

CROSSWALK SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

October 24, 2013

- PRESENT: Councillor Barry Dalrymple, Chair  
Ms. Janet Barlow, Vice Chair  
Councillor Darren Fisher  
Mr. Ben Wedge  
Dr. Ahsan Habib  
Mr. Stephen Stone  
Mr. Kyle Miller  
Mr. Tom Boyd  
Sgt. David Reynolds
- REGRETS: Ms. Jamy-Ellen Klenavic  
Councillor Wayne Mason  
Ms. Lucille Reid  
Ms. Jill McGillicuddy
- STAFF: Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Traffic & Right of Way  
Mr. Darren Hirtle, Volunteer Services  
Ms. Laurie Cook, Volunteer Services  
Ms. Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant  
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 26, 2013.....	3
3.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS .....	3
4.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None .....	3
5.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS .....	3
5.1	Correspondence .....	3
5.1.1	Correspondence from Norm Collins dated October 20, 2013 re: pedestrian caution or yield sign.....	3
5.1.2	Correspondence from Norm Collins dated October 20, 2013 re: zebra markings.....	3
6.	REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS.....	4
6.1	Work Plan Session: Part 2 – Darren Hirtle, Laurie Cook, Volunteer Services .....	4
(i)	Work Plan Session: Notes from September 26, 2013.....	4
7.	ADDED ITEMS .....	7
7.1	Ms. Janet Barlow - Request for Presentations on Crosswalk Issues at ..... Schools and Crossing Guard Program .....	7
7.2	Ms. Janet Barlow – Notable Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety Resources handout.....	7
7.3	Mr. Ben Wedge – Discussion re: crosswalk stripe painting.....	7
8.	NEXT MEETING DATE – November 28, 2013.....	8
9.	ADJOURNMENT .....	8

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. in the Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 26, 2013**

**MOVED by Mr. Wedge seconded by Dr. Habib that the minutes of September 26, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Fisher noted an error in the Committee's August 22, 2013 approved minutes; under Item 7 – Reports/Discussion, the motion was seconded by *Mr. Boyd* not Mr. Collins. The Committee requested that the amendment be made to the August 22<sup>nd</sup> minutes.

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

Additions:

- 7.1 Ms. Janet Barlow - Request for Presentations on Crosswalk Issues at Schools and Crossing Guard Program
- 7.2 Ms. Janet Barlow - Notable Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety Resources handout
- 7.3 Mr. Ben Wedge – Discussion re: crosswalk stripe painting

**MOVED by Mr. Miller, seconded by Ms. Barlow, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - None**

**5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**5.1 Correspondence**

**5.1.1 Correspondence from Norm Collins dated October 20, 2013 re: pedestrian caution or yield sign**

Mr. Collins' correspondence was circulated to the Committee for their information.

**5.1.2 Correspondence from Norm Collins dated October 20, 2013 re: zebra markings**

Mr. Collins' correspondence was circulated to the Committee for their information.

## **6. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS**

### **6.1 Work Plan Session: Part 2 – Darren Hirtle, Laurie Cook, Volunteer Services**

#### **(i) Work Plan Session: Notes from September 26, 2013**

The following was before the Committee:

- Work Plan Session Agenda
- Notes from the Committee's September 26, 2013 work plan session
- 

It was noted that Ms. Marilyn Smith of Volunteer Services was unable to attend the meeting but that Mr. Darren Hirtle and Ms. Laurie Cook of Volunteer Services were present to facilitate the session.

The following is a summary of notes from the continuation of the work plan session:

#### **2. Enforcement:**

##### **D. What steps are required to make the necessary improvements?**

What are you able to do?

What resources are required?

##### Discussion notes:

- Clarify what is legal and what is not
- Simplify training around crosswalk safety
- Can residents be involved in enforcement? (Take license plate numbers? Give information handouts)

#### **3. Traffic Control Measures:**

##### **A. What's currently happening?**

##### Discussion notes:

- Parking too close to crosswalk
- Right turns. Pedestrians are vulnerable at islands.
- Buttons on wrong side of poles
- Hierarchy of painted and unpainted crossings
- Overhead and painted lines
- Full traffic signals
- Signs for playgrounds

##### **B. What improvements are required?**

##### Discussion notes:

- Zebra crossings instead of parallel lines

- Add flags
- No right island turns
- Pathway system. Connectivity
- Staggered crosswalks + physical barriers & buttons
- Move buttons downstream
- Make sure pedestrians are visible
- Evaluate crosswalks & parking

### **C. What do you see as challenges?**

#### Discussion notes:

- Right of way limitations
- Money

### **D. What steps are required to make the necessary improvements?**

What are you able to do?

What resources are required?

#### Discussion notes:

- Council report on books, staff need to respond re zebras
- Try to avoid RT Islands, easier for new sections
- Staggered – pilot it somewhere
- Evaluate parking around crosswalks
- Solar research could create opportunity to add beacons
- Zebra crossings at schools
- Evaluate crossing for visibility barriers – bus-stops, parking etc
- Connections between control measures & standards
- Solar powered beacons at crossings
- What can be done to affect change in private property like Dartmouth Crossing
- Can be part development agreements.
- No differentiation between private property and HRM. It all looks the same to the public

## **4. Standards and Consistency**

### **A. What's currently happening?**

#### Discussion notes:

- Standards are in place, but there are always exceptions
- Consistency is absolute
- But there is wiggle room

## **B. What improvements are required?**

### Discussion notes:

- Standards need to be different for urban, suburban and rural areas
- Need decision making mechanism, not just 1 person making decisions.
- Community should have opportunity to make case
- Revise standards to reflect urban, suburban and rural (traffic, speed, pedestrian counts, etc)
- Standards need to reflect school issues
  - No crosswalk because no pedestrians
  - No pedestrians because there is no crosswalk
- Pilot ideas – try it out

## **C. What do you see as challenges?**

### Discussion notes:

- Current structure of traffic authority
- Need to look at other models as HRM geography is unique (size, make up)
- Resistance to change
- Sharing decision making
- Budget
- What is in place is not working

## **D. What steps are required to make the necessary improvements?**

What are you able to do?

What resources are required?

### Discussion notes:

- Committee should recommend standards to reflect urban, suburban and rural areas
- Standards have to change
- Some authority over standards has to change
- Need understanding as to why standards are what they are and the rationale behind them
- Research best practices
- Review policies and goals
- Current model flexible – HRM traffic can decide
- Research on many bp's already done
- New document out (1 yr old)
- Still evolving through so still open to new considerations
- Are we using best practices? Recommended, desirable, optional
- Want to hear research and be able to recommend
- How to give public more of a voice

## 5. Other

### Notes:

- Value in continuing existing services which may be lost due to standards if equipment fails; i.e. overhead lights on crosswalks on single lane roads would not qualify under current standards
- Need to have wiggle room
- Need community context in applying standards
- Using guidelines not standards
- Need modelling and predictions for pedestrians the same as they model traffic
- Evaluation is missing
  - Tracking number of conflicts at crosswalks
  - Difference in levels of injuries at crosswalks
  - Need good data
- We have no baseline data
- Next meeting we should create a section called Data Collection and discuss.

The Committee agreed that Ms. Marilyn Smith of Volunteer Services be invited back in November to discuss the findings and set goals for the report.

## 7. ADDED ITEMS

### 7.1 Ms. Janet Barlow - Request for Presentations on Crosswalk Issues at Schools and Crossing Guard Program

Ms. Barlow requested a presentation, on behalf of the parents of Shatford Memorial Elementary, in regard to their crosswalk concerns, to which the Committee agreed. It was noted that Ms. Barlow would provide the presenters' contact information to the Clerk's Office for follow up.

Ms. Barlow further requested a presentation on the Crossing Guard Program, to which the Committee agreed. Sgt Reynolds advised that he would provide the Clerk's Office with the crossing guard coordinator's contact information to schedule the presentation.

### 7.2 Ms. Janet Barlow – Notable Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety Resources handout

Ms. Barlow distributed a handout entitled: *Notable Pedestrian and Crosswalk Safety Resources* to the Committee. A copy of the handout has been placed on file for the record.

### 7.3 Mr. Ben Wedge – Discussion re: crosswalk stripe painting

Mr. Ben Wedge requested information on policies and procedures on cross walks.

Mr. Taso Koutroulakis, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way advised that the painting of crosswalks is completed on a regular schedule, and if a portion of the crosswalk had repairs it would be repainted after completion of the work.

**8. NEXT MEETING DATE – November 28, 2013**

The next regular meeting of the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, November 28, 2013, 10:00 a.m., in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Darcy Warren  
Legislative Support

### INFORMATION ITEMS

1. Active Transportation – Making It Work In Canadian Communities
2. MVA Accidents and Fatalities Statistics