



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
OCT 1, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor David Hendsbee
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Russell Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll
Councillor Steve Craig

REGRETS: Councillor Barry Dalrymple

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Transportation Standing Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCtransp/141002tsc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 2:03 p.m. and adjourned at 4:13 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 10, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the minutes of September 10, 2014 be approved as distributed. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions

- 12.1 Accessibility Evaluation of Pedestrian Infrastructure
- 12.2 Status Sheets
Assessment of implementing DalTRAC's Share the Road Campaign (*Information Item iv*).

Deferrals

Consideration of the following matter was deferred to 3:00 p.m.:

9.3.2 Wheelmap.org

The Chair initiated a discussion regarding the content of item 4.1. "By-law T1001: Amendments to By-law T1000 and Administrative Order 39, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis & Limousines." Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk, indicated an error in the agenda and stated that the only matter due for discussion on item 4.1 pertained to the amendment to Administrative Order 39. The Chair acknowledged the clerking error; however, indicated he would be giving consideration to adding the item as presented to the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Outhit that the agenda be approved with item 4.1 being considered as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES (September 10, 2014)

4.1 By-law T1001: Amendments to By-law T1000 and Administrative Order 39, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis & Limousines

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A supplementary report dated September 22nd, 2014

Councillor Walker advised that he was concerned that the Committee had approved By-law T1001 at the September 10, 2014 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee. Councillor Walker highlighted sections 7, 8, and 9 on page 34 of By-law T1000, stating concern for the removal of the waiting list for drivers, application for new taxi loaner licenses, and number of taxi licenses in Halifax and Dartmouth. He also indicated there was a discrepancy over how many accessible cabs were currently available.

The Chair outlined the procedure before the Committee if they wished to rescind their previous recommendation and reconsider the matter further.

Councillor Outhit inquired if all taxis would be accessible vans in 10-20 years and questioned how other cities have provisioned accessible taxis while maintaining goals of sustainability and fuel efficiency.

Mr. Kevin Hindle, Supervisor Regional Licensing, responded that it would be a number of decades before all taxis became accessible. He stated that currently four licenses are issued per year on average in the Halifax zone, where 610 vehicles are available. In addition, Mr. Hindle responded that vehicle design was

constantly being enhanced upon by the automotive industry, with more fuel efficient vehicles coming on the market as alternatives to minivan conversions.

Councillor Watts stated that a more developed staff report should be drafted to ensure that the current questions regarding transition time and accessible models are addressed before the matter moves forward to Regional Council.

Mayor Savage stated that he was concerned if it appeared that Halifax was not an accessible community; however, he stated he was not against having further debate and discussion. Councillor Walker stated that the matter at issue was not about accessibility. Councillor Walker outlined his case again and stated that the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group did not properly hear from the industry.

In response to a question of procedure, Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor, noted that a motion to waive the rules of notice of rescission would first be required.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Watts that the rules of Administrative Order One be waived. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

A discussion occurred on the content of a subsequent motion if the Committee were to rescind the motion of September 10, 2014. Some members voiced agreement to rescission provided the matter be kept at the Committee level, while others requested further clarification on the implications of rescinding the motion and the role of the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) as an advisory committee.

Mr. Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administration Officer, confirmed that staff would advance any recommendations to the Committee.

In response to a question from Councillor Outhit regarding industry consultation, Mr. Hindle stated that in November 2013, consultation was entered with the TLLG and the Group received clear direction with how staff would proceed to address their issues.

Councillor Walker stated to his knowledge the industry was not properly consulted by the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group.

Councillor Watts requested that the Accessibility Advisory Committee be advised of any potential changes during further consultation with the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Deputy Mayor Fisher that the Motion of September 10th, 2014, as follows, be rescinded.

that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Adopt By-law T-1001, which includes amendments to By-law T-1000, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis, Accessible Taxis and Limousines, as set out in Appendix B of the June 16, 2014 report;**
- 2. Adopt amendments to Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulation, as set out in Appendix D of the June 16, 2014 report; and**
- 3. Authorize HRM Traffic Services to request the Province of Nova Scotia to amend the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act in support of a pilot project enabling taxis to stand at authorized Fire Hydrants.**

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that staff consult with the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group in regards to sections 7, 8, 9 of Bylaw T1001 (pg. 34, 35) and return to the Transportation Standing Committee with a recommendation.

Mr. Labrecque requested that Mr. Hindle further explain the role of the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group. Mr. Hindle responded that the TLLG was a consultant group to staff and that additional resources and methods of consultation such as town hall meetings could be drawn upon to better meet the intent of the motion of the Committee.

The Chair requested what the timeline would be to produce the recommendation. Ms. Andrea MacDonald, Manager of Licensing and Standards, replied that staff would attempt to bring forward a recommendation early in 2015.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

7.1 Traffic Calming Policy

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated August 13, 2014

The Chair stated that there was a clear sense that more time was desired by staff to consider what the options were under traffic calming to create a more informed debate at Council.

Councillor Watts indicated that she would be amending the recommendation to direct the report back to the Transportation Standing Committee first, before the report would move on to Council.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to prepare a policy with regard to the assessment of roadways within the Municipality for the purpose of determining need and suitability of implementing traffic calming measures, where such a policy shall outline the process for requesting that a street be traffic calmed as well as the method and criteria to be used in assessing the need and appropriateness of the implementation of traffic calming measures on a street.

Ms. Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Acting Director Transportation and Public Works, stated that more than a month would be required to work on the report to bring back a robust document.

Councillor Nicoll clarified that unlike the short cutting policy, this policy would look at speeding. Councillor Nicoll voiced her support for the report and its refinement at the Committee level. She recommended that the policy make use of pilot projects to see what could be done to address speeding and stated that the policy clarify the process of creating speeding impediments, which have been unclear since amalgamation. Councillor Nicoll referenced the city of Ottawa as a precedent for setting a speed limit of 40 km/h and using speed bumps to dissuade drivers from shortcutting.

Councillor Outhit voiced support for the recommendation and proposed amendment. He stated that speeding was one of the most common inquiries by residents. Councillor Outhit inquired if the report would examine lowering speeds, reinvestigating school zones and the use of stop signs.

Ms. Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas responded that the commitment of traffic engineers to lower speeds in the right places is strong and that staff would explore a broad range of practices.

Councillor Mason voiced support for the report, stating that calming is required on specific problem streets, which are fundamentally residential.

Councillor Craig asked that the policy consider more than the engineering aspects but also consider enforcement and education, hearing impairment and accessibility. Councillor Craig endorsed the recommendation and expressed hope that staff would look at it in a holistic fashion.

Referring to the current short cutting policy, the Chair questioned how much responsibility would be delegated to the community through neighbourhood traffic committees. Mr. MacIntyre responded that a framework for determining how much authority the community would have was not yet in place for the traffic calming policy.

Councillor Watts voiced approval and stated that the policy would provide a mechanism for street calming, especially as associated with the livability of neighbourhoods.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The following matter was dealt with at this time as approved during the Approval of the Order of Business.

9.3.2 Wheelmap.org

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee

- A staff report dated September 23, 2014

Mr. Laughie Rutt, Diversity Consultant, presented Wheelmap.org as described in the September 23, 2014 report, outlining the purpose of the application and demonstrating its interface.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the possibility of the municipality utilizing wheelmap.org or a similar online resource to increase accessibility in Halifax. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

- Five letters were received on item 4.1 Amendments to By-law T1000 and Administrative Order 39, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis & Limousines, and were circulated to the Committee.

8.2 Petitions

- Two petitions were received on item 4.1, and were circulated to the Committee.
- A petition was received from residents of 5565 Cornwallis Street area seeking to have a bus stop in front of their building.

With the agreement of the Committee this matter was dealt with at this time.

12.1 Accessibility Evaluation of Pedestrian Infrastructure

Councillor Watts introduced an amendment to part 2 of the motion noting that the 2015-16 budget process was underway. In addition, Councillor Hendsbee requested an amendment to the motion to include paved shoulders. The Committee agreed to the amendments noting they were non-substantive.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the following motion be adopted as amended:

1. That the TSC adopt, as one of its priorities for consideration under the Healthy Communities Core Priority Area, funding to identify and evaluate (through staff and public engagement, and in consultation with the Accessibility Advisory Committee), and respond to high traffic outdoor pedestrian infrastructure areas (such as bus stops, sidewalks, crosswalks, curb cuts, and paved shoulders) where challenges have been identified for individuals with mobility issues.
2. And request a staff report regarding the implication of implementing such an initiative, including any budget considerations for consideration in the 2015-2016 Budget and Business Planning process.

Councillor Outhit asked that this report could be completed in time for inclusion in the 2015-16 budget. Mr. Mike Labrecque, noted that the recommendation may not solve all problems in the current fiscal year, but would create greater understanding and inform staff as they develop the business plan. Mayor Savage agreed with the amendment and commented that groups have worked informally on this already and could be consulted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Spending Limit for Community Groups Under Maintenance and Capital Agreements between Halifax and the Halifax Regional Trails Association

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee

- A staff report dated August 6, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council that the spending authority of the members of the Halifax Regional Trails Association remain at current levels.

Councillor Hendsbee indicated he would not be in support of the motion. Councillor Hendsbee explained that the \$1,000 limit was encumbering to groups and that the limit should be raised to \$5,000. Councillor Hendsbee stated that community groups follow standard municipal policy of acquiring three qualified quotes.

Mr. Terry Gallagher, Manager of Facility Development, responded by highlighting two issues: consistency of rules relative to procurement and the undue risk put on volunteers by raising the limit to \$5,000. Mr. Gallagher stated it would create a burden on groups as they may not follow best procurement practices.

Councillor Watts inquired if other volunteer groups were in the same situation and questioned if groups would be stalled if they were not able to receive three quotes.

Mr. Gallagher responded that the limit was consistent with all groups with which HRM worked, including multi-district facilities. Mr. Gallagher stated that groups are usually able to get one quote, or they may bundle workloads together. He explained that they would still be able to proceed so long as they advertised the request.

The Chair stated that community organizations have no requirement for auditing or reporting and that the burden would be on the municipality so greater than \$1,000 would be undue risk. Further to the Chair's statement, Mr. Gallagher added that the majority of work over the past three years has been in excess of \$1,000.

A discussion ensued on whether the Committee could pursue an amendment to increase the limit to \$1,000. The Deputy Chief Administrative Officer suggested that the Committee defeat the motion if they wished to pursue an alternative. Committee members highlighted concern for raising the limit and also stated concern that the same rule would need to be applied to all organizations, departments, Councillors, and community groups.

Councillor Hendsbee reiterated that the \$1,000 level was cumbersome and suggested that the Committee consider raising the limit to \$2,500.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.2 Nova Scotia Building Code Act and Regulations – Accessibility Requirements Review

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee

- (i) A staff report dated September 23, 2014
- (ii) Correspondence from Nova Scotia Municipal Affairs

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

- (1) Nominate three representatives, knowledgeable on accessibility in buildings, to the Nova Scotia Building Advisory Committee Ad Hoc Committee on Accessibility, as requested by the Province as follows:**
 - a) Two representatives recommended by the Accessibility Advisory Committee; and**
 - b) One HRM staff representative appointed by the Chief Administrative Officer.**

- (2) Upon conclusion of the work of the Provincial Ad Hoc Committee, direct HRM's Committee members to report back through the Transportation Standing Committee with findings / recommendations of the Ad Hoc Committee to determine if those are recommendations that Regional Council wishes to endorse.**

Councillor Mason indicated support for the recommendation; however he also indicated that there needed to be a clear goal and that Council or the Committee should take a position advocating for barrier free policies. Mr. Jim Donovan responded that staff did look at specific components of regulation; however, further staff work and discussion would be required.

The Chair responded that this would be a different matter for consideration. The Chair also indicated that section two of the recommendation provided that the Ad Hoc Committee may report back to the Transportation Committee, where further recommendations may be given.

Councillor Outhit questioned if the Transportation Standing Committee had the power to determine recommendations that Regional Council would endorse. Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor, responded that it was implicit the Committee's recommendation would go forward to Council.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS – None

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

9.3.2 Wheelmap.org

This matter was dealt with previously in the meeting. See page 5.

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple

Due to time constraints, this item was not discussed.

9.5.2 Event Planning for Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Campaign

Mr. Debaie explained the Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day Campaign as outlined in the September 12, 2014 staff report.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Transportation Standing Committee approve the planned actions for the 2014 Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day campaign as presented in the staff report dated September 12, 2014.

Councillor Hendsbee clarified that the crosswalks utilized during Awareness Days would not be located at existing crosswalks. Councillor Outhit asked for clarification on the Awareness Day and inquired if the proposed events would be in other than downtown locations. He also asked about quantity of merchandise. Mr. Debaie indicated the intent would be to look at all crosswalks across HRM, using social media to drive interest in many locations. Mr. Debaie replied that merchandise items would be in the range of 10-20,000 items.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Hendsbee

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to provide a policy and fiscal framework for Regional Councillors to make requests for pilot projects to suggest slight service adjustments to any Metro Transit route as an attempt to enhance quality and increase service reliability of existing transit routes.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for November 12, 2014.

10.2 Councillor Watts

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of having designated car share spots in the right of way in locations approved by the Traffic Authority.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the motion be approved as presented.

The Chair clarified that the motion was in reference to street right of ways.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. IN CAMERA - None

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Accessibility Evaluation of Pedestrian Infrastructure

This matter was dealt with earlier in the meeting. See page 5.

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Hendsbee

Councillor Hendsbee gave the following notice of motion:

Whereas Variable Message Signs (VMS) have appeared in several HRM Capital Budgets as project 3CTXO1115 since 2009-10;

And whereas HRM had made contributions to test initial location study in tandem with the Halifax Harbour Bridges (HHB) and Nova Scotia Infrastructure and Transportation Renewal (NSTAIR);

And whereas HRM had prepared and Regional Council approved budgets with planned expenditures in the amount of \$60,000 in the 2012-13 Capital budget and \$3,000 in the 2012-13 Operations Budget and furthermore \$1,000,000 in the 2013-14 Capital Budget and \$10,000 in the 2013-14 Operations Budget,

Therefore be it resolved that HRM staff prepare a report outlining the needs and attributes of this VMS proposal in greater detail,

and be it further resolved that HRM request HHB to make a presentation to the Halifax Regional Municipality and Transportation Standing Committee,

and be it furthermore resolved that the CAO and/or DCAO explain why this initiative was not implemented as an approved budget item.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 12, 2014

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:13 p.m.

Andrew Reid
Legislative Assistant