



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

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

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councillor Steve Craig  
Councillor Stephen Adams

**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/index.php>*

*The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m., and recessed at 2:00 p.m. The Committee reconvened at 2:10 p.m. and adjourned at 2:50 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 24, 2015**

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT the minutes of September 24, 2015 be approved as circulated.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Mason

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**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 October 16, 2015 had been received from the Purcell's Cove Neighbourhood Committee regarding bus route #15. This correspondence has been distributed to the Committee.

**8.2 Petitions – NONE**

**8.3 Presentation – NONE**

**9. REPORTS**

**9.1 STAFF**

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

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff supplementary report dated October 1, 2015
- Correspondence from Mr. Brian Herman, President & Operations Manager Casino Taxi Limited, dated October 22, 2015

Mr. Kevin Hindle, Supervisor Regional Licensing, Municipal Compliance, introduced the report dated October 1, 2015. He was accompanied by Mr. Peter Milley, of Halifax Global Inc. Mr. Hindle described the origin of the supplementary report as resulting from direction given at the October 1, 2014 Transportation Standing Committee meeting to consult the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) regarding sections 7, 8, and 9 of the proposed Bylaw T-1001. Mr. Hindle indicated that the consultant Halifax Global Inc. had been retained to lead this consultation. He described the two tier consultation process, which consisted of a town hall meeting and an online survey. Mr. Hindle noted that the supplementary report also addressed a report request from April 28, 2015 to create an exclusion clause for community-based transportation services. Mr. Hindle reviewed staff's recommendation and highlighted the findings of Halifax Global Inc. showed no reason why the Municipality should not move forward with the original proposed amendments to Bylaw T-1000 and Administrative Order #39.

Councillor Rankin stepped down as Chair and the Vice Chair assumed his position.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Mason

**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 A and delay adoption of the by-law to allow for a 90 Day communication program with industry on the effects of the change;**
- 2. Adopt amendments to Administrative Order #39, Respecting Taxi and Limousine Regulation, as set out in Appendix C of the June 16, 2014 report, this report is set out in Appendix B; 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.**

Councillor Rankin requested that the motion be defeated, disagreeing with the removal of industry regulations such as the waiting list and cap on number of licenses. Councillor Rankin questioned the findings of the report. He highlighted the low number of accessible licenses issued in the past ten years. Councillor Rankin referenced page 19 of the consultant's report, highlighting that approximately 80% of consumers and persons with disabilities responded there were enough licensed taxis in the Municipality. He also referenced page 20 of the report regarding number of taxis, stating the majority of respondents indicated there should be fewer or the same number of licenses issued. Councillor Rankin requested that the matter be deferred to staff and that further consultation with the Province occurs for joint planning and integration regarding the regulation of the taxi industry. He highlighted efforts by the Municipality such as Access-A-Bus expansion and drew emphasis to the costliness of the accessible taxis.

Councillor Rankin re-assumed his seat as Chair.

Councillor McCluskey outlined how the accessibility requirements for seniors were different than the model being proposed in terms of entering and exiting vans. She questioned the report's findings, challenging the premise that the industry held a misunderstanding or misperception regarding the proposed changes. She echoed Councillor Rankin, indicating she would not be supporting the motion.

Councillor Mason stated that more clarity was required regarding the Committee's direction. He summarized issues of concern regarding low demand and the ability of accessible vans to accommodate seniors. He stated that the Committee should be more prescriptive with its target numbers of taxi types. Councillor Mason highlighted previous direction given by the Committee regarding subsidizing accessible taxis to complement the Access-a-Bus service. He also questioned if the rate setting mechanism had been properly evaluated for drivers. Councillor Mason requested that the three parts to the recommendation be voted on separately, as he was in support of part three regarding parking at fire

hydrants. He also voiced concern that defeating the recommendation would set back amendments the Taxi and Limousine Liaison Group (TLLG) had asked for pertaining to the bridge toll and code of ethics in Administrative Order #39. Councillor Mason questioned if the requirement around the waiting list pertained only to Bylaw T-1000/T-1001, or could amendments to Administrative Order #39 be passed separately. Staff clarified that the Bylaw could not be dealt with in isolation of the Order.

Councillor Walker stated disagreement with the proposed amendments to sections 7, 8, and 9. He commented regarding the consultation performed, stating that attendance at the town hall meeting had been closer to 600 than the reported 300 persons. He disagreed with the findings of the report, stating that there had been no misperception evident at the town hall meeting. Councillor Walker questioned page 36 of the Halifax Global Inc. report, stating the results were skewed because of the ratio of conventional to accessible license respondents. He also highlighted page 57 of the consultant's report and questioned if a respondent could be a driver as well as an owner. Mr. Milley responded that it would be possible to submit a response as an owner, driver, and consumer and this observation was noted for verbal and online responses. Councillor Walker stated concern, regarding the low number (7) of respondents from the hospitality industry as found on page 99. Councillor Walker also highlighted page 13 of Bylaw T-1000, Section 9.18(1) regarding issuing new taxi owner licenses.

Councillor Adams questioned what information supported the report findings on page 29 regarding the misperception in the industry. Mr. Milley responded by highlighting that online survey submissions and anecdotal conversations expressed a misconception that the amendments would force the conventional license holders to change into accessible license holders. He stated that there was no requirement in the amendments to do so, unless the conventional license was surrendered or terminated. Councillor Adams stated that in his communications, including the Town Hall meeting, no such misperception was expressed by the taxi industry.

Mr. Hindle highlighted that the proposed amendments dealt with a number of matters and that if the proposed amendments to sections 7, 8, 9 of Bylaw T-1001 were removed, the taxi waiting list and issuance of licenses would remain as it currently was in the bylaw.

Councillor Mason requested the basis for changes to section 7, 8, 9, and the TLLG's involvement. Mr. Hindle responded that in the original discussion the issue was not accessible taxis, but concern for the industry regarding growing competition from limousines and accessible taxis. Councillor Mason stated that clear direction was required. He stated that the changes would occur over decades but at a future point there would be a re-assessment of the number of sedans. He suggested that a target be set and re-evaluated in a number of years.

Councillor McCluskey questioned if the consultant's findings indicated more accessible taxis were required. Mr. Milley responded that the report did not address target numbers or the definition of accessible taxis. Mr. Hindle clarified that accessible taxis were defined by section 305 of the Motor Vehicle Act. He highlighted that according to specifications, the vehicle may be a van or a sedan and he emphasized that designs are rapidly changing allowing for alternatives to vans. Mr. Hindle stated that amendments would allow a reduction of conventional licenses to address market concerns regarding competition, therefore allowing a return to the maximum cap of 1,000 in the combined Halifax, Dartmouth and County zones. Mr. Hindle outlined problems occurring with the existing system relating to a growing and unexhausted waiting list of 518 names for conventional licenses.

Councillor Craig highlighted that the origin of the amendments came from the TLLG and questioned TLLG's evaluation of the proposed amendments. He noted that the TLLG was active in the formulation of the consultant's report in terms of the concerns of increasing accessibility from the disabled and concerns of increased competition. Councillor Craig confirmed with staff that TLLG has not yet reviewed the findings of the report. Mr. Hindle highlighted that the TLLG was consulted throughout the process, however, would meet next week to review the results.

Councillor Rankin stepped down as Chair and the Vice Chair assumed his position.

Councillor Rankin stated that clarity was required with TLLG. He suggested accessibility taxis be included in regulation of the industry through a cap and waiting list similar to the conventional taxis. Councillor Rankin highlighted that the current system was in working order and he questioned the rationale for removing the waiting list in terms of satisfying the market. He suggested that recommendations one and two be defeated, but that number three could be passed.

Councillor Rankin reassumed his seat as Chair.

Councillor Walker stated that he intended to move an amendment to refer recommendations one and two back to staff for further consideration.

*The Standing Committee recessed at 2:00 p.m. and reconvened at 2:10 p.m.*

MOVED by Councillor Walker, seconded by Councillor McCluskey

**THAT parts 1 and 2 of the motion be referred to staff for the following changes, including any consequential amendments and that staff return to the Transportation Standing Committee:**

- 1. In the proposed Bylaw T-1001, sections 40.0 to 40.4 regarding Taxi Owner's License Limitations, limitations are reinstated, and this change be rectified in Section 9.18(1) regarding issuing new taxi owner licenses.**
- 2. In the proposed Administrative Order Number 39, sections 7, 8, and 9 regarding Limits on the number of Taxi Owner Licenses be reinstated.**

The Committee clarified that the amendment was to apply to parts one and two of the recommendation but that part 3 regarding taxi fire hydrants would remain separate.

**AMENDMENT PUT AND PASSED.**

The question was called on the main motion.

**THAT parts 1 and 2 of the motion be referred to staff for the following changes, including any consequential amendments and that staff return to the Transportation Standing Committee:**

- 1. In the proposed Bylaw T-1001, sections 40.0 to 40.4 regarding Taxi Owner's License Limitations, limitations are reinstated, and this change be rectified in Section 9.18(1) regarding issuing new taxi owner licenses.**
- 3. In the proposed Administrative Order Number 39, sections 7, 8, and 9 regarding Limits on the number of Taxi Owner Licenses be reinstated; and**

**FURTHER THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council authorize the 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 UNANIMOUSLY.**

**9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

**9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9.3.1 Committee Update**

The update was received by the Committee. No discussion was held.

**9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9.4.1 Committee Update**

The update was received by the Committee. No discussion was held.

**9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**9.5.1 Committee Update**

The update was received by the Committee. No discussion was held.

**9.5.2 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan 2016/2017**

The following was before the Committee:

- A recommendation report from the Chair of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee dated September 28, 2015.

MOVED by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT the Transportation Standing Committee forward to staff the following recommended actions for consideration as staff prepare the 2016/2017 Pedestrian Safety Action Plan, in no particular order:**

- a) Increased enforcement of crosswalk regulations regarding pedestrians and vehicles,**
- b) Continued cooperation between municipal and provincial staff toward increasing non-monetary penalties for crosswalk violations and associated changes to the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act.,**
- c) Increased education on crosswalk safety at the school level,**
- d) Continued collaboration between Traffic Management staff and Halifax Regional Police to improve data collection methods,**
- e) Additional research and experimentation with piloting infrastructure programs,**

**And for particular emphasis to be placed on increasing awareness with educational activities and increasing adherence through the enforcement of existing regulations.**

Councillor Walker stated concern there was no financial attachment. Mr. Labrecque advised Regional Council would receive a staff report of the Action Plan with all indicative costs.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**10. MOTIONS**

**10.1 Councillor Mason**

Notice of motion was given at the September 24, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report to outline options under the current or amended noise bylaw and/or the Motor Vehicle Act to set standards that may restrict and control motor vehicle noise especially muffler noise.**

Councillor Mason stated that residents were experiencing increased muffler noise. He stated that the concerns would not be limited to one particular area in the region.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**11. IN CAMERA**

The Committee dealt with the following matter in open session.

**11.1 Property Matter – A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition/sale of land in regard to:**

11.1.1 Property Acquisition for transportation purposes – Private and Confidential Staff Report

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Walker

**THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council approval of the staff recommendation contained in the Private and Confidential Report dated August 5, 2015.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**12. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**13. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE**

**14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 26, 2015**

**15. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 2:50 p.m.

Andrew Reid  
Legislative Assistant