Province for a reduction in speed limit to 30 kph on some streets, but that he would follow up on this matter.

8.3 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

Mr. Regan advised that the Halifax Regional Trails Association has submitted their capital request; and that their maintenance request for \$180,000 has also been submitted.

Ms. Lane advised that the Halifax Cycling Coalition, with the support of DalTRAC and the Municipality, have installed a bicycle counter pilot project on Agricola Street, and it will run from October 3 to November 15, 2016. She submitted copies of documentation explaining the purpose of the counter and counter analysis of Saturday October 8, 2016 to Saturday October 15, 2016. She advised that she will continue to update the committee on the project.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that at a meeting of the Bridge Commission he attended today there was information on data collected on the shuttle service that the Bridge Commission has been operating since work on the bridge began. Councillor Hendsbee advised that he would circulate this information to the Committee.

The Chair advised that Community Announcements were missed at the beginning of the meeting, so he invited members to provide their community announcements at this time.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 17, 2016

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant