

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

May 26, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Jackie Barkhouse  
Councillor Jerry Blumenthal  
Councillor Debbie Hum  
Councillor Bob Harvey

STAFF: Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax at 1:05 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 24 & April 13, 2011**

Councillor Watts provided clarification regarding the CarShareHFX presentation in the April 13, 2011 minutes.

**MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that the minutes of April 13, 2011, as amended, and the minutes of March 24, 2011, as circulated, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Councillor Watts – Use of Vehicles on Rail Line - Bayers Lake to Port of Halifax
- 8.2 Status Update - Nantucket Transit Terminal

The Chair noted that Deputy Mayor Smith requested that the Committee ask for an update on the status of the Nantucket Terminal. The Chair suggested that this item be addressed as the first Order of Business.

**MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**8.2 Status Update - Nantucket Transit Terminal**

Mr. Ken Reashor, Director, Transportation & Public Works, provided a brief update on the status of the Nantucket Transit Terminal, noting that staff are working with the Halifax Water Commission in response to issues that have been identified with the design concept relative to storm drainage. Adjustments may have to be made to the design concept, and depending on the magnitude of the changes, the project may have to be re-tendered. An update will be provided for the next meeting.

Mr. Reashor responded to questions from the Committee.

Councillors Barkhouse and Hendsbee arrived at 1:12 p.m.

**4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Correspondence - None**

**4.2 Petitions**

**4.3 Presentation - None**

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

The Chair asked that the Legislative Assistant follow up on the status of Item 7.1 Taxi & Limousine Advisory Committee, from the March 24, 2011 meeting. This matter was referred by Council to the CAO for review at the April 5, 2011 Regional Council meeting. The Chair asked that this matter be brought back to the Committee for the June 23, 2011 meeting.

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 ROUNDABOUTS – AESTHETICS & DESIGN**

An information report dated March 22, 2011 was before the Committee.

Councillor Hum commented on giving consideration to road user distraction in any policy for roundabout aesthetics and design incorporating public art. She also suggested that staff look at the size of smaller roundabout designs, such as the one at the Larry Uteck interchange, as she finds they are very small and the turns are very tight and difficult to manoeuvre.

Mr. Reashor noted that the Provincial government has roundabout design standards for across the Province, and staff would be following the industry design standards for roundabout size.

Councillor Fisher questioned whether there is documented proof that art and/or landscaping improves roundabouts. He asked that this information be forwarded to members.

Responding to questions from members about the next steps of this initiative, Mr. Reashor advised that there will be public participation and staff will take the public feedback into consideration in the drafting of this policy. The policy will be coming to Council at some point in the future for approval.

Councillor Watts questioned the cost impact balance as an investment of greening a roundabout vs. using it for a public art installation.

In response to questions about what shape the public consultation will take, Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager, Traffic & Right of Way, advised that staff are working on a community engagement strategy, and area councillors, residents, and other stakeholders will be invited to the consultation.

The Chair asked that these comments be passed on to staff.

## **7.2 WINTER PARKING BAN**

An information report dated May 6, 2011 was before the Committee. Correspondence to the Committee from Councillor Sloane dated May 21, 2011 was also before the Committee.

The Chair clarified that the information report is in response to issues for clarification requested of staff, along with issues raised by Councillor Sloane and other members of Council.

The Committee reviewed and discussed the information report issue by issue, with staff responding to questions.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Blumenthal, that the Transportation Standing Committee request that legal staff to look into the possibility of HRM deputizing staff members or others to have the authority to write tickets to have cars towed, and that legal staff report to the Committee with the best options in this regard. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Hendsbee commented that if HRM staff or tow truck drivers were deputized to have the authority to ticket and tow, then when a violation is called in or noted, they wouldn't have to wait for a police officer to respond to write a summary offence ticket.

The Committee discussed various issues associated with the winter parking ban, including the following:

- How to define an "emergency" ban and a "snow event".
- The importance of clear communication to the general public in terms of when the parking ban will be on and off, how this will be communicated.
- Who will be making the decision to enact the ban and how they will reach that decision.
- That this would be for one year trial and that that the program would be re-evaluated after the winter season.
- Where the extra funds would come from to cover the increased costs with the proposed trial changes to the ban.

Mr. Reashor advised that a change to the winter parking ban has already been put into effect by the Traffic Authority to amend the hours of the ban from 1:00 a.m. - 7:00 a.m. to 1:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Harvey, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that:**

1. **Regional Council support the option provided by the Traffic Authority to consider a trial period during which the overnight winter parking regulations would only be enforced during declared snow and ice operations;**
2. **Regional Council accepts that existing snow and ice operational service standards may be impacted without the continuous overnight winter parking regulations in place;**
3. **Regional Council approve the expenditure of up to \$80,000 from the Winter Works budget for overtime costs associated with the increased enforcement of the overnight winter parking regulations.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Committee were in agreement that these proposed changes to the winter parking ban maintain the important balance between public safety and the requirement for parking, in particular on the Peninsula.

**7.3 ECOMOBILITY PROJECT – SECOND INITIATIVE**

A report dated April 24, 2011 was circulated to the Committee earlier in the week. Copies of the staff presentation were distributed to members.

Councillor Watts requested clarification that the second component of the program – Neighbourhood Parking by Permit Only Expansion, is not a new program but an expansion of the existing program and what is different in this program.

Mr. Dave McCusker, Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, advised that the first proposal that was rejected by Council involved Parking by Permit Only on the streets around the Common. This proposal uses Pay and Display on the streets around the Common, and Parking by Permit Only for residential streets. Staff are being more proactive in communicating with residents about the Parking by Permit Only program, instead of waiting for residents to approach staff about the subject, and staff are actively looking for good candidate streets.

Councillor Fisher commented that the focus should be on making other forms of alternative transportation onto the peninsula more attractive, and noted concern with businesses moving out of the urban core because their employees have to pay for parking. Mr. Reashor advised that revenue generated from this program would go directly into sustainable transportation.

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council the ecoMOBILITY project proceed with a Halifax Commons Pay-and-Display**

**component and a Neighbourhood Parking by Permit Only expansion component as described in the April 24, 2011 report.**

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that the streets involved in the Pay-and-Display component should be expanded. He inquired as to the location and accessibility of the Pay-and-Display terminals to pay. Mr. McCusker advised that the terminals have a much smaller footprint than the larger canopy ones used in parking lots, more similar to a parking meter, and that there will be approximately one terminal per 8-10 cars.

Councillor Hum noted new technology used in other urban centres where a credit card is used at any terminal with a parking code to update your parking time. She noted concern that the 90 Park-and-Display spaces around the Common will not be enough for residents wanting to park to use the skating oval. Mr. McCusker advised that staff could look at options such as designating some of these spaces as two hour parking instead of all day parking to accommodate this need.

At the request of Councillor Watts, Mr. McCusker advised that the Parking by Permit Only would be applicable Monday to Friday during the day.

Mr. McCusker reviewed the map with the Committee.

Councillor Watts indicated that Rainnie Drive is a difficult street to cycle on, given the crest of the hill and the potential for car doors opening. She asked that staff keep the new one meter rule in mind when implementing parking on both sides of Rainnie Drive.

Councillor Blumenthal questioned whether there is enough parking enforcement officers.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**7.4 HRM SMART CAR UPDATE**

An information report dated April 27, 2011 was before the Committee.

The Committee discussed the information report, and asked questions of staff, during which the following areas were requested for further analysis of the program:

- what is the baseline of this evaluation?
- there should be a before and after comparison.
- how many users were there?
- how many of those users were frequent users?

Staff advised that they would undertake further analysis on the program in these areas.

**7.5 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.5.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts provided a brief update from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee, noting that HRM Bike Week starts Friday, and encouraged members to check out the Bike Week events on website and participate.

## **7.6 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

### **7.6.1 Update from Councillor Blumenthal (verbal)**

Councillor Blumenthal provided a brief update on the Accessibility Advisory Committee, noting that the Committee are working on identifying for staff accessibility barriers in HRM owned and/or operated buildings.

He also noted that the second round of public consultation session are being held for the Metro Transit Universal Accessibility Transit Study.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Councillor Watts – Use of Vehicles on Rail Line - Bayers Lake to Port of Halifax**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee, that the Transportation Standing Committee request an information report to Regional Council on HRM's position on vehicular use along the rail line between Bayers Lake and the Port.**

Councillor Watts mentioned that there have been previous positions made and documentation on this matter, and she asked that these positions and documentation be pulled together into an information report to Regional Council.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **9. NEXT MEETING DATE – June 23, 2011**

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, June 23, 2011 at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

## **10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:56 p.m..

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant