

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE
MINUTES

November 14, 2006

PRESENT:

Mayor Peter J. Kelly
Deputy Mayor Sue Uteck
Councillors: Krista Snow
David Hendsbee
Harry McInroy
Gloria McCluskey
Bill Karsten
Becky Kent
Mary Wile
Sheila Fougere
Russell Walker
Debbie Hum
Linda Mosher
Stephen Adams
Brad Johns
Robert Harvey
Gary Martin
Reg Rankin
Gary Meade

REGRETS:

Councillors Steve Streach
Andrew Younger
Jim Smith
Patrick Murphy
Dawn Sloane

STAFF:

Ms. Geri Kaiser, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor
Ms. Jan Gibson, Municipal Clerk
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - NONE

3. ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was before Council.
- A staff report dated August 14, 2006 was before Council.

Ms. Roxanne MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, introduced Mr. Chris Lowe, who presented the report to Council outlining the following:

- Plan and Goals,
- Summary of consultation findings,
- Existing and previously planned routes/facilities,
- Barriers and destinations,
- Network development and candidate route selection,
- Candidate route network and zones,
- Key planning and considerations,
- Proposed network facility designations,
- Comments on rural communities,
- Examples of rural centres,
- Incorporating active transportation into the overall structure,
- Operating costs,
- Implementation,
- Capital requirements.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Kent that Regional Council adopt in principle the Active Transportation Functional Plan to guide the promotion and implementation of active transportation within HRM.

Councillor Fougere noted this has long term implications and will build on many of the current HRM initiatives. The Councillor noted this is a twenty year plan which is fairly comprehensive and has applicability in the long term.

Councillor McCluskey stated sidewalk and walkway conditions need to be considered in order to encourage people to get out and walk suggesting it be mandatory for bicycles to have horns.

Councillor Snow noted there is nothing in her district enabling the residents to adopt this easily as there are no sidewalks nor trails. The Councillor questioned what the plan and timeline is for spreading the hundred million dollars over twenty three districts.

In response, Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way Services, advised priorities have been set out which will be combined with other types of projects with sidewalks being part of this network.

In response to Councillor Karsten, Council was advised all costs are included with the exception of the maintenance costs which would vary from year to year.

Mr. Paul Dunphy, Director, Community Development, advised that while the dollars are important there are other elements to this plan which go towards implementation such as changing the design and construction standards requiring that developers will build to a higher standard.

Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, advised this plan is a new consideration for Council as well as an amalgamation of all pre existing plans for trails, bikeways, sidewalks and other transportation modes other than cars.

Councillor Martin expressed concern stating he would like to see Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits on all trails.

Councillor Hum stated HRM needs to ensure there are new sidewalks built in the older neighbourhoods.

Councillor McInroy expressed concern with mid block crosswalks stating they should have a half signal and not the conventional crosswalk signage.

Councillor Wile suggested that a CPTED study be undertaken before new developments install paths.

In response to Councillor Fougere, Council was advised sidewalk repairs are not included in this plan. On further question, Council was advised that a ferry link has been proposed and some water routes have been included in the overall network.

MOVED by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Wile, that the planning and design guidelines be subject to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits prior to implementation. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Councillor Mosher requested the Frog Pond system in Sir Sanford Flemming Park be included as part of the winter maintenance program. She requested the shoulders along Purcell's Cove Road be paved noting the Purcell's Cove, Herring Cove and Sambro Road loop is a well used trail by bikers. She noted the Herring Cove Streetscape Study was completed and requested the recommendations in that study be addressed as soon as possible. The Councillor noted she had previously requested staff provide information to Council on rubber sidewalks.

MOVED by Councillor McInroy, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that crosswalks on multiple lane roads incorporate design criteria for "half signal" controls. MOTION

PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Motion as amended

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Councillor Kent that Regional Council:

1. adopt in principle the Active Transportation Functional Plan to guide the promotion and implementation of active transportation within HRM.
2. that the planning and design guidelines be subject to Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) audits prior to implementation
3. that crosswalks on multiple lane roads incorporate design criteria for "half signal" controls.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. **GRAVEL ROAD PAVING PRIORITIZATION**

- A report dated October 17, 2006 was before Council.

Mr. Dave Hubley, Manager, Design and Construction Services, presented the report to Council.

MOVED Councillor Meade, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that Regional Council:

1. Approve Option No. 5 (Prioritization of gravel roads based on Geographic Area, Maintenance and Road Classification) as outlined in the Discussion section of the October 17, 2006 report.
2. That the remaining 2006/07 "Paving of Gravel Roads inside the Core Area" projects be given priority and carried forward as paving projects for the 2007/08 capital program. These remaining streets include Hillary Crescent, District 8 and Sidhu Drive, District 2; Buckingham Road and Abbey Road in District 23.
3. That the remaining 2006/07 "Paving of Gravel Roads outside the Core Area" projects be given priority and carried forward as paving projects for the 2007/08 Aid to Municipality Program (provided funding is available from the Province). These remaining streets to include Ben Court and Lynwood Drive, District 22 and West Avenue, District 2.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. **ASSESSMENT CAP LEGISLATION**

- A report dated November 2, 2006 was circulated to Council at this time.
- A copy of the PowerPoint presentation was circulated to Council at this time.

Ms. Cathie O'Toole, Acting Director, Financial Services, advised Bill 92 was tabled at the Province and staff was present to provide information to Council.

Councillor Mosher noted Council had not had enough time to consider the report and placed the following motion.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey, that this item be deferred to November 21, 2006.

Ms. O'Toole advised this issue was time sensitive and staff was before Council to have discussion and decide what to do rather than lose any choice for any action.

Councillor Mosher stated HRM has asked the Province for additional authority with regard to capping of assessments and there is a bill currently in the house. She noted legislation will not override the impact of the stakeholder consultation process. The bill allows the government to provide twelve months notice to the UNSM. She noted there was no background information provided and there has been no opportunity for members of Council to contact staff.

MOTION TO DEFER DEFEATED.

Mr. Bruce Fisher, Manager, Fiscal and Tax Policy, presented the report to Council noting:

- Staff is not asking Council to state whether they support or not support the cap at this time,
- There is a serious equity issue,
- There is serious difficulty in setting appropriate tax levels,
- The Cap is intended to protect Nova Scotia property owners from sudden and dramatic property assessment increases,
- The Cap does not target low income, apartments, high tax bills or condos,
- The Cap provides relief to those with high assessment growth,
- The Cap shifts the tax burden on to non-cap properties,
- Under the assessment freeze, the tax burden would shift severely over time,
- The Cap results in tax inequities between neighbours.

MOVED by Councillor Fougere, seconded by Deputy Mayor Uteck, that Regional Council request that before passing Bill 92 the Province complete a full review of the assessment cap in Nova Scotia, in particular its (1) economic impact, and (2) impact on tax burden. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Jan Gibson
Municipal Clerk