

BIKEWAYS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

MINUTES

September 20, 2006

PRESENT: Councillor Sheila Fougere, Chair
Councillor Patrick Murphy
Ms. Laena Garrison
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Mr. Ward Skinner
Mr. William Webster
Ms. Candace Stevenson
Ms. Heather Deighan
Mr. Leslie Dubinsky

ABSENT
WITH REGRETS: Councillor Stephen D. Adams
Mr. Peter Williams

STAFF
AND OTHERS: Mr. Greg Rice, Design Engineer, Design and Construction Services
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, Real Property Planning
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, TDM Coordinator, Traffic & Right-of-Way
Mr. Ken Reashor, Manager, Traffic Authority
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Call to Order 3

2. Approval of the Order of Business and Approval of Additions and Deletions 3

3. Business Arising Out of the Minutes 3

 3.1 Status Sheet Items 3

 3.2 Bike Week Update - Ward Skinner 3

4. Approval of Minutes - March 22, 2006 and May 24, 2006 3

5. Consideration of Deferred Business - None 6

6. Reports - None 6

7. New Business / Added Items 6

 7.1 New Business 6

 7.1.1 Bikeways Advisory Committee Work Plan 6

 7.2 Added Items 7

8. Next Meeting Date 8

9. Adjournment 8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 12:09 pm in the Media Room, 1st Floor, City Hall **without a quorum.**

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

Additions:

- 7.2.1 Status of ALM Bridge Connection - Ms. Candace Stevenson
- 7.2.2 Status of Pedestrian Bridge - Ms. Candace Stevenson
- 7.2.3 Trail Along Bicentennial Highway - Mr. Leslie Dubinsky
- 7.2.4 Bicycle Racks and Signage - Ms. Laena Garrison

3. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

3.1 Status Sheet Items

The Committee reviewed the Bikeways Advisory Committee Status Sheet. The "Proposed report card of HRM's Bikeways Advisory Committee or TDM website" item has been completed and will be deleted from the status sheet.

3.2 Bike Week Update - Ward Skinner

C A summary report on Bike Week 2006 was distributed to Committee members.

Mr. Skinner provided a brief update on Bike Week 2006.

Councillor Fougere indicated that Bike Week was included in the Bikeways Advisory Committee annual report to Council. She noted that she and Councillor Murphy spent a day photographing capital projects for the presentation, which was presented to Council yesterday.

She requested that the Legislative Assistant provide Committee members with copies of the presentation.

Ms. Heather Deighan arrived at 12:16 a.m., at which time a **quorum was achieved.**

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

MOVED by Mr. Ward Skinner, seconded by Mr. William Webster, that the minutes of March 22, 2006 and May 24, 2006 be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

MOVED by Ms. Candace Stevenson, seconded by Mr. Leslie Dubinsky, that the agenda be approved, as amended (see Item 2). MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

6. REPORTS - None

7. NEW BUSINESS / ADDED ITEMS

7.1 New Business

7.1.1 Bikeways Advisory Committee Work Plan 2006/2007

Ms. Garrison reviewed the Progress Report of the Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly HRM that she and Mr. Skinner completed. Ms. Garrison indicated that a small copy of the report will be published in the Ecology Action Centre's quarterly publication.

Mr. Friedemann Brauer arrived at 12:21 p.m.

Ms. Garrison indicated that the near-term goals have been divided into four categories, as follows:

1. Bicycle Network - a system of designated bike routes;
2. Support facilities - includes bicycle parking, traffic and signage, shower facilities;
3. Safety and Education - safety and education programs for cyclists and drivers; and
4. Institutional Framework - laws and policies.

Ms. Garrison reviewed the evaluation method and the ranking for each near-term goal category, as follows:

One wheel = Needs Improvement

Two wheels = Pass

Three wheels = Good

Four wheels = Excellent

1. Bicycle Network - One wheel (needs improvement)
2. Support facilities - Three wheels (good)

3. Safety and Education - Three wheels (good)
4. Institutional Framework - Two wheels (pass)

Ms. Garrison indicated that a lack of funding is the result of the low score of the Bicycle Network. Councillor Fougere indicated that Councillor Linda Mosher has asked staff that next years capital budget include more funds for the implementation of the bike plan.

Mr. Skinner commented the he believes that the Support Facilities category needs much improvement. Ms. Garrison indicated that the “good” rating is based on the completion or progress of a number of near-term goals, including the distribution of bike maps, increased bike parking at terminals and park-and-rides, and sewer grate replacement program.

Councillor Fougere indicated that all near-term goals outlined in the progress report appear on page 49 of the Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly HRM.

Ms. Garrison reviewed several of the individual goals, which are set out in the Progress Report, and rated as either Not Initiated (NI), Initiated (I), In Progress (IP), or Completed (C), along with comments regarding each goal.

Mr. Dubinsky indicated that biking along the Bedford Highway is dangerous, and should not be listed as a bike route on the Bike Map. The Committee discussed updating the Bike Map, and perhaps indicating caution on the Bedford Highway route. It was also suggested that trails and routes be identified separately. The Bike Map will be updated in the near future for re-distribution.

The Committee briefly discussed the ALM Bridge connection. It was noted that this project is part of the Active Transportation Plan, and although the Consultant’s work is complete, it has not yet been brought before Council. The Chair requested that the Legislative Assistant contact Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management Planner, to bring the Active Transportation Plan and the ALM Bridge connection before the Committee. She also requested that Ms. MacInnis provide Committee members with cd copies of the Active Transportation Plan for their review.

The Chair also requested that the Legislative Assistant provide her with a contact at CFB Halifax to discuss the trail along Barrington Street between Cornwallis Street and North Street.

The Committee requested that cyclists be considered in the design of the Fairview overpass.

Staff reminded members to report any “Share the Road” signs that are blocked by trees or brush to the HRM Call Centre at 490-4000.

Staff also indicated that residents can report speeding complaints on HRM streets to the HRM Traffic Department.

The Committee requested that Mr. MacIntyre provide a map to indicate locations of the "Share the Road" signs.

The Committee agreed to add the word "Substantial" to the "Needs Improvement" ranking for the near-term goal rating system.

Ms. Garrison suggested a post card campaign, where residents would mail in their top three choices for proposed bike rack locations. Staff discussed the difficulty with installation of the bike racks regarding right-of-way issues and other rules. Mr. Skinner indicated that he will forward photos of parking metre bike racks for the information of Committee members.

Staff encouraged members to call in specific locations where sewer grates need replacement.

Ms. Garrison suggested that a sign be posted at the Cole Harbour Transit Terminal to indicate that bike racks are behind the terminal.

Ms. Garrison further indicated that anyone wishing to take the Can Bike Training Instructor Course can contact Mr. Wayne Jay at the Chocolate Lake Community Recreation Centre.

Councillor Fougere indicated that she has identified Bike Week as an HRM event, and recommended it for HRM event funding and to perhaps hire a coordinator.

Ms. Garrison indicated that TRAX is working on obtaining sponsorship to make the Street Opening an annual event.

Staff indicated that members or other residents contact them with suggestions for designation of specific sidewalks as multi-use trails, or any other bike related suggestions.

Ms. Garrison reviewed the TRAX recommendations to HRM and the BAC, as set out on the last two pages of the Progress Report.

The Chair indicated that the recommendations will be incorporated into the BAC work plan for the coming year, and requested that staff provide commentary and focus on some of the recommendations at future meetings for feedback by Committee members.

Ms. Garrison indicated that she would make revisions to the Progress Report and re-distribute copies electronically to Committee members.

Mr. Dubinsky and Ms. Deighan left the meeting at 1:35 p.m.

The Chair requested that, in order to better utilize the Committee, any matter involving active transportation issues that staff are working on, be brought before the Committee for input. She also requested that representatives from Halifax Regional Police and the HRM Recreation department present to the Committee annually regarding bike related issues.

The Chair indicated that the Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly HRM is a 20 year plan and should be reviewed every five years.

7.2 Added Items

The Chair proposed holding a Committee field trip to view in-progress or recently completed bike related projects around HRM. She requested that the Legislative Assistant poll members to book a date for the field trip.

The Chair suggested the Committee organize a Bicycle Checkpoint jointly with Quinpool Road vendors and Halifax Regional Police. She indicated that she was donated about 35 reflective vests by a supervisor of the crossing guard program, and the vests, along with bike safety info, could be handed out to cyclists at the event. She also suggested purchasing bike lights from the Mountain Equipment Co-Op (MEC), with perhaps an equal donation from MEC, to also hand out. Another suggestion was for a promotion with Cyclesmith for 10% off the price of a helmet, and to educate cyclists that helmets are required by law. The Chair requested that if anyone would be interested in organizing such an event to contact her.

The Chair indicated that the terms of reference of the Committee are to meet a minimum of four times per year. She discussed a proposal to hold some meetings in public spaces to raise the profile of the Committee. Ms. Garrison indicated interest in holding a meeting at a new fitness club "Spring" on University and Tower Roads. Another suggestion for raising the profile of the Committee was for the Committee to go on a bike tour, with bike rentals from MEC.

Mr. Webster left the meeting at 1:48 p.m.

Ms. Garrison indicated that the Ecology Action Centre is circulating a petition to lobby the Provincial government to allocate 10% of gas tax to active transportation infrastructure. She advised that an MLA will be presenting the petition to the Legislature in October. She requested and was granted permission to forward the petition to Committee members to obtain signatures and return the petitions to the EAC.

8. NEXT MEETING DATE

The Legislative Assistant will advise Committee members of the date, time and location of the Committee Field Trip in October.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Jennifer Weagle
Legislative Assistant

The following information items were distributed to Committee members:

1. Bikeways Advisory Committee Annual Report
2. "HRM More Bike Friendly" - Stephen Bornais, Daily News, September 20, 2006