

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

NOTES

March 22, 2006

**PRESENT:** Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair  
Ms. Laena Garrison  
Mr. Ward Skinner  
Mr. Leslie Dubinsky  
Mr. William Webster

**ABSENT:** Ms. Heather Deighan (regrets)  
Ms. Candace Stevenson (regrets)  
Councillor Patrick Murphy (regrets)  
Councillor Stephen D. Adams (regrets)  
Mr. Steve Lane (regrets)  
Mr. Friedemann Brauer  
Mr. Peter Williams

**STAFF  
AND OTHERS:** Ms. Roxane McInnis, Planner II, Regional Planning  
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right-of-Way  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:11 p.m. in the Media Room, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, City Hall, **without a quorum.**

Roundtable introductions were provided to introduce new Committee members.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 14, 2005 and January 18, 2006**

The approval of the minutes were deferred until a quorum is present.

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

The agenda was agreed upon as presented.

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**4.1 Status Sheet Items**

The Committee reviewed the Bikeways Advisory Committee Status Sheet.

Ms. Garrison indicated she would have the proposed report card of the BAC and TDM website completed before the summer. Councillor Fougere suggested that she complete the report card to coincide with Bike Week and the Bikeways Advisory Committee Annual Report to Council. Ms. Garrison indicated interest in posting the report card and the annual report to the HRM and TRAX websites.

The Chair reviewed the reports dated March 20, 2006 with regard to amendments to the Terms of Reference of the Committee (recommendation report) and 2006/2007 Capital Budget recommendations (information report). The Legislative Assistant added that these reports will go before Regional Council on March 28, 2006.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Planner, joined the meeting at 12:17 p.m.

**4.2 Bike Week Update - Ward Skinner**

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

**4.3 Bike Plan Progress Update - Ward Skinner**

**C** The updated HRM Bicycle Plan Status Report was before the Committee.

This item was not addressed.

**4.4 Street Opening Update - Laena Garrison**

This item was dealt with later in the meeting.

**4.5 Active Transportation Plan - BAC Feedback - Laena Garrison**

It was requested that this item be added to the agenda for the next meeting to be discussed with the full Committee.

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None**

**6. REPORTS**

**6.1 Membership - Report to Council**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. See item 4.1.

**6.2 Capital Budget Recommendations - Report to Council**

This item was discussed earlier in the meeting. See item 4.1.

**7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS**

**7.1 New Business**

**7.1.1 National Standard for Bicycle Pavement Markings - Roxane MacInnis**

C A copy of the National Standard for Bicycle Pavement Markings presentation was before the Committee.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis presented to the Committee on the proposed National standard for bicycle pavement markings being developed by the Traffic Operations & Management Standing Committee (TOMSC) of the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC). She advised that Mr. David McCusker, Manager, HRM Regional Transportation Planning, is a member of the Standing Committee. Ms. MacInnis noted that HRM uses TAC standards as its governing principles for transportation design. She reviewed the bicycle pavement markings with the committee, noting the following:

1. Shared Use Lane Markings: The shared use arrow (or “sharrow”) is recommended for locations where there is insufficient room for a marked bike lane but where bikes can travel side by side with car traffic. Markings similar to this were tested recently in Halifax.
2. Sharrow - Narrow Street, Single File: The shared use arrow is intended to give guidance to cars and bikes where the bike traffic should be aligned. In this case, at an intersection approach and a narrow street where bikes are best “taking the lane”. There was substantial discussion by the TOMSC on the narrow lane issue where many cyclists would not be comfortable travelling in the middle of the lane. There is some thought that the notion of single file desirability be conveyed through a sign only.
3. Bike Lane Through Intersection: These are similar to car lane continuity lines, but their context should resolve any potential confusion.

Councillor Fougere indicated she wished to provide comment on the bicycle pavement markings before she had to leave the meeting. She noted concern with regard to cyclist crossing at high speed exit and entry ramps (images #6 & #7), suggesting that the signs at the crossing points be configured to be cautionary to cyclists. Councillor Fougere also spoke in favour of the intersection bike boxes, when used in conjunction with bike signals.

Councillor Fougere left the meeting at 12:30 p.m.

4. Coloured Bike Lane: There was substantial discussion by the TOMSC about solid colour or colour hatching for bike lanes through areas of high conflict. Such markings are in use in Vancouver and elsewhere around the world. The TOMSC intends to leave this out for the time, but undertake some safety and comprehension testing in the next few months. The coloured bike lanes are expensive to paint and maintain and are also slippery when wet. Coloured asphalt is also a consideration.

Mr. McIntyre suggested that whether paint or coloured asphalt is chosen, consistency is kept for the sake of clarity for drivers and cyclists.

5. Cyclist Crossing Exit Ramp with Jughandle: These designs are for +80 km/h zones and are intended to guide cyclists to cross where their exposure time to traffic is reduced, but not take them so far away from their intended path that the markings are ignored.
6. Cyclist Crossing at High Speed Exit Ramp: Cyclists yielding to motorists, with a possible replacement of the yield sign with a stop sign.
7. Cyclist Crossing Entry Ramp: Same as above.
8. Cyclist Crossing Exit Ramp on Lower Speed Road (<80 km/h): On lower speed facilities, cyclists can be better accommodated along a straight path.
9. Cyclist Crossing Entry Ramp on Lower Speed Road (<80 km/h): Same as above.
10. Contra-flow Bike Lane: Many cities create two-way bike paths on one-way streets. One difficulty is that “One-Way” signs can no longer be installed because bicycles

- cannot be excluded from those controls. In Nova Scotia, "Do Not Enter" signs could not be installed as those signs do not permit exclusions either.
11. Contra-flow Bike Lane with On-street Parking: Contra flow lanes can be side by side. There is the danger to cyclists of open car doors.
  12. Multi-lane Trail Crossing at Crosswalk: Most provinces (including NS) do not permit bikes to ride on crosswalks. That is why it is necessary to design a parallel crossing system where a trail parallels a roadway. A bike signal is being developed separately by the TAC.
  13. Mid-Block Trail Crossing (unsignalized): A similar example is where the BLT Trail crosses St. Margaret's Bay Road.
  14. Curb Extensions: Works well with on-street parking, allows for pedestrian crossing, and increases visibility for motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.
  15. Streets with Chicanes: Two options for bike lanes indicated, inside chicanes and outside chicanes.
  16. Bicycle Detector Pavement Marking: At intersections where the signals are activated by vehicles or where there are bicycle signals, bicycles need to be detected by inductance loops built into the pavement. To be detected they need to be in the correct spot and the marking indicated is intended to direct them to that spot.
  17. Intersection Bike Box: Bike boxes raise the visibility of a cyclist, and provide an area for the cyclist to go.

A brief discussion ensued regarding the bicycle pavement markings.

The Committee requested that Mr. McCusker attend the next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee to discuss the bicycle pavement markings further with the Committee.

#### **4.2 Bike Week Update - Ward Skinner**

Mr. Skinner updated the Committee on the details of Bike Week, advising the following:

- C Bike Week will be held from June 3-10, 2006,
- C June 3<sup>rd</sup> is the HRM Community Bike Auction at Devonshire Arena,
- C The opening event will be held on June 4<sup>th</sup> at Cornwallis Park on Barrington St.,
- C Other events will include bicycle safety rodeos for children, safety demonstrations for adults, a bike to school/work promotion, a scavenger hunt, a commuter challenge involving businesses, and a move night with TRAX, among other events,
- C The closing event will be at Grand Parade on June 10 with HRM's Environmental Management Services,
- C Advertising will take place the last two weeks of May to coincide with C100's Bike-A-Day-In-May promotion,

Mr. Skinner asked that anyone wishing to volunteer with any of the events to contact him directly and invited the Committee to the opening event on June 4, 2006.

#### **4.4 Street Opening Update - Laena Garrison**

Ms. Garrison updated members on the details of the Street Opening event, advising the following:

- C TRAX received funding to hold a street opening event to promote all forms of active transportation,
- C The target date to hold the event is April 23, 2006,
- C The event will be advertised two weeks prior,
- C The event has the support of HRM Special Events and Regional Council,
- C TRAX wishes to hold a weekly street opening event in the future,
- C 2 km of flat paved space would be ideal for holding the event,
- C The event will include demonstrations of different types of active transportation.

#### **7.2 Added Items**

Ms. Garrison noted that there is insufficient bicycle parking at NSCAD. Mr. MacIntyre suggested that Jeff Bray, Streetscape Coordinator, Capital District, be contacted to discuss bicycle parking downtown.

It was requested that Mr. Bray be invited to the next meeting to discuss bike parking in downtown.

#### **8. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR**

The election of Chair and Vice-Chair was deferred until a quorum is present.

#### **8. NEXT MEETING DATE - April 19, 2006**

The next meeting of the Bikeways Advisory Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, April 19, 2006.

#### **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 1:25 p.m.

Legislative Assistant