

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

December 12, 2013

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Ms. Allison Sparling, Vice- Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. John Hawkins
Mr. Gordon Smith
Mr. Matthew Worona
Mr. Ben Buckwold
- REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason
Ms. Cynthia Bryant
Mr. Mark Coffin
- STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Mr. Scott Fenton, Active Living Coordinator
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
3.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 21, 2013.....	3
4.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	3
5.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES	3
5.1	Bicycle Storage Sheds.....	3
6.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS.....	4
6.1	Windsor Street Bike Lane Design - Matt Worona	4
6.2	Sidewalks in Rural Communities – Gordon Smith	4
7.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS	5
7.1	Correspondence - None.....	5
6.2	Petitions - None	5
6.3	Presentation - None.....	5
8.	REPORTS.....	5
8.1	Staff	5
8.1.1	AT Staff	5
8.1.2	Regional Trails Staff.....	5
8.3	Halifax Regional Trails Association	5
8.4	Bike Week Sub-Committee.....	6
8.5	Crosswalk Safety Committee.....	6
9.	ADDED ITEMS.....	6
9.1	ATAC Terms of Reference Review	6
9.2	Upcoming Presentations.....	6
9.3	Pedestrian Issue	6
9.4	Mayors AT Initiative	7
9.5	Upcoming Budget	7
9.	ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND NEXT MEETING DATE.....	7
10.	ADJOURNMENT	7

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee noted a number of community announcements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 21, 2013

The Committee noted that under 7.3.2 should strike out that “Ms. Koblents would make a formal request.”

The Committee requested that on page 5, the statement that “Ms. Pugh stated she would request support from the Provincial Active Transportation.”

Ms. Barlow clarified that in item 8.5 that she was requesting ATAC to have a presentation from the Halifax Bridge Commission presentation, and Provincial Street Report presentation.

MOVED by Ms. Barlow, seconded by Ms. Sparling that the minutes of November 21, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 9.2 Crosswalk Issues
9.3 Future Presentations
9.4 Winter Maintenance
9.5 Mayors AT Initiative
9.6 Upcoming Budget Consultations

MOVED by Ms. Sparling, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the agenda be approved as amended.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Bicycle Storage Sheds

Ms. Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator advised that she had contacted development services and they could not advise on the case sent to the Active Transportation Committee as there was no specific address on the letter. She added that it doesn't appear to be a problem to build bicycle storage sheds in the Hydrostone

area. She explained without knowing the specific address it was difficult to understand why the application would have been denied.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Windsor Street Bike Lane Design - Matt Worona

Mr. Worona stated that he wanted to have a discussion on how the Windsor Street Bike Lane was designed. He raised concern that if decisions for having active transportation were based on keeping the same service levels for everything else was not a good promotion of active transportation. He wondered if there would be benefit of having a transportation authority that would involve more active transportation components.

Councillor Hendsbee advised that when the Regional Plan comes forward there may be many items in the Active Transportation section that would address some of the concerns.

Ms. Koblents clarified the decision to drop the bike lane before it hit Chebucto and Cunard intersection was made by Council, on recommendation from staff, Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Transportation Standing Committee.

Mr. MacGregor suggested that in the future there needs to be a change in approach when building bike lanes. He stated that too often it always looks at what it will do to vehicles on the road and perhaps the approach should be looking at it as being a change.

Councillor Hendsbee added that in the future he hoped that bicycle boxes or some other unique safety mechanism could be incorporated into the bike lane designs.

Ms. Koblents advised that bike boxes had been one of the questions that had been forwarded for legal to reevaluate. She added that there were some unique features put in the design of this bike lane such as single file sharrows and the single file share the road signs.

In response to comments by the Committee, Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor Transportation Demand Management advised that complete streets is an item that is moving forward the most in the Regional Plan. He commented that when the bike lane was designed, the traffic authority was responsible for all the standards and safety and citizens and council apply how the right of ways is used. He added that the intersection in question is not a standard intersection from many different perspectives and he hoped that it would come up for a new design in the future.

6.2 Sidewalks in Rural Communities – Gordon Smith

Mr. Smith advised that there may be a solution on Highway number 3 in his area and they might put down a paved shoulder to improve the ability for seniors to commute. He hoped that even though there is limited money available, the committee should still support the paved shoulders in rural communities.

Ms. Pugh stated that if the type of facility that is required is for pedestrians then it needs to be a pedestrian facility only. She added that the province would not condone a paved shoulder as they felt it would put the pedestrian in jeopardy. She explained that when a person is walking on a gravel shoulder, they are more aware that they are on the shoulder; when walking on a paved shoulder there is less indication that they could possibly be walking in traffic.

Further discussion ensued.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation - None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 AT Staff

Ms. Koblents provided an update to the Committee. She provided the Committee a list of the infrastructure that was implemented around HRM for the current year.

The Committee requested that the list provided by Ms. Koblents to be linked online to the ATAC agenda page.

8.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Mr. Paul Euloth provided an update to the Committee. He advised that the Chain of Lake Trail tenders were closing and it looked like there would be winter construction. He added the trail would be dug up from Joe Howe Drive to Lakeside Drive. He added there would be a couple reports would come to the committee over the next couple of months. Mr. Euloth was uncertain if there would be any access to any parts of the trail during the construction.

8.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. John Hawkins provided the update on behalf of the Halifax Trails Association. He advised that the Association had met with Ms. Jane Fraser, Director of Planning and Infrastructure because she wanted to familiarize herself with the work that HRTA was doing.

In response to questions by the Committee Mr. Euloth advised that the Chain of Lakes Trail would be under construction until at least April or May. He was uncertain when the trail would be reinstated. He also added that there was also uncertainty about how much of the trail would be paved.

Further discussion ensued.

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Worona that Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends and supports the COLTA to have the Chain of Lake Trail be paved to Bayers Lake upon reconstruction.

The Committee requested that the COLTA trail update be put on the January 2014 agenda.

8.4 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac advised that there would be a bike week meeting on December 13, 2013.

8.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee

No update provided.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 ATAC Terms of Reference Review

The Committee requested that the terms of reference be distributed and be added for a future meeting.

9.2 Upcoming Presentations

Ms. Barlow requested that Halifax Harbour Bridges be invited to discuss the closing of the bridge. She also requested that Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal be invited to discuss their speed study.

9.3 Pedestrian Issue

Ms. Sparling advised that there are a number of people who are concerned about walking around the city due to the number of increased vehicle pedestrian accidents.

She added that there is considerable confusion about rules of the road, who to contact about near accidents in crosswalks.

Further discussion ensued.

The Committee requested that Sgt. Reynolds from Halifax Regional Police be invited to the next ATAC meeting to discuss some of the crosswalk issues brought up during the discussion.

9.4 Mayors AT Initiative

Councillor Watts provided an update on the recent meeting hosted by Mayor Savage on the Active Transportation Initiative.

9.5 Upcoming Budget

Staff provided some insight to as to what the budget may look like for the upcoming year. Councillor Watts added that the Committee of the Whole was beginning on the budget and there was opportunity for members of the public to participate. She recommended that committee members should attend and provide input. The Committee requested that the Clerk provide the dates of each Committee of the Whole sessions on the budget.

9. ANNUAL SCHEDULE AND NEXT MEETING DATE

The Committee approved the annual meeting schedule with some minor date changes. The next Active Transportation meeting is scheduled for January 16, 2014.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Quentin Hill
Legislative Assistant