

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

September 19, 2013

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

REGRETS: Ms. Allison Sparling  
Mr. Mark Coffin  
Councillor Wayne Mason

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

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## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

## 2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Ms. Barlow informed the Committee of the NS Cycling Summit taking place in Sydney, NS from October 4-6, 2013. She added that Mr. Marc Jolicoeur, representing Velo Quebec would be visiting Halifax and Sydney and making a public presentation in Dartmouth on Bikeways planning on October 9, 2013
- Councillor Hendsbee announced that the Porters Lake Stakeholders Meeting on Active Transportation would be held September 23, 2013.
- Ms. Pugh informed the Committee that the department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is taking the lead for the province on the Blue Route project.
- Ms. Bryant announced that the Accessibility Advisory Committee Town Hall meeting will be held at the Dartmouth Sportsplex on September 30, 2014
- Mr. Worona informed the Committee that the Chief Planner, City of Toronto, would be providing a presentation "Urban Cycling: Lessons from Toronto" on September 26, 2013 at Dalhousie University.
- The Chair distributed info cards on the 2014 HRM Volunteer Awards.

## 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2013

Ms. Bryant requested that the wording of item 8.5.3 be amended to read as follows: "seniors groups, service dogs, and the adaptation of audio/visual announcements."

**MOVED by Ms. Bryant, seconded by Ms. Barlow that the minutes of June 20, 2013 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee agreed to add the following items:

- Correspondence from Mr. Andrew Hayes as item 7.1.3.
- An update on the Hantsport Rail Line as item 8.1.3.
- Future ATAC meeting dates as item 9.1.
- The Halifax Harbour Bridges Stakeholder meeting as item 9.2
- The Cunard/Robie intersection traffic light trigger as item 9.3.

The Committee agreed to approve the order of business as amended.

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

### **5.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition Database**

Mr. MacGregor noted that the HCC is considering software changes to the database; however, it is still possible to visit the site. He stated that he would bring this item forward again at a future ATAC meeting.

### **5.2 Jamie Newman – MapAbility.ca**

The Chair informed the Committee that she had just received an undated letter from Mr. Newman providing an update on MapAbility and that the letter requested ATAC support for a pilot project. The Committee entered into a discussion, noting that Mr. Newman did not have a sample website, that his request was not specific enough and that it was not indicated whether Mr. Newman was participating in the HRM apps contest. Mr. Dave MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, added that he had met with Mr. Newman and would meet with him again and provide ATAC feedback. The Chair requested that Mr. Hill, Legislative Assistant, forward Mr. Newman's letter to Mr. MacIsaac.

## **6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE**

## **7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS**

### **7.1 Correspondence**

#### **7.1.1 Bicycle Storage Sheds – Janet Morris**

The Chair informed the Committee of an email received from Ms. Janet Morris, dated July 25, 2017, requesting information on the placement of a bicycle shed on her property where a private motor vehicle might normally be parked. Mr. MacIsaac stated that he would discuss the request with Traffic Authority and bring this item back to the October ATAC meeting.

#### **7.1.2 Presentation Request – Dal Trac: Share the Road Campaign**

The Committee agreed to invite Dal Trac to present at the October ATAC meeting or the November meeting, whichever date the presenters prefer.

#### **7.1.3 Pilot Cycling Project, Point Pleasant Park – Andrew Hayes**

The Committee agreed to invite Mr. Hayes to present at the October ATAC meeting.

### **7.2 Petitions -- None**

## **7.3 Presentations**

### **7.3.1 Bike Week 2013 Report**

Mr. MacIsaac provided a presentation, noting that Bike Week has been an event for almost 20 years and 2013 marked a turning point with the staff strategic planning sessions. He described the Legacy Projects such as Switch, the Waverly Mountain Bike Park, the ten Try-a-Bike events and the Business Improvement District promotions. He also noted that the Mayor's Ride, the Southwest Cycle, and Bike to School were very successful, many HRM communities hosted events for the first time and that there were 63 events overall. Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Halifax Cycling Coalition did cyclist surveys during Bike Week and HCC will keep gathering this data.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee express its sincere appreciation to the Bike Week staff and volunteers for a great job well done. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Staff**

#### **8.1.1 AT Staff**

Mr. MacIsaac then provided an update on the Windsor-Vernon-Seymour bike route, stating that the final measurements and traffic counts are being done and design work has been commissioned for the area around the former St. Patrick's high school.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator provided an update on the AT Plan Review, describing the tasks completed, the remaining timeline and the high points for pedestrians, greenways, bicycle facilities and networks, and program and education evaluation. Councillor Hendsbee noted that at least 20 apps submitted to the HRM apps contest are related to active transportation. The Chair requested that staff examine those apps and bring an update to the October ATAC meeting. The Committee agreed that the AT Plan Review needs to address the definition of bicycle and cycle now that there are many possibilities, including those that use new technology for "assisted vehicles". Ms. Koblents also distributed a staff memorandum, dated September 19, 2013, that addresses potential conflicts between the Nova Scotia *Motor Vehicle Act* and the bicycle pavement markings approved by the Transportation Association of Canada.

The Committee entered into a discussion on the staff memorandum and agreed to the following motion:

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend a staff report to review resident concerns, bikeway control options**

**and a potential request to the province for amendments to the *Motor Vehicle Act* as necessary. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

### **8.1.2 HRTA Staff**

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator, provided an update on strategic funding allocation, restoration of the Chain of Lakes Trail following the 2014 sewer installation, Shore Active Transportation Association involvement in the Porters Lake area, and progress on trail counting projects. She also noted that a new bridge has been installed on the Lawrencetown Cole Harbour Trail and this will enable residents to travel an AT greenway to Cole Harbour.

### **8.1.3 Hantsport Rail Line**

Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, informed the Committee that there was no new information on this matter and that the process is not yet at the “disposal of line” stage.

### **8.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

This item was dealt with under item 7.3.1, see page 5.

### **8.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association**

Mr. Regan provided an update on the annual trail camp taking place November 2-3, 2013, the expansion of trail counting training and data collection, the 2014-15 call for proposals from HRTA groups, the Fall Trail Challenge, the formation of a new Penhorn Lake Area Trails Association, and the increasing use of trails and greenways in charity runs and marathons. He raised the question of filling the staff position formerly held by Mr. Don Ambler, stating that HRTA needs HRM staff support. He encouraged ATAC members to emphasize AT concerns during the Metro Transit consultation. He concluded his report by thanking the Chair for her assistance with HRTA and the maintenance funding process.

### **8.4 Committee Members**

#### **8.4.1 Gordon Smith -- Tricycles**

Mr. Smith raised the concern that the provincial *Motor Vehicles Act* does not address the type of tricycle that seniors might use for errands and this is a further restriction on seniors' mobility and access to active transportation. The Committee agreed that Ms. Koblents would add this concern to the memorandum on the *Motor Vehicle Act*.

#### **8.4.2 Janet Barlow – Crosswalk Safety Committee representative**

Ms. Barlow informed ATAC members that the Crosswalk Safety Committee had scheduled a meeting to structure an action plan that would be finalized by March 2014.

### **9. ADDED ITEMS**

#### **9.1 Future Meeting Dates**

Ms. Barlow suggested that Halifax Harbour Bridges present an update at the November 2013 ATAC meeting on the Macdonald Bridge closure and shuttle service. She also suggested that a provincial representative who could speak on the issue of traffic speed reduction beyond school zones attend the November ATAC meeting. Ms. Pugh agreed to facilitate inviting the speaker.

The Committee agreed that the December ATAC meeting date would be moved from December 19, 2013 to December 12, 2013.

#### **9.2 Halifax Harbour Bridges Stakeholder Meeting**

The Chair informed ATAC members that the stakeholder meeting is October 2, 2013 at the Delta Bluenose Room at 8 a.m. and that those wishing to attend must RSVP.

#### **9.3 Cunard and Robie Streets Traffic Signal**

Mr. Worona noted that the traffic signal to proceed is not being triggered properly for cyclists. Ms. Koblents responded that staff have been alerted to this and are looking into the matter.

### **10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE**

### **11. NEXT MEETING DATE - October 17, 2013**

### **12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:53 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort  
Legislative Support