

**HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

---

**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

**February 10, 2009**

**REVISED**

**PRESENT:** Mayor Peter Kelly, Chair  
Councillors: Barry Dalrymple  
Lorelei Nicoll  
Gloria McCluskey  
Andrew Younger  
Bill Karsten  
Jackie Barkhouse  
Jim Smith  
Mary Wile  
Jerry Blumenthal  
Dawn M. Sloane  
Sue Uteck  
Jennifer Watts  
Russell Walker  
Debbie Hum  
Linda Mosher  
Stephen D. Adams  
Robert P. Harvey  
Tim Outhit  
Reg Rankin  
Peter Lund

**REGRETS:** Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee  
Councillors: Steve Streach  
Brad Johns

**STAFF:** Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ms. Mary Ellen Donovan, Municipal Solicitor  
Ms. Julia Horncastle, Acting Municipal Clerk  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

1. CALL TO ORDER. . . . . 3

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES. . . . . 3

3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREA  
    - Transportation. . . . . 3

4. REGIONAL PARKING STRATEGY. . . . . 6

5. ADJOURNMENT. . . . . 7

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Mayor Kelly called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES - None**

**3. COUNCIL FOCUS AREA (deferred February 3, 2009)  
- Transportation**

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Director, Transportation and Public Works, provided the presentation on the Transportation Focus Area. Mr. Labrecque noted that the three main goals that came out of the workshop are: Transit Enhancements, Active Transportation and Traffic Management (Transportation Planning). He advised of the Focus Area direction, as follows:

- Use the term 'Transportation Planning' vs. 'Traffic Management'
- Continue with the implementation of the Active Transportation Plan
- Continue with Strategic Joint Regional Transportation Planning Committee (SJ RTP) to assist with inter-government project priorities and planning
- Stay the course with transit enhancements and priorities:
  - Garage, Funding Gap, Enhancement Plan, Taking Care of Ridership
- Consider creation of Transportation Planning Advisory Committee as part of the Committees of Council Review Project

Council entered a discussion with Mr. Labrecque and members of his staff responding to questions.

The following feedback in regard to the Transportation Focus Area was provided:

- many residents in Districts 10 and 16 have been contacting the Councillors wondering when the Lacewood Terminal was going to be constructed.
- support the idea of the Municipality developing more areas for mass parking, and support the idea of charging vehicles a toll to enter the Peninsula.
- when the business case concerning the Fast Ferry is presented to Council, hope that a comparative cost will be provided regarding the cost of the Ferry and the number of people utilizing it versus how many buses could have been purchased and parking areas developed.
- would like to see the report on bike lanes that was requested from staff and the funding for this; would like to see connectivity of multi-modal transportation included in the report.
- support the idea of creating a Regional Council Committee on Transportation.

Councillor Mosher referred to a previous document she received in 2004 entitled, *Presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development for Capital Transportation Authority*. She explained that the document talks about getting various HRM business units, as well as the Provincial Department of Transportation, other agencies like the Bridge Commission, Airport Authority, Port Authority and Canadian

National Railway together to discuss control of parking availability. She suggested that the document would be a great model to use to go forward with the idea of a Committee on Transportation. Councillor Mosher added that the document suggested the Committee be comprised of three members of Council, three residents of HRM appointed by Council, three HRM staff members appointed by the CAO, and two members appointed by the Province.

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council move forward and establish a Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, based on the information contained in the February 10, 2004 document (*Presentation to the Standing Committee on Economic Development for Capital Transportation Authority*).**

Mr. Dan English, Chief Administrative Office advised that the Province had drafted legislation in regard to the document Councillor Mosher was referring to, however the Bill was not approved. In lieu of this, the Strategic Joint Transportation Planning Committee was developed, which he and the Provincial Deputy Minister of Transportation Chair. He added that the Committee also had representation from the Chamber of Commerce, the Bridge Commission, the Port Authority, and Mr. Labrecque. Mr. English noted that last month he raised the issue of getting those discussions back on track with the Deputy Minister and the Mayor has also raised it with the Premier. Mr. English advised that Councillor Mosher's motion is fine as is, but pointed out that staff are working in this direction (i.e. a Capital Transportation Authority), in any event.

Further to this Mr. Labrecque advised that, at the staff level, an active transportation plan, a transit plan, and any element of the transportation plan need to be synchronized in time, space, and purpose, and the projects will then come from that. He stressed the importance of staff presenting more maps and more routing to Council so that there is a better understanding of the regional issues that translate into district stresses.

At the request of Council, the Mayor asked Councillor Mosher to clarify the intent of her motion.

Councillor Mosher responded that it was her intent to move forward to create a committee of Council comprised of those members (as noted in the document) and approach the Province.

Mr. English suggested that two motions might be in order. One to establish a Regional Transportation Advisory Committee and another to request the Mayor and CAO to approach the Province with the aim of revisiting the whole concept of a Capital Transportation Authority.

Councillor Mosher suggested that with the seconder's agreement, the motion be amended to include that the Mayor and CAO approach the Province with the aim of revisiting the whole concept of a Capital Transportation Authority.

Councillor Sloane, as seconder of the motion, concurred.

The motion reads as follows:

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Sloane that Regional Council approve the formation of a Regional Transportation Advisory Committee comprising of three residents, three members of Council, three HRM staff, and one Provincial representative and, further, Council recommend that the Mayor approach the Province to form a Capital Transportation Committee.**

Councillor Harvey noted that the other transportation committee has been around for several years and he advised that it is not clear how this proposed Committee would function in relation to the other one.

Mr. English advised that the Strategic Joint Regional Transportation Planning Committee (SJRTPC) is effective and meets regularly and that the motion would create some duplication. He suggested that at the next meeting of SJRTP, he would bring the recommendation of Council in terms of meeting Council's intent with respect to the possibility of expanding the Committee. He added that parallel to this, the Province will be approached in regard to a Capital Transportation Authority.

**MOVED by Councillor Harvey, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the motion be deferred, pending a report back from the CAO.**

At 2:33 p.m. Councillor Younger entered the meeting.

Councillor Watts expressed concern that the suggestion by the CAO does not have any public involvement and cautioned Council about moving in this direction without engaging the public.

Councillor Lund requested clarification on the motion as to whether it would result in two committees.

The Mayor clarified that the motion was in regard to combining a committee.

**THE MOTION TO DEFER WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

Council continued providing feedback on the Transportation Focus Area as follows:

- ensure that there is a large public consultation process on the Dartmouth Commons Transit Depot matter.
- request that staff keep the Shearwater Connector Road on the front burner.
- a concern was noted that when HRM and the Province are involved in the same initiative, but the Province is the lead in the project, there are times when the Province does not provide the same level of public consultation as HRM. This is frustrating to residents who have come to expect a certain level of consultation. There needs to be a better management of the communication with these issues, in order that the public feels they are involved.
- suggestion that staff consider using HRM land in the rural areas as car pool lots; the rural areas need transit, but that small buses would be more suitable for the rural areas and less expensive to run; strongly support the idea of a transportation committee.

- would like to see a timeline of the deliverables in the budget.

At 3:00 p.m. the Mayor left the meeting. Councillor Adams assumed the Chair.

- concerned that the visually challenged individuals will lose their free bus passes – the Municipality should be giving out more or providing discounts.
- concern was expressed about the growth occurring in the Woodland Avenue area; would like to see a consultant hired to consider opportunities over the next 10 to 15 years.
- there would probably be widespread support of the idea of getting large trucks out of the downtown, however, how this will happen would be a concern.
- the extension of the 107 has residents concerned about the proposed connection to Duke Street in Bedford and Glendale Avenue and Glendale Drive; do not want through-traffic on Glendale Drive; hoping for a quick and direct way to Highway 101, and go by Sackville to Beaver Bank, Middle Sackville and beyond. The commitment by HRM to construct Margeson Drive is also very important to future plans.
- would like to see a process whereby a review of neighbourhood shortcutting is carried out by engaging feedback from the public.
- some of the subdivisions off the Hammonds Plains Road go as far back as 9 kilometres; would like to see the idea of Commuter Buses integrated within the current Council's four-year mandate.
- residents in the subdivisions off Hammonds Plains Road are concerned about the speeding which occurs along the main roads in the subdivisions, and have expressed a desire to see more of the active trails systems (e.g. power line corridors) to connect within the subdivisions.
- request that the Shearwater Connector Road be part of the overall transit strategy.

At 3:33 p.m. Mayor Kelly returned to the Chamber and assumed the Chair. Councillor Adams took his usual seat in the Chamber.

- want the Woodside Ferry to be an integral part of the overall transit strategy.
- when Councillors ask staff for consideration for bus service or increased bus service whether through petition or councillor request, hope that staff will give it due consideration, and not just dismiss it outright, even if it is not in the future plans.
- when the Rural Express for the area of Highway 102 is rolled out, hope it is done so with a full slate of scheduled buses. The airport, which has many employees and currently has an employee shortage, would benefit from a rural express service.
- support the construction of Margeson Drive, as it would alleviate a lot of through-traffic in Sackville.

#### 4. **REGIONAL PARKING STRATEGY** (deferred February 3, 2009)

This item was deferred.

**5. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 3:41 p.m.

Julia Horncastle  
Acting Municipal Clerk