

TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

July 3, 2013

MEMBERS

PRESENT:

Councillor Reg Rankin, Chair  
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Barry Dalrymple  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Waye Mason

REGRETS:

Councillor Darren Fisher  
Councillor Russell Walker  
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF:

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO  
Ms. Kirby Grant, Solicitor  
Ms. Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:38 a.m. in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 23, 2013**

**MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Councillor Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee minutes of May 23, 2013 be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Councillor Mason asked that Information Item #1 Street Closure Policy for Special Events and Parades (Information report dated May 13, 2013) be added to the next agenda for discussion.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the order of business be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & PRESENTATIONS**

**4.1 Correspondence - None**

**4.2 Petitions - None**

**4.3 Presentations - None**

**5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**5.1 Local Street Bikeway Model**

The Clerk clarified that two motions were approved at the May 23, 2013 Transportation Standing Committee; one requesting Regional Council to request staff reports on the potential for an Agricola bicycle corridor route with parking management plan, and another asking Regional Council to request a staff report on the development of a policy that would support the use of the Local Street Bikeway model. Given direction from Regional Council on June 25, 2013 regarding the powers of Standing Committees to request reports within their mandate and with specific reference to their terms of reference, the motions have been brought back before the Standing Committee for clarification.

Councillor Watts, who moved both motions at the May 23, 2013 meeting, indicated that she would like to bring forward the motion relating to the Agricola Street bicycle corridor route with parking management plan as a Notice of Motion later in the meeting, to give notice to the public that she will be bringing this matter forward.

With regard to the other motion from the May 23, 2013 meeting, the following was put forward for clarification:

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that in keeping with the motion of Regional Council of June 25, 2013 regarding the powers of Standing Committees to request reports within their mandate and with specific reference to the terms of reference of the Transportation Standing Committee clauses 3.1.2, 3.1.4, and 3.4.2, the Standing Committee requests that staff prepare a report on the development of a policy in HRM that would support the use of the Local Street Bikeway model.**

Councillor Mason clarified that the Local Street Bikeway model was discussed in the “North-South Peninsula Cycling Corridor” report presented to the Transportation Standing Committee on May 23, 2013. He noted that HRM does not have a formal policy for a local street bikeway model, as other cities do.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None**

**7. REPORTS**

**7.1 STAFF**

**7.1.1 Metro Transit Five-Year Service Plan Public Consultation Process**

Moving Forward Together – Metro Transit’s Five Year Service Plan June 2013 draft survey was before the Committee.

Ms. Patricia Hughes, Supervisor, Service Delivery, presented the Metro Transit Five Year Service Plan public consultation process to the Committee. A copy of this presentation is on file and has been posted online.

Ms. Hughes’ presentation outlined the timeline associated with the development of the five year plan, including the major tasks associated with each phase. She discussed the methods of consultation that will be used, including the use of short video clips to introduce transit planning concepts, web engagement, and public meetings, focusing on both passengers and stakeholders.

Ms. Hughes welcomed feedback from members, noting that for future reference general questions about the process can be directed to [movingforward@halifax.ca](mailto:movingforward@halifax.ca).

Councillor Dalrymple noted that there should be public consultation meetings closer to rural communities, suggesting additional meetings in Hammonds Plains, Fall River and Porters Lake. He also suggested that staff use local community newspapers to advertise the public consultation process. Councillor Dalrymple indicated that he hopes a weighted system is used to calculate survey results, noting that a high percentage of responses will be from residents in the urban area.

Councillor Watts inquired whether more details around the issue of community rural transit could be included in the draft survey, to obtain feedback. She suggested that it be clearly identified that there are costs to providing expanded transit service, and that an explanation of these budget implications and how transit is funded would be helpful for residents. Councillor Watts noted concern that many seniors may not go to community meetings, and may not use the internet to provide feedback. She would like to meet with seniors and community groups to ensure they have an avenue for feedback. Metro Transit staff concurred with this approach.

Councillor Mason indicated that he strongly supports rural community transit, and would like to see a clear statement of HRM's commitment to community transit when the public consultation takes place. He suggested that there needs to be better service to suburban Dartmouth and there should be a framework of how Metro Transit's regular and Metro X routes plug into community transit.

Councillor Hendsbee suggested that there needs to be more consultation in suburban and rural areas and further dialogue needs to take place with regard to the rural transportation strategy. He encouraged partnerships between HRM and community rural transit initiatives, such as MusGo Rider. Councillor Hendsbee encouraged a more simple explanation of transit connections. He indicated that the Preston communities need better connections and a bus terminal.

Deputy Mayor Rankin commented on the value of plain talk during the consultation process, suggesting that staff discuss with residents perceived benefits vs. efficiencies, and explain how transit services are budgeted. He also suggested that consultation could take place on board the Metro X service.

At the request of Councillor Watts, Ms. Hughes clarified that the online survey would start in early August and run through September, closing a few weeks after the public meetings are held.

Councillor Dalrymple suggested that the issue of suburban and rural community transit should be a part of a separate consultation process, and that additional meetings should be in four or five communities. Mr. Dave Reage, Supervisor, Service Design & Projects, Metro Transit, indicated that community consultation will be taking place during the development of the rural transit program.

Deputy Mayor Rankin noted that it had been one year since Council directed staff to develop the rural transit program, and that staff should have details on that program for the public during the consultation.

Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO, indicated that staff will take all of the suggestions made today into consideration. He noted that the Regional Plan Five Year Review process will address the transit service boundary, and rural transit.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee receive a quarterly report and presentation**

**regarding Metro Transit strategic planning and operations. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Hendsbee questioned whether there is a score card to measure what was achieved in the last Metro Transit five year service plan. Mr. Reage noted that this would be difficult to do because of service changes. He advised that staff chose to undertake the development of this new plan in-house to be more confident in its implementation.

The Committee asked staff to send communications on the public consultation process directly to Council, and to frame the information in such an s way that Councillors could put the information in their community newsletters.

**7.2 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.2.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)**

Councillor Watts advised that the Accessibility Advisory Committee is working on the development of a strategic plan and are continuing to carry out accessibility assessments of HRM owned and operated facilities.

**7.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.3.1 Update from Councillor Mason (verbal)**

Councillor Mason advised that at the last meeting the Committee received a presentation from Mr. Jaime Newman regarding an HRM map app. The Committee also had a review of the Bike Week events.

**7.4 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**7.4.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple (verbal)**

Councillor Dalrymple advised that the Committee has met twice and are still in the Board and Committee orientation phase, and receiving presentations from staff. He noted that the Committee has very diverse representation: Councillors, older and younger members, representatives from other HRM Committees, academia and transportation professionals and have been holding very good conversations on crosswalk safety.

**8. MOTIONS**

**8.1 Councillor Mason**

Notice of motion was given at the May 23, 2013 meeting.

**MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee requests the CAO direct staff to produce a**

**report regarding implementation of HRM's Smart Trip E-Pass program for HRM employees.**

Councillor Hendsbee inquired as to the status of the U-Pass program, including what institutions currently participate, and if private colleges are being considered for eligibility. He noted concern with capacity, suggesting that the increased number of riders from the U-Pass and E-pass programs may create an excessive burden on bus capacity. Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO advised that staff could provide the Councillor with an update on the status of the U-pass program.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**9. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**10. NOTICES OF MOTION**

**10.1 Councillor Watts**

"Take notice that at the next regular meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee I intend to move a motion, in keeping with the motion of Regional Council of June 25, 2013 regarding the powers of Standing Committees to request reports within their mandate and with specific reference to the terms of reference of the Transportation Standing Committee clauses 3.1.2, 3.1.4, 3.1.5 and 3.4.2, that the Transportation Standing Committee requests that staff undertake further study of the potential for an Agricola bicycle corridor route that would include a parking management plan and report back to the Transportation Standing Committee with the findings."

**11. NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, August 7, 2013**

Members agreed to change the time of the next meeting on Wednesday, August 7, 2013 to 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m. The meeting will be held in the Council Chamber, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 a.m.

Jennifer Weagle  
Legislative Assistant

**INFORMATION ITEMS**

1. **Street Closure Policy for Special Events and Parades** – *Information report dated May 13, 2013.*