



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 25, 2015**

PRESENT: Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair
Councillor Russell Walker, Vice Chair
Councillor Linda Mosher
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Tim Outhit
Deputy Mayor Lorelei Nicoll

REGRETS: Councillor Gloria McCluskey

STAFF: Ms. Kirby Grant, 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/150625tsc-agenda.php>

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 28, 2015

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor Mason that the minutes of May 28, 2015 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions

8.3.1 Information Report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated June 1, 2015 re: *2014/15 Q4 Halifax Transit KPI Report*

12.1 Information Report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated June 3, 2015 re: *Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update*

12.2 Information Report from the Chief Planner and Director of Planning and Development dated June 8, 2015 re: *Mitigation of Development and Construction Impacts*

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

Two-third majority vote required.

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that a letter from Mr. Nick Langley had been received and distributed regarding Item 12.2 Mitigation of Development and Construction Impacts.

8.2 Petitions – NONE

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 2014/15 Q4 Halifax Transit KPI Report

The following information was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A staff information report dated June 8, 2015*

- *A staff presentation dated June 25, 2015*

Mr. David Reage, Manager Planning and Scheduling Halifax Transit, presented the 2014/15 Q4 Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicators (KPI) Report, as described in the Information Report dated June 8, 2015.

The Committee agreed that Item 12.1 Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update could also be provided at this time. Regarding the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study, Mr. Reage stated that staff has the final draft report and the next step will be to bring the report to Regional Council. Councillor Outhit requested that the Commuter Rail Feasibility study be submitted to Regional Council in the fall if possible.

Committee members made the following requests pertaining to the staff presentation dated June 25, 2015:

- Regarding overloads, that the data be presented to show a particular time or day where there were overloads as opposed to the total number of overloads.
- A list of anticipated improvements and dates for technology such as enunciated stops and automatic vehicle location be provided.
- Clarification if the Ready for Service / Lost Service figures listed in the presentation, had taken into account events such as extreme winter days and the Burnside issue.

Councillor Mason also requested an estimate or timeline of how quickly bus stops were being converted to accessible stops. Mr. Reage responded that there were different levels of accessibility. He stated that a certain number of landing pads for fully accessible stops were improved each year and Halifax Transit was now in collaboration with Transportation and Public Works to create new design standards for accessible stops where no sidewalks were present. Mr. Reage stated that there was not currently a timeline for bringing all stops to an accessibility standard. Councillor Mason recognized there were locations where accessibility may not be possible but requested more detailed information over the next few quarters.

Mr. Reage responded to a number of other inquiries from the Committee pertaining to the presentation:

- The opening date for the Lacewood Terminal will be August 24, 2015.
- No-show figures for Access-A-Bus are based on the person failing to show up and not the bus.
- Regarding Ferry Ridership & Revenue on page 3, there were a number of factors in ridership and revenue and the decrease in ridership may have been owed to a fare increase.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Committee Update

Councillor Mason highlighted the June 15, 2015 meeting, which included updates regarding accessibility during winter conditions, accessibility in HRM-owned buildings, and the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and the Taxi Limousine Liaison Group.

9.3.2 Use of Accessible Taxi Service to Supplement Access-a-Bus Service

The following information was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- *A recommendation report from the Chair of the Accessibility Advisory Committee dated June 1, 2015*

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report in regard to conducting an assessment to examine the use of an accessible taxi service to supplement the Access-A-Bus service.

Councillor Mason highlighted that there were two motions regarding Access-A-Bus on the agenda and that the motions should be kept separate. He stated that these motions stemmed from the great expense incurred by the Access-A-Bus service. He described how in the past the city would provide subsidies towards taxis for users with accessibility issues.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.4.1 Committee Update

Councillor Outhit described the activities of the Committee, which included receiving a staff presentation on the progress of the Making Connections: 2014-19 Active Transportation Plan.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Committee Update

The Chair updated that the Advisory Committee had met this morning. He requested confirmation that the Pedestrian Safety Action Plan would be sent to the Transportation Standing Committee before being forwarded to Regional Council, to which Mr. Labrecque provided confirmation. The Chair also commented on Crosswalk Safety Awareness Day, highlighting that the event had an allocated budget and that there was a sub-committee of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee prepared to provide assistance to the event. Mr. Labrecque confirmed that further information regarding the event could be brought forward at the July 23, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

Councillor Mosher commented that facilitating the Pedestrian Safety Awareness Day event would require greater assistance and accompanying information. She also commented on a waiver form used at the event. The Chair responded that further discussion may be held when the information report is forwarded to the Committee.

10. MOTIONS

10.1 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mosher, that the Committee request a staff report on the possibility of Halifax Transit allowing registered Access-a-Bus users to utilize the conventional transit system free of charge, including information on potential benefits and financial operational impacts of doing this.

Notice of motion was given at the May 28, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10.2 Councillor Mason

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit, that the Committee request a staff report considering adding a commercial parking permit for abutting businesses on streets with specific parking controls in order to exempt a business vehicle from posted signs similar to the existing residential parking exemption under By-law P-1000 On-Street Parking Exemptions and Permits.

Notice of motion was given at the May 28, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

Councillor Mason stated that contractors may become hesitant to take a job if there is no parking provided at the home. He stated that this is especially a problem in Bloomfield, Fuller Terrace area, but also generally on the peninsula and in Dartmouth. He questioned if there was a control to enable contractors to obtain parking to perform necessary work in the equivalent way that parking meters get bagged downtown during construction. The Chair clarified that the solution would provide a parking permit for mobile businesses performing services in residential areas.

Councillor Mosher stated concern for the wording of the motion, emphasizing that part of the current parking problem was business owners parking on the streets. She questioned if there were any existing best practices, cautioned against the potential for a parking permit being misused, and stated she would not be supporting the motion. The Chair suggested that the permit may be assigned to the residential owner so that they could use it while the business was being performed, similar to the recommended approach passed by the Committee regarding Residential Parking Permits at their March 26, 2015 meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. IN CAMERA – NONE

12. ADDED ITEMS

12.1 Information Report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated June 3, 2015 re: Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update

This item was dealt with on page 3 under Item 8.3.1.

12.2 Information Report from the Chief Planner and Director of Planning and Development dated June 8, 2015 re: Mitigation of Development and Construction Impacts

Councillor Mason thanked staff for the information supplied in the report relating to the possible elimination of encroachment fees and developing a standard process of notification for street closures. Nevertheless, he noted concern that a discussion needed to be held not only on current practice and meeting minimum standards but on options and costs to achieve goals. He recognized shared concerns by the Canadian Federation of Independent Business and the local business improvement districts. Councillor Mason highlighted the amount of construction in the downtown and described the importance and value placed on practices of construction mitigation in other jurisdictions. He outlined the merits of the recommendations in the following motion.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker that the Transportation Standing Committee requests a staff report or reports that considers the merit of implementation of the following items related to mitigation of development and construction impacts:

- 1. Establishing new requirements for requiring plywood or similarly impermeable hoardings around construction in urban situated sites in the Regional Centre and other appropriate commercial areas.**
- 2. Revising the Transportation Control Manual (TCM) supplement to require the narrowing of travel lanes and installation of temporary accessible sidewalks wherever and whenever physically possible in the urban core.**
- 3. Establishing high standards for ensuring a presentable and cleaned street resulting from construction dirt and debris to support Section 43 of By-Law S-300 Respecting Streets;**
- 4. Requiring the display of signs containing development details which shall include but not be limited to an illustration of the completed project, a brief description of project, permit number, as well as contact information for the Developer and Construction Project Manager.**

Councillor Mason highlighted that the report would come back to the Transportation Standing Committee before proceeding to Regional Council. He also noted that the motion included four (4) discrete items and all requests need not come back at the same time but could be brought back separately by staff. Mr. Labrecque outlined a possible approach where items could be brought back to the Committee to consider the merits of amending the bylaws through recommendations to Council.

Councillor Mosher stated support for the motion. Regarding street closures, she noted that there were coordination issues between business units during construction and suggested that this topic could also be included in the report. The Chair indicated that debate on the particular items would be held when the Committee received the report and more discussion could be held at that time.

Ms. Kelly Denty, Manager, Planning and Development, indicated staff of the involved Business Units would engage to provide seamless reporting to the Committee. The Chair stated there were significant resources involved in this report and the preference would be to have the report return as early as September. Ms. Denty responded that staff would ensure the report return as quickly as possible. She highlighted that it may return as more than one report. The Committee recognized the report may come back in different forms. The Committee also recognized the urgency of the matters at hand and the importance that future issues be addressed through recommendation reports and not information reports. Ms. Denty commented that the motion provided clarity and highlighted that staff would respond appropriately.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Deputy Mayor Nicoll requested that Information Item 3 be forwarded to Council as information, to which the Committee agreed.

- 13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**
- 14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – July 23, 2015**
- 15. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 2:03 p.m.

Andrew Reid
Legislative Assistant