



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 7, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Outhit, Acting Chair
Councillor Reg Rankin
Deputy Mayor Darren Fisher
Councillor Barry Dalrymple
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason
Councillor Jennifer Watts

REGRETS: Councillor Russell Walker

STAFF: Mr. Mike Labrecque, Deputy CAO
Ms. Kirby Grant, Senior Solicitor
Ms. Sherryll Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Mr. Andrew Reid, Legislative Intern

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to the Committee are available online: <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCtransp/index.html>

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 p.m., and adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Outhit, Vice-Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:00 P.M.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – February 5 & March 5, 2014

Councillor Watts noted an amendment to the March 5, 2014 minutes replacing the word “active” with the word “sustainable” on page 6, paragraph 1.

MOVED by Councillor Fisher, seconded by Councillor Mason that the minutes of February 5 and March 5, 2014, as amended, be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Information Item 1, Temporary On-Street Parking During Construction was added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee to be held on June 4, 2014.

Information Item 2, Integration of Transit Routes 401 & 370 and Re-route of 402 was also added to the agenda for the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee to be held on June 4, 2014.

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Order of Business be approved as circulated. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Councillor Mason requested that the staff report regarding Status Sheet Item 21 – Street Closure Policy be available for the June meeting of the Committee. The DCAO indicated he would make every effort to ensure this occurred.

5. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – None

6. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – None

7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – None

8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

8.1 Correspondence - None

8.2 Petitions – None

8.3 Presentation

8.3.1 Reporting of Dangerous Goods Transported by Rail – Barry Manuel, Coordinator, Emergency Management Office

The following information was before the Committee:

- An information report dated March 18, 2014.
- A copy of the staff presentation.

Mr. Barry Manuel, Coordinator, Emergency Management Office, Fire & Emergency Services, gave a presentation regarding Transport Canada Protective Direction #32 requiring any person who transports dangerous goods by railway vehicle to share information with municipalities. He went on to outline the administrative details of the Direction and spoke to the value of receiving the information.

Discussion ensued regarding the benefit of having information on the shipping of dangerous goods prior to them arriving in Halifax versus a report on what has already been shipped through the municipality. In response to concern expressed by members, Mr. Manuel indicated that in order to plan a response we need to know what types/volumes of material has been shipped through the municipality. Mr. Manuel indicated that the information presently available allows HRM to do the necessary research and planning.

In response to questions regarding whether advance knowledge of substances being shipped to Halifax would be more valuable, Mr. Manuel indicated that the response for any type of hazardous material would be similar. Management of the information on a daily basis given the volume of information poses difficulties in terms of review and dissemination of the information in a timely manner.

Ms. Grant, referring to the Directive and legislation, noted that in addition to the annual information the Officer is to receive any significant change to the information.

The Acting Chair thanked staff for their presentation.

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Commuter Rail Monthly Update

A briefing noted dated May 6, 2014 was distributed.

Mr. Dave Reage, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, Metro Transit provided an update as per the May 6, 2014 briefing note.

In response to a request, the tender document will be e-mailed to Committee members.

A discussion ensued regarding concerns about the Request for Proposals (RFP) and what the Committee would like to see included in the report, as follows:

- Concern regarding the perceived negativity of the RFP, identifies all negative issues related to commuter rail (noise, safety, etc.)
- Concern re lack of public consultation. RFP appears to suggest one public consultation. Members would encourage at least three (3) public meetings based on geography
- Report should include information regarding the range of subsidy for this service across Canada
- Report should consider cost avoidance in terms of road infrastructure
- Report should consider origin of ridership (new riders, transit riders that have switched)
- Factual based report, appropriate public consultation (not one meeting)
- Members would like to hear from consultant how they intend to carry out this work

In response to questions/concerns Mr. Reage noted that the RFP was developed after consultation with communities that have commuter rail. He further indicated in response to a question regarding the balance of qualitative/quantitative scoring in the RFP that the majority of the scoring was attributed to qualitative aspects and that ridership statistics would be included (where riders are coming from – new or from other transit options).

In response to concerns regarding the possibility of a lack of cooperation from VIA rail, Ms. Grant indicated that based on precedent it would appear that there is an expectation of cooperation relative to commuter rail on the part of the Federal Government.

Mr. Reage advised that the timing of the final report would be addressed in the proposed timeline submitted by the Consultant.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

9.2.1 Councillor Watts – Passenger Rail

The following was before the Committee:

- A Councillor Request for Consideration form was before the Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mason, that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council request the Mayor write a letter supporting the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' (FCMs') ongoing efforts to revitalize passenger rail service across Canada.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Note was made that additional information from FCM would be included in the report.

9.3 ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.3.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Councillor Watts gave a brief verbal update with no further action being required.

9.4 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.4.1 Update from Councillor Watts (verbal)

Councillor Mason gave a brief verbal update noting that HRM Bike Week was scheduled for June 6-10. No further action was required.

9.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

9.5.1 Update from Councillor Dalrymple (verbal)

Councillor Dalrymple gave a brief verbal update noting that Janet Barlow has recently been elected Chair of the Committee.

10. MOTIONS - None

11. IN CAMERA - None

12. ADDED ITEMS - None

13. NOTICES OF MOTION

13.1 Councillor Mason - Notice of Motion re Pilot Project to Test the Pedestrian Vehicle Shared Street Concept on Argyle Street

Councillor Mason gave Notice of Motion that at the next regular meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee he intends to move a motion requesting a staff report outlining a pilot project to test the pedestrian vehicle shared street concept on Argyle Street during the construction phase of the Nova Centre, to use that test to inform Council regarding a permanent installation, and to ensure a report back on results so that Council may consider creating a permanent shared street on Argyle when the road is reinstated upon completion of the Nova Centre.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Wednesday, June 4, 2014, 2:00 p.m.

15. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15 p.m.

Sherryll Murphy
Deputy Clerk

INFORMATION ITEMS

1. **Temporary On-Street Parking During Construction** (*information report dated March 25, 2014*)
 2. **Integration of Transit Routes 401 & 370 and Re-route of Route 401** (*information report dated April 3, 2014*)
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