

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

November 17, 2004

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Heather Deighan
Ken LeMoine
Ward Skinner
John Smith
Candace Stevenson
Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Councillor Patrick Murphy

ABSENT: Angela Bischoff, Vice-Chair (regrets)
Gerard Walsh (regrets)

STAFF: Ms. Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm in the Trophy Room, 2nd Floor, City Hall.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - October 28, 2004

Correction: Item 5.3 word should be *expensive* not *expense*.

MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded by Ms. Candace Stevenson that the minutes of October 28, 2004 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

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

MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded Ms. Candace Stevenson that the agenda be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Status Sheet Items

4.1.1 Special Events Funding for Recurring Events

This item to remain on the Status Sheet until a response is received from staff. No further update at this time.

4.1.2 Active Transportation - RFP (Request for Proposal)

This item to remain on the Status Sheet until the RFP is presented in January/February 2005. No further update at this time.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.1 Bicycle Plan Implementation

Mr. Skinner circulated a document "working list of priorities" for the Committee.

The Committee thanked Mr. Ward Skinner for preparing a working list of priorities as they relate to the HRM Bike Plan. Councillor Fougere explained the process to be followed once the priorities list is finalized by this Committee:

- ! The completed list of priorities will go to peer review which will assist in determining which projects can be “added” to “whose” budget to ensure priority bike projects are included.
- ! Currently, this Committee is reviewing capital construction projects. Signage issues are for another time. Projects that Ms. MacInnis brought forward in her previous report include operational and capital.
- ! At the last BAC meeting “traffic” priorities from this Committee were listed as: the Bedford Highway and St. Margaret’s Bay Road. These would be projects that could be covered under Traffic’s budget.

Councillor Fougere suggested the Committee review the document Mr. Skinner prepared to determine if some projects tie in to projects that are already being done. The Committee raised the following areas for priority consideration:

- ! Quinpool Road: Share the road signs. There are some signs but more are required near the Armdale Rotary. There is now a parallel bike route to Quinpool Road - Pepperell Street, Beech Street to Robie Street. Bicycle route signs on all routes would be good. Pepperell Street could have three signs although caution was suggested regarding having too many signs.
- ! Concern expressed that routes are not joining up/connecting. If you have to keep dismounting, it will not work. For example, the Fairview Overpass, if you cannot get to an area it is not much good. *Councillor Fougere explained the Fairview Overpass project will take a long time and there is a lot to be done first.*
- ! Skip the signage issues for now and go to the “big ticket” items and do the pinch points (Herring Cove Road is having a study done). Some areas need a sign, some just need a shoulder. It was suggested that a Sub-Committee (Bike Map) could work on the sign issues as the Committee needs to focus on the signage for places that are approved. Over the next year or two those areas should be signed.

Councillor Fougere clarified that routes on the Bike Map are more biker friendly and indicate bike signs, areas with wider lanes and areas with fewer cars.

- ! Bell Road approaching Quinpool Road - road widening project to be left on the list as a “*potential future*” project.
- ! Drain grates should be replaced on Windsor Street and Chebucto Road. Drain grate sites for immediate replacement will be discussed at another meeting.
- ! Herring Cove Road is on two lists including construction services and will also be included in the Herring Cove Road Study.
- ! Only one side of Main Street (Dartmouth) is done and perhaps Traffic could look at both sides for this area. *It was suggested that there are utility polls that do not allow widening on the other side of Main Street.*
- ! **Windmill Road is a wide road and should be a priority as it goes to Burnside and could tie in well with the bridge exit.** There should be a route to continue to Shore Road and Shore Road should allow two-way bike traffic. *Extension of the trail*

for the Trans-Canada Trail is a big project (Urban Connections project). Windmill Road, Wyse Road and Shore Road - reserve for possible future project.

A bike lane would be perfect along Portland Street although there is concern with the amount of parking along Portland Street.

An analysis was done and any street that had high traffic/volumes had the option of "stripping" so the lanes would not have to be widened. There might be room for a 1.2 m bike lane/curb lane. For capital projects you have to do the studies before you do the capital budget.

Main routes in Dartmouth: If there is any road construction put in wide curb lanes. In urban areas there is no room for a bike lane. There is also the issue of parallel parking. Wide curb lanes would be the best option.

Overpass: Prince Albert Road to Main Street in Dartmouth: 90B turns to be eliminated (if possible) and road widened - long term project.

Bedford/Sackville: HRM issued a call for proposal for BRT (Bus Rapid Transit) that would deal with this link.

Expanded highway (Bedford Highway), pedestrians do not use the sidewalk on the residential side. Could that section of sidewalk be used as a bike lane? *Councillor Adams commented there were future plans by CN to widen that area. It would be a good spot for a bike lane. Ms. Koblents commented that a project may already be identified in someone's budget as there was a study called for.*

Councillor Fougere requested the LA forward a question to staff: Where is the study regarding the Bedford/Sackville link? Has it been awarded and if not could it be done?

Bedford Highway/Magazine Hill: Councillor Fougere explained HRM has staff on two provincial committees. A possible connector (limited access toll) highway project to Burnside to be set in reserve. Since the project has not started there is an opportunity to ask for bike considerations.

Highway #6: **Penhorn Interchange: Correction to be made to Mr. Skinner's list to show Highway 111, Exit 6.** Exit ramps: studies have been done to show how to do the lanes without tearing up the intersections. Ms. Koblents suggested the Committee look at Study "A" if there is any interest in considering those interchanges.

Windsor Street and Young Street: very dangerous intersection - Young Street going left, you cannot get left. There are three lanes of traffic. Try some of the strippings to see if you could get a turn there. *Councillor Fougere commented the matter has been referred to traffic.* Mr. Smith added this area was deliberately not on the Bike Map as it was not a Bike Route. Councillor Fougere commented a study is required. Ms. Stevenson suggested an intersection be reviewed/studied to see if it could be applicable.

- ! Burnside to Highfield: construct a bridge - for future reference. *Mr. LeMoine commented that he crosses that area every day via the exit ramp. He added there may be a need for a bigger lane.*
- ! Rural arterial roads are provincial and not in our preview at this time.
- ! Urban arterial roads such as Bayers Road/Dutch Village Road are not high priority in the plan although Bayers Road is a main route out to Bedford.
- ! Ensure bikes are considered with the proposed changes to the Armdale Rotary "modern roundabout". Councillor Adams commented that modern roundabouts have fewer bicycle and pedestrian accidents.

Councillor Fougere advised bicycle parking will have to be provided for in planning documentation particularly in commercial areas. This will be discussed in more detail under Item 7. Presentations.

- ! Currently no bicycle parking along Spring Garden Road nor Quinpool Road. *Some Quinpool Road businesses are asking for bicycle parking/racks. Right of way is a problem. Narrow sidewalks and lots of people. There must be a need and there are a lot of university students. Councillor Fougere suggested this Committee get an annual report/update from staff regarding bicycle racks.*
- ! Ferry Terminal is a challenge. Doors are a challenge as they are difficult to open and maneuver a bike through to get to the ferry loading area. Once on the ferry there is no place to put a bike. No place to park a bike at the ferry terminal either.

Councillor Fougere suggested this Committee request the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities review the ferry terminals for universal accessibility.

- ! The HRM website regarding biking is not up to date. The Legislative Assistant will research to determine who is responsible for updating this information.

MOVED BY Mr. John Smith, seconded by Mr. Ken LeMoine that the Bikeways Advisory Committee recommend the following items from the HRM Bike Plan be considered as potential Capital Projects:

- 1. Review of the Penhorn Interchange (Study "A") as a sample study to deal with interchanges that cross basic city streets.**
- 2. Windmill Road, Wyse Road, Shore Road area of Dartmouth to be reviewed in terms of adequately exiting the bridge to Windmill Road and flow of bike traffic on Windmill Road and Shore Road as an extension of Windmill Road. South bound on Shore Road should be two-way for bike traffic to allow entrance onto Windmill Road.**

Ms. Stevenson clarified these priorities would be in addition to the five projects identified last month. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

5.2 Preliminary List of Priorities for Capital Road Works

Previously discussed. See above.

6. REPORTS

6.1 Report from Bike Map Sub-Committee (verbal)

The Bikeways Advisory Committee had requested a copy of the map for final review. Mr. Smith advised the map will have a final review by: Mr. Ken Reashor, HRM Traffic Authority, Mr. Lew Rogers, HRM Recreation, Tourism and Culture and HRM's Shared Services as well as the Province before being sent for printing.

Councillor Fougere commented Ms. Shelly Acker, Manager, Metro Transit Visitor Services, advised between 75,000 -85,000 visitor maps were distributed in the last two years. This number does not include maps printed for use in hotels. It was suggested that 1/4 that number (20,000 copies) would be the quantify required for the bike maps. Councillor Fougere suggested a recommendation be forwarded to HRM's Traffic and Transportation / HRM's Recreation, Tourism and Culture business units for consideration in their budgets regarding printing costs to produce a large quantity of bike route maps. Metro Transit has offered to place the bike maps in strategic locations.

The Legislative Assistant advised she had contacted Mr. Ken Cogan, Province of Nova Scotia, regarding use of the provincial Bicycle Safety Brochure information on the bike map. There has been no response as yet. Mr. Smith advised the provincial contact is Mr. David MacNeil, Communications Director with Service Nova Scotia. **The Legislative Assistant will contact Mr. MacNeil for permission to use text images from the provincial pamphlet and request a supply of pamphlets for distribution to HRM Customer Service Centres.**

MOVED BY Mr. Ward Skinner, seconded by Ms. Candace Stevenson that the Bikeways Advisory Committee recommend inclusion in the following HRM business unit's budgets; Traffic and Transportation and/or Recreation, Tourism and Culture for the printing of 20,000 HRM Bike Route Maps. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

Mr. Smith requested comments from staff regarding the bike map be directed to him and he will contact Mr. Bill Gellard. He further suggested the official launch of the bike map should be done during the 2005 Bike Week event. Councillor Fougere commented the Corporate Communications Officer for HRM, Mr. John O'Brien, will assist with promotion.

7. PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Bicycle Parking Requirements to be Folded into the Municipal Land Use By-Laws

Information was supplied by Ms. Koblents for the October 28, 2004 Bikeways Advisory Committee meeting. This information was before the Committee.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Planner, presented her report and raised the following points:

- General provisions of HRM By-Laws have parking requirements for developments.
- There is approximately one year to test the standard and see if it is reasonable. Sackville has a bicycle parking requirement. It has been difficult to implement at some points but HRM is encouraging the use of bikes. Directive has only been in place for a month. The requirements are for new developments only at this point.
- There are two types of bicycle parking: Class A and Class B. There are special incentives to developers such as motor vehicle requirements are reduced to meet the requirement for bike parking. This could be a benefit to the developers
- The amendment to the Land Use By-Law would require a public process and staff would recommend eighteen (18) changes.
- Endorsement from this Committee would be appreciated.

Councillor Fougere commented a report could go forward from this Committee to be included with staff's report to Regional Council.

8. ADDED ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS

8.1 Added Items - None

8.2 New Business - None

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting will be Wednesday, January 19, 2005. Items to be included on the January agenda are: Mr. Skinner will update his document and forward to the Legislative Assistant, request for a staff presentation on changes to the RED BOOK regarding bikes.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 1:43 pm.

Chris Newson
Legislative Assistant