

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 1, 2009

PRESENT:

Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor Linda Mosher
Ms. Helen McFadyen
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Mr. Michael Beiswanger
Ms. Lauralee Sim
Ms. Laena Garrison
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo
Ms. Alison MacDonald
Mr. Friedemann Brauer

REGRETS:

Ms. Jean Rennie

STAFF:

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management
Planner
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:08 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

The Committee members and staff introduced themselves.

3. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair.

MOVED by Ms. McFadyen, seconded by Mr. Scrutton, that Ms. Garrison be nominated as Chair for 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Garrison declined the nomination and requested further information on the roles of Chair and Vice Chair.

The Committee agreed to defer the election of Chair and Vice Chair to the next meeting agenda pending further information.

It was agreed that Councillor Mosher Chair the meeting.

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

Additions:

6.2 Discussion on Committee Name - Ms. McFadyen

MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Scrutton, that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

5.1 Correspondence

5.1.1 Chebucto Community Council re: Halifax North West Trails Association

C A letter dated February 2, 2009 from Mr. Bob MacDonald, Halifax North West Trails Association was before the Committee.

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, advised that the checklist that Mr. MacDonald was referring to had been sent to planning staff a year ago and that they were planning to revise and incorporate it into the green book which they were currently working on.

Councillor Mosher advised that Mr. MacDonald, on behalf of the North West Trails Association, had brought the checklist to the Chebucto Community Council in October, 2006. She requested that it be circulated to Committee members.

Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, advised that the green book and checklist would be an ongoing, lengthy process and that the Committee would be involved.

MOVED BY Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Ms. MacDonald, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- 1. Write a letter to the Halifax North West Trails Association informing them that staff were working on the Draft Planning and Construction Check List and that it would be presented when complete; and**
- 2. That the letter from the Halifax North West Trails Association be forwarded to Planning Services staff for consideration.**

Ms. Debaie advised that staff would provide an update at the next meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.2 Petitions - None

5.3 Presentations

5.3.1 Overview of Active Transportation Plan

C A copy of the Power Point presentation was submitted.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, TDM Planner, provided the Overview of the Active Transportation Plan. Highlights were as follows:

- C The plan began prior to the Regional Plan being adopted by Council;
- C While the 1% to 2% jump in active transportation did not look substantial it was really quite significant;
- C The object of the plan was to have at least one sustainable mode of transportation available across all of HRM;

C By completing the network communities would be connected via corridors.

A discussion ensued with Ms. MacInnis responding to questions. Regarding accessibility; she advised that grades, surfaces and curb cuts would be taken into consideration. She noted that staff would be looking at gradients they were able to control as well as methods to avoid lifting. She stated that a representative from the Advisory Committee for Persons with Disabilities would be able to provide valuable input regarding accessibility; noting that Mr. Laughie Rutt, Diversity Consultant, had completed site inspections with staff.

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee entered the meeting at 3:54 p.m.

MOVED BY Mr. Brauer, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request a response from staff in relation to what maintenance was taking place regarding the removal of snow and gravel from paved shoulders on roadways such as Purcell's Cove Road and the Bedford Highway as two examples. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. MacInnis noted that all new Metro Transit buses would have bike racks and that transit staff was working on a bike rack route plan or the possibility of retrofitting newer buses. She stated that transit staff was also looking into installing new bike lockers in bus terminals as they were more secure than a bike rack.

The Committee indicated that they would like to invite Mr. Eddie Robar, Manager of Planning and Product Development, Metro Transit, and Mr. Dave Reage, Planning and Product Delivery Coordinator, Metro Transit, to a future meeting to discuss bike racks and folding bikes on buses.

Ms. MacInnis advised that there was no Active Transportation implementation budget, therefore, it was necessary for these plans to work in partnership with other infrastructure projects.

Councillor Watts requested that the March 10, 2009 Council report regarding crosswalk issues be sent to Committee members.

Mr. Scrutton expressed concern with the Provincial By-Law concerning inline skating and skateboarding. He also noted that bikelanes should be multi use for all modes of active transportation and, therefore, should be labeled as such as the bike symbol was misleading.

Ms. Garrison offered to provide presentations on skateboarding, inline skating and the provincial policy as well as the Making Tracks program at the next meeting.

Ms. McFadyen left the meeting at 4:19 p.m.

Mr. Euloth and Ms. Debaie provided a presentation on the Halifax Regional Trails Association. They indicated that there were 200 kilometres of formalized trails in HRM and that maps were available on the HRM Trails website.

6. REPORTS

6.1 2009/2010 Active Transportation Budget Requests

- C The Regional Trails Program 2009-2010 Capital Budget to be Submitted was submitted.
- C The Halifax Regional Trails Association Community Group Funding Requests were submitted.

Ms. Debaie noted that there was a \$50,000 cap, however, certain groups could have a special ask above the cap. She stated that regional trails were under a maintenance agreement and that all requests were reviewed by staff and a maintenance committee.

Ms. MacDonald left the meeting at 4:31 p.m.

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer, advised that staff was looking into implementing bike lanes on the Bedford Highway and a small portion of Hammonds Plains Road. He stated that HRM Design and Construction staff were taking care of the implementation of bike lanes in Purcells Cove. He noted that most of the projects were being done in conjunction with other road work with the exception of the Bedford Highway which was being funded by the bikeways budget.

MOVED BY Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request a response from staff regarding if they had investigated active transportation funding opportunities from the Recreational Infrastructure Canada (RInc) program which was included in the 2009 federal budget. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. MacInnis stated that the Province was putting a 3 metre wide corridor by the Burnside overpass which HRM staff was hoping to connect to. She advised that staff was planning to start building a trail along Burnside Drive, however, there were currently no funds available. She indicated that the RInc program may be a good opportunity and stated that she would look into costing and percentages.

It was noted that the Nova Scotia Bikeways report had not been officially released, however it was available online and Mr. Brauer, Bicycle Nova Scotia representative, would present it at the next meeting.

6.2 Discussion on Committee Name

It was noted that no acronyms would be used in referring to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as it could be easily confused with the Accessible Transportation Committee.

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Deputy Mayor Hendsbee noted that the Committee may want to hold an open house meeting during Bike Week.

Regarding a regular meeting date, it was noted that Thursday at 4:00 p.m. may be a good time. Holding meetings at the Bloomfield Centre rather than City Hall was also suggested. The Legislative Assistant will follow up on both matters.

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:57p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following item was added as information:

1. Active Transportation Advisory Committee Terms of Reference