



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 22, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Gloria McCluskey
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Executive Officer
Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor
Ms. Erin Flaim, Parking Strategy Business Lead
Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Transportation & Public Works
Mr. Alan Taylor, Transportation Planning Engineer
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/150122tsc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., and adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

- **Election of Chair / Vice Chair**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that Councillor Reg Rankin be elected Chair.

The Legislative Assistant called three times for any nominations and there being none the Committee ceased nominations and the Legislative Assistant declared Councillor Rankin Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

The Chair called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Councillor Walker be elected Vice Chair.

The Chair called three times for any other nominations and there being none the Committee ceased nominations and declared Councillor Walker Vice Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 3, 2014

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that the minutes of December 3, 2014 Transportation Standing Committee be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED

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

Additions:

12.1 Pilot Project Pedestrian Vehicle Shared Street Concept Argyle Street

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that item 12.1 be added to the agenda.

The Committee discussed the length of item 12.1 and whether or not to defer it to the next meeting. The Committee commented that there was no staff presentation on the report and that they had had a short time to review it.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mosher that Item 12.1 be deferred to the date of the next meeting. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee agreed to discuss item 7.1 as section 9.4 of the agenda.

The Committee agreed to discuss Information Item 4 Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Update following section 8.3.1.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the agenda be approved as amended.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

- 5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE
- 6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE
- 7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS
- 7.1 Halifax Regional Trails Association (December 3, 2014)

This item was addressed in section 9.4 (See page 7).

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence

- 8.1.1 Citizen concern re: Bus Winter Tires

The Committee had before them for information a letter from a citizen regarding winter tires on Halifax Transit buses. The Legislative Assistant advised that this would be forwarded to Halifax Transit.

8.2 Petitions

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 David Stevenson – Provincial Strategy for Electric Vehicles

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A presentation entitled “Electric Vehicles in Nova Scotia”*

Mr. Stevenson presented the scheme to add Electric Vehicle Charging Stations to the Nova Scotia Network. Mr. Stevenson outlined the rationale for promoting HRM Transportation Alternatives, paraphrasing a 2013 discussion paper by Efficiency Nova Scotia entitled “Electric Vehicles.” Mr. Stevenson recommended that HRM with the Department of Energy and NS Power formulate a strategy to promote the use of electric vehicles. He indicated that these kinds of strategies would be highlighted at the Electric Mobility Canada conference to be held in Halifax in May, 2015. Mr. Stevenson also requested assistance with installation costs associated with up to 40 of the charging stations in the region that would enable servicing for the 300 electric vehicles arriving for the conference.

Councillor McCluskey enquired as to the cost of electric vehicles, fueling, current locations and how long it takes to install a station. Mr. Stevenson responded that there are a range of costs, with prices constantly lowering. He listed locations around the Halifax Peninsula, stated efficiency was 400 km / \$2.50 and that installation could be completed within an hour. Councillor Mason stated that there may be certain obstacles for HRM to provide funding as it would involve putting stations on private property.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding HRM’s support for electric vehicles.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

In discussing the request, the Chair suggested the report may be returned to the Committee two meetings hence.

8.3.2 Information Item 4 - Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Update

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A memorandum dated December 15, 2014.*

Councillor Outhit thanked staff and confirmed an open house would be held in the Sunny Side Mall on February 26, 2015. He requested more information on the session. He also stated that a second open house on the peninsula was desired by residents and the peninsula Councillors.

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor Service Design & Projects, Halifax Transit, indicated the event would be from 5-8 p.m. She stated that it would be a drop in event with information boards around the room describing the analysis taken place so far. Ms. Hughes stated that the consultant, CPCS would be hosting the event. Regarding hosting a second meeting, Ms. Hughes stated that information would be made available online and residents could access information through that portal.

Mr. Mike Labrecque indicated that request for a second session would require adjustments to scope; however, staff would take this away for consideration.

The Chair recommended a motion be put on the floor. The Chair also indicated that if there were enabling resources for staff then the request could be acted upon before the next transportation meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason to request a second session in regards to the Commuter Rail project.

Councillor Mason stated concern for residents on the peninsula and stated the session could be held at St. Andrew's or St. Agnes Church. He also questioned how HRM was interfacing with Human Resource departments downtown and how those people were consulted regarding the prospect of commuter rail. Ms. Hughes responded that those stakeholders had not been engaged as that consultation was not in scope of the project. She stated that the project was more based on technical details on cost and analysis of ridership.

Councillor Mosher voiced support for having a second meeting on the peninsula at the Halifax Forum or St. Agnes Church. She described transportation focuses of the past, including the high speed ferry and indicated that significant funds had been expended on them. Councillor Mosher stated that it was inappropriate not to engage previous residents and stakeholders. She stated that the session's location was difficult to access and it was important to make all residents part of the solution. She also stated that notices would need to be put in the newspaper and that residents must be engaged in this topic regarding its ridership and scope.

The Committee discussed future feasibility of the commuter rail route, including the possibility of connecting to Burnside. Councillor Outhit commented that improving transportation options were a benefit to all and not just those residing outside the urban core.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Councillor Appointments to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee

The Chair proposed the Committee consider the three appointments to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee in open session.

At this time the Committee considered Item 11.1, nominations to the Member at Large to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey to nominate Councillor Fisher as Member at Large to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. The Committee moved to cease nominations.

Councillor Fisher was declared Member at Large to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee for a term to November 30, 2016.

At this time, the Committee considered Item 9.1.1, Councillor appointments to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mosher to nominate Councillor McCluskey.

MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor Mason to nominate Councillor Rankin.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. The Committee moved to cease nominations. Councillor McCluskey and Councillor Rankin were declared representatives from the Transportation Standing Committee membership to the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee for a term to November, 2016 as per the Terms of Reference for the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee.

9.1.2 Councillor Appointment to Canadian Urban Transit Association

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker to nominate Councillor Rankin.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit to nominate Councillor Outhit.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. The Committee moved to cease nominations. A ballot was distributed in order to determine the nominee.

The Legislative Assistant declared Councillor Rankin to be appointed representative from the Transportation Standing Committee membership to the Canadian Urban Transit Association for a term to November, 2016.

9.1.3 Councillor Appointment to the Executive Standing Committee

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey to nominate Councillor Mosher.

The Chair called three times for further nominations. The Committee moved to cease nominations. Councillor Mosher was declared representative from the Transportation Standing Committee membership to the Executive Standing Committee for a term to November, 2016.

9.1.4 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation dated December 22, 2014*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee forward the 2015-2016 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan to Regional Council for approval.

Councillor Mason inquired if the traffic calming policy on page 3 of the report originated from the Committee's request to have a report on traffic calming because of vehicle speed.

Mr. Taso Kosoutroulakis, Manager Traffic Management, responded in the affirmative that the traffic calming report would address vehicular speed in residential areas.

Councillor Walker questioned if the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee's terms of reference gave indication as to the duration of the Committee. Mr. Kousotroulakis stated there was no ending date of the Committee.

Councillor Mosher requested that a memorandum from Chief of Police circulated earlier to the Board of Police be circulated to the Transportation Standing Committee for information. The Legislative Assistant agreed to this request.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.1.5 Parking Roadmap

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation dated January 12, 2015*

Ms. Jane Fraser, Director, Operations and Support, presented the Parking Roadmap report, as described in the January 12, 2015 staff report.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend Regional Council approve:

- 1. The approach to parking as outlined in the Parking Roadmap contained in Attachment 1.**
 - a. Identify parking as a defined municipal service operation and assign governance to Planning and Development for clear accountability, responsibility, coordination and decision-making.**
 - b. Approve the Phase 1 GIS Mapping Project and the Handheld Device Replacement Project in 2015-16 for an estimated cost of \$80,000 covered by existing operating funds.**
 - c. Direct staff to commence development of supply demand management policy framework based on active parking management strategies including supply management, pricing, demand management and other supporting strategies to optimize parking.**
 - d. Direct staff to investigate parking technology options to be presented to Regional Council for consideration and approval.**
- 2. Direct staff to return to Regional Council for approval of each of the future year projects contained within the Parking Roadmap prior to project implementation.**

In response to advice from Mr. Mike Labrecque, the Committee agreed to amend part 1-a, as follows due to this part being under the purview of the CAO.

- 1. The approach to parking as outlined in the Parking Roadmap contained in Attachment 1.**
 - a. Identify parking as a defined municipal service operation.**

The Chair described the history of the request for this report and identified the authors and collaborators on the report present.

Councillor Walker commented that it must be made easier for people to pay by other means than cash. He also stated that a request for accommodating VON, care giver and other visitor parking passes has been pending for 1-2 years and it is uncertain whether this request is closer to realization with the Roadmap.

Councillor Mason highlighted that returns on investment as the key pieces to the report. He also commented that the private sector is active in leading initiatives and technological improvements such as digital parking signs. Council Mason commented on a Spring Garden Road parking study and emphasized the challenge of changing people's mindsets regarding parking garage and surface parking. Councillor Mason also described the city of Toronto's accessible parking model.

Councillor Mosher commented that perception of parking would be important as well as a coordinated approach with the public. Councillor Mosher stated that when new services come in, traffic would also

need to be consulted to ensure there are provisions that patrons have accessible parking spaces. She also stated concern over the coordination of parking options in areas undergoing construction.

Ms. Fraser provided the following responses to questions and comments from the Committee:

- In response to the allocation of funds on parking versus other means of transportation, Ms. Fraser stated that according to other jurisdictions if parking management is performed correctly, a positive impact can be created on public transportation.
- Regarding the amount of funds allocated to the Roadmap, Ms. Fraser indicated many of the projects listed under the Roadmap were needing to be addressed outside the Roadmap.
- Pilot projects for technological solutions to parking can be discussed further.
- Regarding creating a model for accessible spaces, until the number, location and usage of spaces is determined it is difficult to move forward; GIS mapping would first occur to get an idea of the supply.
- On the topic of construction projects and the Quinpool Road developments, Ms. Fraser stated that this issue speaks to the need for governance and creating a more stream-lined approach.
- 5 out of 7 Business Improvement Districts were consulted during the study including Dartmouth's; the remaining 2 were outside of the geographic area of the study.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Outhit left the meeting at 2:46 p.m.

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Craig

The Committee agreed that Councillor Mason would give future updates from the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A recommendation from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee dated October 20, 2014*

Councillor Mason explained the origin of the request as a note for staff. He outlined the advisory committee's concern that recreational trails continue to be supported in addition to active transportation through the active transportation plan. The Committee deemed no further action was needed on this request.

Councillor Mosher updated regarding a request from residents on snow removal standards for the Chain of Lakes trail. She stated that some sections were priority 1, 2, and 3. As a result of the inquiry, she stated that the service will now be consistently managed for all Active Transportation, which is priority 2.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple

The Committee agreed that Councillor McCluskey or Councillor Rankin would give future updates from the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee. For more information on the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee see <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/csac/index.php>.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded McCluskey that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding the mitigation of development and construction impacts on neighbouring businesses, residents, and pedestrians, no later than May 1, 2015, including and not limited to consideration of:

1. Establishing requirements for covering, scaffolding or hoardings around construction sites;
2. Ensuring continued sidewalk accessibility and access for pedestrians and those with mobility issues around construction;
3. Possible elimination or reduce encroachment fees for temporary encroachments licenced under Section 4 (a) (iv) of By-law E-200 Respecting Encroachments;
4. Establish standards for street cleaning resulting from construction dirt and debris to support Section 43 of By-Law S-300 Respecting Streets;
5. Establish a standard process for notification of abutting property owners and other stakeholders for construction related street closures;
6. Review of regulations for obtaining and usage of parking meter bags by contractors and recommendations for establishing penalties for misuse;
7. Requirement to display information regarding development details.

Councillor Mason state that these items originated from a meeting hosted by the Mayor with Argyle Street businesses. He stated that while staff was already working on many of these items, the motion aimed to put a more formal framework and timeline around these issues so risk can be mitigated and the businesses supported. Councillor Mason suggested the report need not be of great length.

Councillor McCluskey voiced supported for the motion, stating that construction related closures were important to minimize.

Councillor Mosher also voiced support for the motion. She stated that correspondence had been sent to the Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding accessibility alternatives for entering sidewalks. Councillor Mason indicated that this issue was provided for in part 2 of the request. He stated that in other jurisdictions the travel lane brought down to 3.3 m to allow greater pedestrian access.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. IN CAMERA

11.1 Personnel Matter

This item was dealt with under section 9.1. (See page 4).

11.1 Approval of In Camera Minutes

11.2.1 Approval of In Camera minutes – December 3, 2014

MOVED by Councillor McClusky, seconded by Councillor Walker to approve the minutes in regular session.

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the In Camera minutes of December 3, 2014 be approved as circulated. **MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

12. ADDED ITEMS

13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 26, 2015

15. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:57 p.m.

Andrew Reid
Legislative Assistant

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated December 8, 2014 re: Requests for Presentation** (Memo dated December 15, 2014)
2. **Paving of Municipally Owned Gravel Roads** (Report dated December 8, 2014)
3. **Co-hosting a Crosswalk Safety Idea Café with DalTRAC** (Report dated December 19, 2014)
4. **Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Update** (Briefing Note dated January 14, 2015)