

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

June 25, 2009

PRESENT: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Ms. Lauralee Sim
Ms. Laena Garrison
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo
Mr. Michael Beiswanger
Mr. Tom Boyd
Mr. Walter Regan

REGRETS: Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee
Ms. Alison MacDonald

STAFF: Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer
Mr. Jeff Spares, Senior Design Engineer
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | | |
|-----|--|---|
| 1. | CALL TO ORDER | 3 |
| 2. | ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR | 3 |
| 3. | APPROVAL OF MINUTES | 3 |
| 4. | APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS | 3 |
| 5. | BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES | 4 |
| | 5.1 Nova Scotia Bikeways Report - Discussion | 4 |
| | 5.2 Transportation Demand Management Coordinator Position | 4 |
| 6. | CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS | 4 |
| | 6.1 Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Provincial Policy | 4 |
| 7. | CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS | 5 |
| | 7.1 Correspondence | 5 |
| | 7.2 Petitions | 5 |
| | 7.3 Presentations | 5 |
| 8. | REPORTS | 5 |
| | 8.1 HRM Greenbook/Checklist Update | 5 |
| | 8.2 Licensing of Cyclists | 5 |
| | 8.3 2009/2010 Budget - Councillor Watts | 6 |
| | 8.4 Evaluation Process for Bike Week - Councillor Watts | 7 |
| 9. | DATE OF NEXT MEETING | 7 |
| 10. | ADJOURNMENT | 7 |

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. at the Bloomfield Centre, 2786 Agricola Street, Halifax.

2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Mr. Scrutton nominated Councillor Mosher for Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Councillor Mosher accepted the nomination.

MOVED BY Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Ms. Garrison, that Councillor Mosher be appointed Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Garrison nominated Councillor Watts for Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Councillor Watts accepted the nomination.

MOVED BY Ms. Garrison, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that Councillor Watts be appointed Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - May 21, 2009

Amendments:

- 8.1 *Stage* rather than *phase* one
It will be noted that approximately half of all existing shared use trails in HRM were motorized

MOVED BY Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Mr. Beiswanger, that the minutes of May 21, 2009, be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Deletions:

- 8.2 Licensing of Cyclists

Additions:

- 8.3 2009/2010 Budget - Councillor Watts
8.4 Evaluation Process for Bikeweek - Councillor Watts

MOVED BY Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the Order of Business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Nova Scotia Bikeways Report - Discussion

This item was deferred to the September 17, 2009 meeting.

5.2 Transportation Demand Management Coordinator Position - Ms. Garrison

Ms. Garrison expressed concern that the Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Coordinator position had not been filled since Ms. Hanita Koblents had gone on maternity leave in January, 2009. Ms. Garrison suggested that the Committee request that Regional Council persevere in filling this position.

Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer, advised that no qualified applicants had come forward for the position as per the posting as the job description called for a planning or engineering degree as well as experience and knowledge in TDM transportation. He stated that these job requirements could not be amended.

MOVED BY Ms. Garrison, seconded by Ms. Sim, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request an update on the status of the currently vacant Transportation Demand Management Coordinator position and consideration that filling this vacancy be prioritized. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Provincial Policy - Ms. Garrison

Ms. Garrison provided the presentation on Skateboarding, Inline Skating and Provincial Policy. Highlights were as follows:

- C In 2006, TRAX employed a student for four months who completed the research being presented;
- C The Provincial Policy regarding skateboards and inline skates was contained in section 172 of the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA);
- C Section 2 of the policy provides a loophole which allows a municipality to exempt certain streets from the policy in order for them to be legally used for skateboarding and inline skating;
- C Best practice research found that in some areas such as Annapolis Royal inline skating and skateboarding was allowed on sidewalks;

- C The research also found that, in some cases, the loophole was used to permit skateboarding and inline skating on all streets with the understanding that participants follow the same rules as bicycles;
- C Most areas start out with a trial pilot project by allowing the loophole on minor streets;
- C It was suggested that there be separate laws for different categories of roads;
- C It may be beneficial to attempt the trial pilot project near a school.

A discussion ensued with Ms. Garrison and staff responding to questions.

Committee members agreed that the key piece was to validate youth transportation and, therefore, wished to further investigate this issue.

The Chair suggested tabling the matter so that volunteers could be found to conduct further best practice research. She advised that she would contact the Halifax Regional Police to get their opinion on the matter. The Chair also suggested inviting a member of the Provincial Traffic Authority to a future meeting to speak to specific MVA regulations as they relate to active transportation.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS

8.1 HRM Greenbook/Checklist Update

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator, advised that the June 18, 2009, Greenbook meeting had been cancelled. She indicated that she would provide the Committee with an update via the Legislative Assistant as soon as one became available; noting that it would be a long process.

8.2 Licensing of Cyclists

This item was deleted from the agenda under the Order of Business.

8.3 2009/2010 Budget - Councillor Watts

C A memo dated June 25, 2009, from Mr. Roddy MacIntyre, Transportation Engineer, was submitted.

Mr. MacIntyre advised that he would send the Capital Budget Supplementary Sheets to the Legislative Assistant for distribution.

Councillor Watts indicated that she would follow up with Committee members requesting further information. She stated that she had requested this information from Mr. MacIntyre to alert the Committee as to what was happening and what the commitments were over the next five years.

A discussion on the budget memo ensued.

Mr. MacIntyre advised that when a road was widened it was policy to install bike lanes. He also indicated that the installation of bike lanes was based on roadway classifications; noting that minor streets did not require bike lanes. The Committee requested that the road classifications be made available.

Committee members suggested that the public be more adequately informed of the good work taking place regarding active transportation; particularly bike lanes.

Regarding the implementation of trails by developers, Ms. Debaie advised that the HRM Greenbook which was being drafted would give developers better direction regarding a common approach to the construction of trails. She noted that, in the beginning, developers were given the direction to include a width of four metres and a hard surface.

Mr. Boyd expressed concern that the time allotted for pedestrians to cross a street was nearly impossible for a disabled person. Mr. MacIntyre stated that the pedestrian timers were based on an estimated walking speed and advised that he would obtain further information.

It was noted that the Herring Cove Road widening was not going to happen this year.

Regarding the widening of roads, Mr. MacIntyre advised that they were widened when the amount of cars traveling on them was beyond what the road could support which made the roads congested and unsafe.

Ms. Sim left the meeting at 5:34 p.m.

8.4 Evaluation Process for Bike Week - Councillor Watts

Councillor Watts expressed concern regarding a scooter and motorized bike event that had taken place at the Halifax Forum on the last Sunday of Bike Week.

Ms. Garrison and Ms. Debaie, who were on the Bike Week Committee, could not recall of any events taking place on the last Sunday of Bike Week.

Councillor Watts was advised to contract Ms. Gabrielle Riley, Active Living Coordinator, for further clarification.

Ms. Garrison indicated that Councillor Watts may be referring to Atlantic Bike Week for motorbikes which had taken place during the week following HRM's Bike Week.

9. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

MOVED BY Mr. Orengo, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee not meet in July or August and that the next meeting be held on September 17, 2009. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The next meeting was scheduled for September 17, 2009.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:41 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory
Legislative Assistant

The following item was added as information:

1. Proposed 2009 Meeting Schedule