



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
March 23, 2017**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Ms. Kelsey Lane, Vice Chair
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Tim Outhit
Councillor Sam Austin
Ms. Ella Dodson
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. David Jackson
Ms. Eliza Jackson
Mr. James McMillin

REGRETS: Ms. Margaret Lucas
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor
Mr. Mark Nener, TDM Coordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
Ms. Leslie Neate, 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/170323atac-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. Lane advised that 30-Days of Biking event runs for the month of April. It is a series of bicycle rides in throughout HRM. There will be at least one ride every week.

Ms. Dodson enquired about the Integrated Mobility Stakeholders Sessions. The Chair agreed to have information on those circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Regan advised that the HRTA AGM is on April 10, 2017. He further advised that he will be stepping down from this committee following this meeting with a new person coming on board next month.

Ms. Jackson announced for Earth Day, coming up April 22, 2017, the Ecology Action Centre is hosting yearly Earth Day celebration on Saturday, April 22, 2017, as part of that hosting a group ride and walkabout.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 19, 2017

MOVED by Ms. Dodson, seconded by Mr. Regan

THAT the minutes of January 19, 2017 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

The Chair advised of business arising from the minutes that required addressing. In response to a question about the Cogswell Interchange and impacts of the project on pedestrian and bicycle traffic during the construction, he was back in touch with the project team. They have mentioned that they are moving towards 30 percent completion of the designs by May, and part of it is to consider the impacts on pedestrians, bicycles, and other types of traffic. They would be willing to come provide an update to the committee when it comes through.

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 Active Transportation Indicators Presentation - Ali Shaver, Healthy Built Environment Coordinator, Public Health, Central Zone.

The following was before the Advisory Committee: A presentation titled, "Update on the development of an AT + HEALTH INDICATORS REPORT"

Ms. Shaver is back before the committee to provide an update to her original presentation made at the March 24, 2016, meeting. Her work focuses on finding ways to create healthy public policies at a municipal level.

The project objectives are:

- To inform policies and opportunities for interventions
- To increase awareness about the impact active transportation has on health
- To establish a baseline and trends (when possible) on key AT indicators
- To identify data gaps and/or areas with insufficient data
- To develop tools and resources that can be used in future data collection efforts across the province.

She is looking to the ATAC Committee to:

- Act as a sounding board throughout the project. Review / provide input and comments on:
 - List of indicators
 - Draft report
 - Tools and templates
- Share the findings and final report

The focus today was on the list of indicators and obtaining feedback from the committee on indicators chosen and if any are missing.

Indicator Selection Criteria:

- Current (2010 onward)
- Available and accessible within our timeframe
- Representative and meaningful to our region
- Relevant and useful to informing decisions
- Transferable to other zones and areas

An AT and Health Indicators report is being developed. They hope that the work they do and present helps informed decision making and municipal policies around AT. They are looking to develop a baseline for some of these indicators, show trends over last five years, and identify data gaps.

Following the presentation Committee members made the following comments:

Ms. Dodson wished to add indicators relating to those with disabilities and temporary disabilities, blind and hearing impediments, people who tend to be moving about by Active Transportation. It is important to know how safe it is for them to walk through the streets. Are there variable for vehicles (not just car ownership). Are people using things like CarShare to get around or something else? Can speeds for fatalities be tracked? Can they add accident profiles relating to the times of accident (rush hours, sunny and clear days)?

Mr. Regan invited Ms. Shaver to go speak to HRTA. She agreed. He sees a need for a maintenance column as the trails will need to be maintained for people to use them. Do they use trail counters to know how many people use trails?

Mr. Nener suggested the tracking of fatalities and injuries by pedestrians and bikes.

Ms. Shaver wrapped up the presentation and asked that any further suggested indicators can be forwarded to her via email. The Chair asked that they be sent to him for forwarding to Ms. Shaver, and he thanked her for the presentation.

At this time, the Chair took a moment to ask everyone to introduce themselves for the benefit of new committee members.

7.3.2 Minimum Grid Bike Lane Presentation by committee members
Eliza Jackson, Ecology Action Centre
Kelsey Lane, Halifax Cycling Coalition

The following was before the Advisory Committee: A presentation entitled, "Integrated Mobility Plan: Halifax's Minimum Grid Cycling Network"

The Chair introduced the presentation indicating that Halifax has its Integrated Mobility Plan process, and there is some bicycle network thinking in relation to the opportunity that exists around that planning process. Today's presentation is for the consideration of this committee, as we educate ourselves and prepare for the completion of and on-going process of the IMP.

Ms. Lane and Ms. Jackson described their agenda for today's presentation to cover the following:

- Minimum Grid Overview
- Lesson from other Canadian cities
- A Minimum Grid for Halifax
- Next Steps

The definition of minimum grid:

- Doesn't need a bicycle lane on every single street.
- Prioritization of key routes providing the ability to travel from one point of the city to the other.

They looked at best practices of three other Canadian cities. Calgary has a 6.5km Minimum Grid, 1.2 million bicycle trips increase in City Centre bicycling mode share (58 percent increase). Edmonton is looking to implement a 7.1 km Minimum Grid, with a plan that focuses on higher quality infrastructure where more people will use it. Victoria has a 5.4 km Minimum Grid where 11 percent of all trips to work are by bicycle.

Minimum Grid features are:

- Protected bicycle lanes and cycle tracks
- Pilot network and quick implementation
- Large number of destinations within short distances
- 5 km to 10 km

Key takeaways:

- Focus on building Class 1 (protected/separated) facilities on key corridors first.
- Adopt a phased approach to implementation to create finer-grained network
- Conduct design and public consultation for the network, as opposed to single routes.

To achieve a minimum grid in Halifax, the next steps in Halifax are to:

- Commit to the vision to build ridership in an impactful way
- Identify what's needed for implementation, including funding sources
- Build network all at once to maximize on investment

Ms. Lane and Ms. Jackson completed their presentation and answered questions from the committee. The Chair concluded the discussion by advising that the third round of IMP consultations begin on April 19 and go to April 27. He advised that he will make sure the full schedule is provided to the committee.

8. REPORTS/UPDATES/DISCUSSION

8.1 COMMITTEE MEMBER

8.1.1 Ella Dodson – Discussion – Priority of Pedestrian Mobility in Storms.

The following was before the Advisory Committee: Email correspondence from Ms. Ella Dodson, dated February 16, 2017.

Ms. Dodson advised concerns relating to mobility during storms and the need for emergency pedestrian routes.

8.2 STAFF UPDATES

David MacIsaac provided the following update, via email:

- 1) Planning Projects:
 - a) South Park Bike Lane Enhancement and Extension. Public and Stakeholder engagement now over. Had 55 attendees at public session and over 300 responses on online survey. Next steps are internal HRM engagement, especially working through bus stop-bike lane design. Aiming to take this to Regional Council for approval in early summer 2017.
 - b) Forest Hills Parkway AT Improvements. Had 50+ attendees at engagement session. The public survey is now open.
 - c) Macdonald Bridge Bikeway Connector Planning. This is almost complete. We are aiming to have a staff report to Transportation Standing Committee in May.
 - d) Cogswell Interchange Planning. AT Staff are working with colleagues to advise on the walking and bicycling network that will be part of this redevelopment project.

- e) Staff will host a public engagement session in early May to discuss potential bicycling facilities on Almon Street that could be implemented in 2017.
- 2) AT projects currently in detailed design for construction in 2017 include:
 - a) Sackville Greenway
 - b) Mainland Linear connections
 - c) Bedford-Sackville Greenway recapitalization
 - d) Windmill Road Greenway
 - e) Burnside Dr. Greenway from Commodore to Wright
 - f) Cobequid Road Greenway
 - g) New sidewalk segments on Windmill Rd., Coronation Ave., Herring Cove, Portland Street, Strath Ln., Hammonds Plains Rd., Bedford Hwy. and St. Margaret's Bay Rd
- 3) AT Staff are heavily involved in the AT and Complete Streets components of the IMP.
- 4) A number of HRTA group initiated projects will be identified in the 2017-18 Capital Budget. HRTA community groups will coordinate design and construction for some of these, particularly where HRM is not the property/asset owner. In others, HRM will be responsible to implement the project.
- 5) There are currently three AT staff. Dawn Neil has assumed some of Jessie Debaie's responsibilities, especially the maintenance program. Renewal of the AT group is underway.
- 6) Bike Week planning is underway. There is now an event and grant call out open at: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/Bike17>

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 20, 2017

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Leslie Neate
Legislative Support