

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

April 18, 2013

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Matthew Worona
Ms. Cynthia Bryant

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Gordon Smith
Ms. Allison Sparling
Mr. Mark Coffin

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning
Ms. Tanya Davis, HRM Traffic Service Supervisor

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:09 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. MacGregor noted that the Halifax Cycling Coalition was very involved in the planning of the Switch Open Streets event on June 9, 2013.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 18, 2013

Once quorum was achieved, the minutes of February 18, 2013 were approved as follows:

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Ms. Barlow that the minutes of February 18, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to add an update by Ms. Tanya Davis, HRM Traffic Services Supervisor, under item 6.1. The Committee also agreed to hear item 8.1.1 after item 5, and to add two items under item 9.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

8. REPORTS

8.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

8.1.1 Crosswalk Safety Committee Appointment

The Chair provided an update on the report on pedestrian safety that came before Regional Council and the resulting creation of the Crosswalk Safety Committee. She noted that appointments to that Committee will be finalized in May. She suggested that ATAC members contact Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant, for related web links and also that future questions on crosswalks and pedestrian safety be directed to the new Committee. She requested that once Crosswalk Safety Committee minutes are available, ATAC members be copied. ATAC members agreed that they would appoint an ATAC representative to the Crosswalk Safety Committee at the May ATAC meeting.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Roundabout/Consideration of Pedestrians and Cyclists

Ms. Tanya Davis provided an update on the community engagement process for proposed intersection improvements/roundabouts for North Park/Cunard/Agricola and for North Park/Rainnie/Cogswell. She informed the Committee that there had been significant public turnout at meetings and that the Request for Proposals (RFP) will close April 30, 2013. She added that the Shape Your City website is continually updated and the site will clarify what the RFP can or cannot cover and why. She also added that further public consultation is planned for November 2013, that she is working closely with HRM AT staff and with the visually impaired community, and that the public art component is part of the RFP.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC)

A letter dated March 20, 2013, from HCC Co-Chairs Mr. Ross Soward and Ms. Kaitlin Fahey, was before the Committee. The letter was addressed to ATAC and to the Transportation Standing Committee and expressed support for a crosstown bike route on Agricola Street. A response from Mayor Mike Savage, dated April 4, 2013, was circulated to Committee members.

7.1.2 Ms. Alison MacDonald, Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB)

An email dated April 17, 2013, from Ms. Alison MacDonald, was circulated to Committee members. The email provided an update on data collection of sidewalk and bike lane users on the Macdonald Bridge, an AT user survey planned for summer 2013, and the proposed shuttle service during the redecking process.

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations -- None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

8.1.1 Crosswalk Safety Committee Appointment

This item was dealt with previously, see p.3.

8.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. David MacIssac provided an update on the 2013 theme “Explore” and on events encouraging newcomers and seniors. He noted that there has been a great response from sponsors, including \$5,000.00 in support for the June 9, 2013 Switch event, and that there will be a large public bike ride before Switch begins. Ms. Hanita Koblents added that Quinpool Street businesses are offering discounts to cyclists during Bike Week and her office is examining ways that Business Improvement Districts can track the numbers of cyclists taking advantage of such offers.

8.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA)

Ms. Jessie Debaie provided the HRTA report for Mr. Walter Regan. She circulated a Halifax News Net story on former ATAC member Mr. Troy Nauuffs and the improved accessibility for visually impaired hikers on the First Lakes Trail/Greenway. She also circulated a brief written report that noted the following points:

- The HRTA AGM was held April 8, 2013
- HRTA members participated in AT Plan Review public sessions and community volunteers will work with HRM and Genivar Consulting to provide trail counts for six HRTA trails/greenways
- HRTA requested that the vacant position of HRM trail specialist Mr. Don Amber be filled before the next trail season

8.4 Staff

Ms. Debaie circulated an invitation to the opening celebration on April 20, 2013 of the Bissett Lake Greenway. She provided several additional details on the Trail Counter Project, listing the trails involved and explaining the technology and community involvement. She also circulated a written report highlighting the following:

- HRM trails staff attended the six AT Public Consultation sessions in April/May 2013
- The Forest Hills Greenway is in the planning and review stage; the Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway Killam wall section is also being reviewed
- The Lawrencetown Cole Harbour Trails Association finished a one kilometre section of the AT Greenway and is anticipating funding for a bridge to complete the connection to Forest Hills

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, circulated a Proposed Project Application List that described six priority AT funding requests to the province. He invited ATAC members to send him comments on these or other AT projects.

8.4.1 Cross Town Connector Project

Mr. MacIssac informed the Committee that the project was in the final approval stage and he anticipated that the report and staff recommendation would be before ATAC for the May meeting. The Chair requested that Mr. Hill email ATAC members with links to the report and the recommendation as soon as it is available.

8.4.2 Update on AT Consultations

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that more than 500 citizens participated in the AT Open Houses and staff had received more than 580 responses to the online survey. She added that staff were now compiling the comments into categories and anticipate finalizing a draft AT Plan to come before ATAC in October 2013.

The Chair suggested that if an ATAC member-at-large wished to join the ATAC AT Plan sub-committee, this could be discussed at the May 2013 ATAC meeting.

The Chair also encouraged members to follow updates on the HRM Regional Plan as they become available.

8.5 Committee Members

Ms. Barlow informed members about the province's Bill 37, the *Innovative Transportation Act* which has received first reading. She also provided an update on HRM on the Move, and on the Ecology Action Centre's involvement in Making Tracks (training sessions for AT safety for children and youth). She noted that this project has both provincial and HRM funding, is province-wide, and that within HRM, more than 600 children have been trained (and 20 adults under Train-the-Trainer). She requested that the Committee endorse a continued provincial-HRM partnership for Making Tracks funding.

MOVED by Mr. Clive MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Matthew Worona, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that HRM staff examine the possibility of a continued partnership with the province of Nova Scotia to fund the Making Tracks program in 2013-14. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Mr. Clive MacGregor informed the Committee about open source software called Cycle Fix that advises cyclists and city visitors of good and bad routes, cycling hazards and other updates. He added that the Halifax Cycling Coalition website uses Cycle Fix and he offered the Committee the opportunity to hear a presentation on the software at a future ATAC meeting.

The Chair added that a presentation on a future date from Mr. Jamie Newman, a consultant on data sharing and forms of mapping, would be helpful to ATAC members.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Trail Counter

This item was dealt with under Ms. Debaie's staff report, see p.5.

9.2 Legislative Changes to MVA

The Chair encouraged members to make lists of changes they would like to see to the provincial *Motor Vehicle Act*. The Chair also requested a briefing note from staff on what changes to the legislation they have requested or plan to request.

Ms. Pugh informed the Committee that the province's Sustainable Transportation Strategy involving land use, transit, AT, and public awareness will be announced April 22, 2013 and the report will also be available that day.

9.3 Rural Local Road/Rural Connector Road Trail Standards

Councillor Hendsbee requested that staff examine options for adapting existing HRM trail standards for AT trails that involve rural local roads or rural connector roads.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Clive MacGregor that staff examine options for adapting existing trail standards to include trails that involve rural local roads or rural connector roads. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 Sidewalk Sandwich Boards/Encroachments

Ms. Bryant informed the Committee that the Accessibility Committee recently received a presentation on sandwich boards and other encroachments that reduce sidewalk width and that new rules on this matter are in progress.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Ms. Emma Cooper, United Way volunteer, was present as a visitor and observer.

Mr. Worona raised AT questions and concerns from three citizens who tweeted him during the meeting. The Chair and Councillor Hendsbee provided responses for Mr. Worona to convey.

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - May 16, 2013

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support