



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
MARCH 26, 2015**

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

REGRETS:

STAFF: Mr. Brad Anguish, Director Parks & Recreation  
Mr. Josh Judah, Solicitor  
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/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 2:18 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 26, 2015**

**MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker that the minutes of February 26, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

Councillor Walker requested Information Item No. 7 be added to the next Committee meeting on April 30, 2015.

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

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE**

**5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE**

**6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE**

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

**8.2 Petitions**

**8.3 Presentation**

**8.3.1 Halifax Transit - 2014/15 Q3 Halifax Transit KPI Report**

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated March 2, 2015.
- A staff presentation dated March 26, 2015.

Councillor Outhit entered the meeting at 1:14 p.m.

Mr. David Reage, Manager Planning & Scheduling, Halifax Transit, presented the Q3 Report as detailed in the Information Report dated March 2, 2015.

Councillor McCluskey questioned which buses were being overloaded in Dartmouth and what was being done to compensate. Mr. Reage indicated that overloads were reported for buses 1, 10, and 52. He explained that bus types had been changed to compensate. Regarding buses 1 and 10, he stated that required capacities would be freshly examined with the Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together plan.

Councillor McCluskey also inquired regarding the 232 hours of service lost reported in the presentation as well as the frequency of Access-a-bus no shows. Mr. Reage indicated that service lost could relate to missed trips or collisions. Regarding Access-a-bus no shows, he responded that no shows were a small part of the service.

Councillor Mason inquired regarding the following: whether ferry traffic was connected to transit service levels being down; what were the solutions to overloads on bus 1; access-a-bus cancellations and if a jurisdictional review from other cities was ever performed; and whether there was a target for e-passes and how many users could be achieved. He also questioned if there was adequate parking in the Woodside park and ride.

Mr. Reage responded that the expectation with ferry increase was to see results in ridership decline on bus 60. Regarding overloads caused by university students taking short trips, he encouraged walking as an alternate means. Regarding the Access-a-bus standard for cancellation, he indicated he would return to the Committee with an answer. In regards to the Smart Trip pilot project, Mr. Reage stated that the intent of the program was to demonstrate it would not be a net lost revenue to HRM. He stated that the target was as many users as possible. Regarding the Woodside park and ride, he stated that it filled up on ordinary days, though the parking lot has recently been redrawn to improve capacity.

The Chair thanked Mr. Reage for his presentation. Mr. Reage stated that he would return in June for the next presentation.

## **9. REPORTS**

### **9.1 STAFF**

#### **9.1.1 Amendments to Streets By-law S-300, Respecting Streets**

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee

- *A staff recommendation report dated February 25, 2015*

**MOVED by Councillor Mosher, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Regional Council that no changes be made to By-law S-300, By-law Respecting Streets at this time with respect to the issue of paving of backfilled trenches.**

Councillor Mosher explained the origin of the report pertaining to the Halifax Water Lakeside diversion project and issues in Fairmount where dust, noise, and safety issues resulted from an unpaved trench. Referencing page 2 of the report, she questioned if amendments to the street design were in place in 2013 and questioned why it was not enforced.

Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager Traffic Management, responded in the affirmative that the standards would have been in place in 2013. Mr. Koutroulakis stated that the contractor must adhere to HRM road designs.

Councillor Mason questioned the penalties for not following standards and if there was a monetary penalty. He asked that more clarity be given to contractors respecting timelines. Mr. Koutroulakis also responded that the contractor must ensure the traverse is safe and indicated that in extreme circumstances, the permit can be revoked if the conditions are not adhered to, with the contractor being billed back the expenditure.

Councillor Mosher stated that the bylaw was not applied in the Fairmount community, where the permit should have been revoked and resulted in negative effects for the community. She requested that staff send the amendment to contractors and utilities. She also questioned if the proviso on page 2 of the February 25, 2015 report, citing section 6.3.16 of the Streets Bylaw, was clearly stated in the approval letter to open a street.

Mr. Davis responded that the permits issued stated that all HRM specifications would need to be met. Mr. Koutroulakis indicated that this would be communicated to contractors and the industry. He also stated that the utilities are fully aware of the requirements.

Councillor Mosher requested that the record note more communication needs to be made with contractors and utilities, including Halifax Water, to ensure this proviso is met.

Councillor McCluskey questioned if contractors assumed liability for claims processed in respect to work done in the right of way. She also questioned who is assigned responsibility for fixing deficiencies such as sink holes.

Mr. Koutroulakis responded that any claims related to a cut are sent to contractors. Mr. Davis stated that damage claims are evaluated case by case; however, contractors are required to hold liability insurance to cover off these issues. Mr. Koutroulakis stated that contractors are responsibility for fixing any deficiencies and that a 2 year warranty period would apply.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.1.2 Residential Parking Permits, Parking Ticket Exemptions and Dedicated On-Street Car Share Parking**

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff recommendation report dated March 3, 2015*

Councillor Rankin suggested that there were four elements to the motion and parts two and three, as they are written in the negative, could be covered in the discussion section. He suggested to the Committee that the motion be amended to address parts one and four, before proceeding to add any additional motions the Committee saw fit. The Solicitor confirmed it would be permissible to put forward parts one and four, due to the wording of parts two and three.

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

**1. Request staff to initiate amendments to By-law P-1000 On-Street Parking Exemptions and Permits as identified in Table 1 in the Discussion section of the report dated March 3, 2015 to provide improved resident parking options to accommodate caregivers, service providers, guests, borrowed vehicles and to accommodate residents who cannot access their private driveways during municipal capital works projects;**

**4. Request staff to initiate changes to By-laws P-500 and P-1000 to exempt municipal vehicles from on-street parking and parking meter regulations.**

Councillor Mosher stated concern over the annual parking permit being used by those without driveways and requested clarification. Mr. David McIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, responded that residents would be permitted to park on the street within their zone. Councillor Mosher questioned if residents could acquire both a residential and visitor permit. Mr. Koutroulakis responded in the affirmative. Councillor Mosher indicated she would not be supporting this recommendation.

Councillor Mason voiced approval for part four of the motion. He also indicated he would be moving the alternative recommendation to part three, pertaining to car sharing.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit to amend the motion to include the following recommendations:**

**Direct staff to contact the Minister of Transportation of Infrastructure Renewal regarding establishing a pilot project to allow long term parking in the right of way for car sharing.**

Councillor Mason explained that to conduct a pilot project, permission from the Minister was required and the Act would not have to be amended.

Councillor McCluskey requested clarification on the current operation of car sharing businesses. Mr. Koutroulakis responded that the business operates off street and the request was to accommodate parking spots within the right of way. Councillor McCluskey stated disapproval for the motion.

Councillor Mason indicated that the motion would not be about supporting a particular business but supporting a mode of transportation, as per the Regional Plan. He stated that there is a precedent in giving part of the right of way to taxi stands.

Councillor Outhit stated that legal would have to give clarification to the language to ensure it pertains to organizations operating car sharing.

Councillor Mosher voiced concern for the motion indicating she was in support of Councillor McCluskey's comments. She stated there were a far greater number of people using taxis than car sharing services.

**THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

**MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason to amend the motion to include the following:**

**Request staff to amend Bylaw P-500 to provide parking exemption for VON workers at parking meters.**

Councillor Walker highlighted the origin of the request. He stated that the original request was related to VON workers receiving meter tickets. The Chair asked for clarification if the amendment would enable any VON worker the exemption. Councillor Walker stated that VON workers could be identified by a sticker on the dashboard.

Mr. Koutroulakis stated he could not speak to the enforceability of the amendment. He questioned if it would be appropriate to have a specific business identified in the bylaw.

The Solicitor indicated a problem with the amendment, stating that it would enable any VON car to park at any meter at any time and be exempt. He outlined an alternate method to handle the matter, highlighting the practice of delivery drivers, wherein tickets are withdrawn when the driver is able to prove he was on business.

Members of the Committee questioned the enforceability of the exemption and the potential of abusing the exemption.

The Chair questioned if Councillor Walker would like to withdraw his motion, or seek further advice from legal regarding the motion. Councillor Walker indicated that he would bring forward an amendment to the motion if it proves unenforceable.

Councillor Mosher moved to amend the motion to include professional homecare services in additional to VON caregivers.

Councillor Mosher voiced agreement with the solicitor's suggestion for exempting caregivers when a ticket is given. She indicated that this could also be extended to other healthcare workers.

Councillor Mosher's amendment was lost as there was no seconder.

The Chair proposed that as an alternative to the motion staff come back with a definition of caregivers for consideration of the Committee, rather than proceed to Council.

The Committee engaged in a discussion over the definition of caregivers and requested that a definition of caregivers be given. Mr. Brad Anguish, Director Parks & Recreation commented that there would be a

significant difference in widening the definition to caregivers in general. In regards to the VON amendment, he indicated that staff could assess and come back with clear advice to Council; however the wider definition would require significant work.

Councillor Mosher questioned if it would be agreeable to proceed with voting on the VON amendment, with a requirement for a supplementary report to potentially expand the motion to other caregivers.

The Chair stated that Councillor Mosher's motion had been lost and the Committee was currently considering Councillor Walker's motion. He called for the question to vote on the motion at hand.

**THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND PASSED.**

The motion now reads:

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council**

- 1. Request staff to initiate amendments to By-law P-1000 On-Street Parking Exemptions and Permits as identified in Table 1 in the Discussion section of the report dated March 3, 2015 to provide improved resident parking options to accommodate caregivers, service providers, guests, borrowed vehicles and to accommodate residents who cannot access their private driveways during municipal capital works projects;**
- 2. Request staff to initiate changes to By-laws P-500 and P-1000 to exempt municipal vehicles from on-street parking and parking meter regulations.**
- 3. Direct staff to contact the Minister of Transportation of Infrastructure Renewal regarding establishing a pilot project to allow long term parking in the right of way for car sharing.**
- 4. Request staff to amend Bylaw P-500 to provide parking exemption for VON workers at parking meters.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Mason

No update given. Information received as distributed.

**9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

9.4.1 Update from Councillor Outhit

No update given. Information received as distributed.

**9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

9.5.1 Update from Councillor McCluskey

Councillor McCluskey updated the Committee on the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee's Crosswalk Safety Information Café and the Advisory Committee's discussion regarding crosswalks nearby shopping centres.

**10. MOTIONS**

**11. IN CAMERA**

**11.1 Approval of February 26, 2015 - In Camera Minutes**

Approval of the In Camera minutes was dealt with in regular session.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the In Camera minutes of February 26, 2015 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. ADDED ITEMS**

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – April 30, 2015**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 2:18 p.m.

Andrew Reid  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. Information Report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated February 27, 2015 re: *Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update*
2. Information Report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated March 2, 2015 re: *2014/15 Q3 Halifax Transit KPI Report*
3. Information Report from the Director of Finance & ICT dated February 17, 2015 re: *Wheelmap.org- Apps to increase Accessibility Awareness in Halifax*
4. Information Report from the Director of Planning & Development dated March 2, 2015 re: *By-law T1001 Consultation Process*
5. Memorandum from the Legislative Assistant dated March 16, 2015, re: *Requests to Present*
6. Information Report from the Director of Government Relations and External Affairs dated March 26, 2015 re: *Accessibility at Municipal Public Engagement Events*
7. Information Report from the Chief Administrative Officer dated March 17, 2015, re: *Taxi & Limousine Committee – Background*