

**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES**

April 15, 2010

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Gai Thomas
Mr. Tom Boyd
Mr. Friedemann Brauer
Ms. Lauralee Sim
Mr. Ibrahim Orengo
Mr. Ted Scrutton

REGRETS: Councillor Linda Mosher, Chair
Ms. Alison MacDonald
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Michael Beiswanger

STAFF: Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Management
Planner
Mr. Tylor McDuff, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08pm at the Bloomfield Centre, Halifax.

2. COMMITTEE UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Vice Chair reminded the Committee that the Chain of Lakes Trail Association Open House would be taking place at 6:00pm.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - February 18, 2010 & March 25, 2010

MOVED BY Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Boyd, that the minutes of February 18, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Hendsbee requested that references to "Deputy Mayor David Hendsbee" in the minutes of March 25, 2010 be amended to "Councillor David Hendsbee".

MOVED BY Mr. Boyd, seconded by Mr. Regan, that the minutes of March 25, 2010 be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 One Way Street Discussion
- 9.2 Downtown Trail
- 9.3 Gorsebrook Trail Connector
- 9.4 Halifax Urban Greenway Association (HUGA)
- 9.5 Changing Gears Cycling Workshop
- 9.6 When Ontario Bikes, Ontario Benefits
- 9.7 Zebra Crosswalk Markings

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Child- and Youth-Friendly Land-Use and Transport Planning Guidelines

The Vice Chair referred to the request from Ms. Catherine O'Brien, School of Education, Health and Wellness, Cape Breton University, for the Committee to consider recommending to Council that HRM adopt the Child- and Youth-Friendly Land-Use and Transport Planning Guidelines.

Councillor Hendsbee recommended sending the Guidelines to Mr. Richard MacLellan,

Manager, Sustainable Environment Management Office, in order to establish if the Walk21 Charter was compatible with the Guidelines.

The Vice Chair requested that the complete copy of Mr. MacLellan's presentation to Council be distributed to the Committee.

Ms. Roxane MacInnis, Transportation Demand Manager, Regional Planning, reported that she had worked with Mr. MacLellan on making amendments to the Walk21 Charter and would relate any further recommendations made through the Committee to him. Ms. MacInnis added that a number of HRM initiatives, such as sidewalk and trail development, already supported elements of the Charter.

A discussion ensued around potential community partners for advocacy and promotion of the Guidelines and Charter. Suggested ideas included:

- Heart and Stroke Foundations Walkability Programs
- The Arthritis Society
- Senior Society
- Hike NS

The Vice Chair wondered about the role of the Committee in promoting walking. She explained that embracing the Charter was only part of the issue and that more needed to be done to promote walking.

The Vice Chair requested a presentation from the Heart and Stroke Program regarding their walkability program.

Mr. Scrutton suggested sending the Walk21 Charter and Land Use Guidelines to Ms. Gabrielle Riley-Gallagher, Active Living Coordinator, in order to determine compatibility between the two documents.

The Vice Chair requested that Ms. Riley-Gallagher be invited present to the Committee her conclusions and to come forward with opportunities for HRM.

Ms. MacInnis added that the Land-Use Guidelines were also a planning document and suggested that staff involved in planning and design be involved in the discussion

The Vice Chair indicated that forty one percent of Haligonians walk to work and added that this was a very high ratio.

A discussion followed concerning what could be done in order to make walking safer and more accessible.

Ms. MacInnis noted that there were a number of groups focused on cycling however there was a lack of support on a national level for pedestrian issues. She reported that a report called "Active Transportation: Making It Work in Canadian Communities" was available from Transportation Association Canada. Ms. MacInnis will ensure a link to the report is circulated to the Committee.

Mr. Brauer noted a movement in London, England to increase the number of streets with twenty mile an hour (32 kilometres an hour) speed limits. He described the findings contained in a 2009 report by the London Assembly Transport Committee entitled *Braking Point: 20 mph Speed Limits in London*. He explained that the report looked at the relationship between traffic speed and collisions and added the following:

- A collision at sixty four kilometres an hour would result in a fatality ninety percent of the time
- A collision at forty eight kilometres an hour would result in a fatality twenty percent of the time
- A collision at thirty-two kilometres an hour would result in a fatality three percent of the time

5.2 Provincial Trails Conference

Mr. Scrutton explained that he was Co-Chair of a committee organizing the Provincial Trails Conference and indicated the intent was to bring together 250 trail users and developers. He added that the conference was from October 1 to October 3, 2010 and would include a World Café discussion on the future of trails in Nova Scotia.

Mr. Scrutton added that the theme of the conference was Trails for Tomorrow, Today. He indicated that information would be available online as details are finalized.

The Vice Chair requested that an email be sent to Committee members requesting expressions of interest in attending the conference prior to the next meeting of the Committee.

Mr. Regan reported that a Bike Conference in Quebec was scheduled for June, 2010.

Mr. Brauer indicated that the NS Cycling Summit would be taking place on May 1, 2010. He added that the Conference was open to the public and information was available on the Annapolis County website.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS - None

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Cycling Corridor - Letter of Support - Morgane Stocker, Health Promotion Coordinator, Public Health Services

- Cycling Corridor - Letter of Support - Morgane Stocker, Health Promotion Coordinator, Public Health Services was before the Committee.

The Vice Chair reminded the Committee of Steve Bedard's request for support for the Cycling Corridor proposed by the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC).

Ms. Sim updated the Committee regarding the HCC Crosstown Connector proposal. She explained that the petition was near completion and that more information would be available for the next meeting.

7.1.2 Inline Skating - Ms. Angela Jeffrey, Program Coordinator, Healthy Kidz Program, Family Services of Support

- Correspondance from Ms. Angela Jeffrey, Program Coordinator, Healthy Kids Program, Family Services of Support was before the Committee.

The Vice Chair reported that Councillor Mosher had responded to Ms. Jeffrey that development of the Chester Spur Line would increase the length of areas available for inline skating.

Ms. MacInnis reported that a trail must be paved in order to be used by inline skaters. She explained the difficulty of balancing the number of paved trails, which required winter maintenance, and added that winter use of trails by skiers precluded paving and maintaining every trail.

The Vice Chair suggested posting information for inline skaters on the Active Transportation and trails websites. She explained that locations available for inline skating could be listed as well as indicating future areas of development.

A discussion ensued regarding use of bike lanes for inline skating.

Ms. MacInnis explained that consideration of areas would have to be done on a case by case basis and that some lanes were not wide enough. She added that the Traffic Authority had the final say on this issue and therefore, all requests had to be vetted through them.

Ms. MacInnis volunteered to arrange for an inventory of all areas where people could legally inline skate.

The Vice Chair volunteered to follow up with Mr. Tasok Koutroulzikis, Acting Manager of Traffic and Right of Way, regarding this issue.

The Vice Chair indicated she would follow up with Ms. Jeffrey regarding her letter and the Committee's discussion.

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS - None

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 One Way Street Discussion

Ms. MacInnis informed the Committee of an initiative to turn downtown streets into one way couplets. She explained that bike lanes would be incorporated, southbound on Hollis Street and northbound on Water Street. She noted that a meeting with the Downtown Business Commission had been held on Thursday, April 8, 2010 regarding this initiative.

Ms. MacInnis noted that the proposal would increase parking and also create pedestrian- and transit-oriented streets.

A discussion followed regarding the merits of the initiative.

The Vice Chair clarified that the bike lanes would run on the opposite side of parking and also reported that a letter had been received by Council concerning parking in bike lanes.

The Vice Chair requested that Mr. David McCusker, Manager of Regional Transportation be invited to present to the Committee regarding this issue.

9.2 Downtown AT Trail

The Vice Chair reported that Ms. Nicole May, Planner, was working on an AT trail in the downtown area.

The Vice Chair requested that Ms. May be invited to present to the Committee.

9.3 Gorsebrook

- Photo of the location was submitted.
- Map of the location was submitted.

Ms. MacInnis informed the Committee that a resident had inquired as to why they could not get through the bike barrier at the end of Gorsebrook Road by the Sobey's Building parking lot. She explained that there was a sidewalk to the trail on the other side but that the cyclist was reluctant to use it if there was another way to get through.

Ms. MacInnis indicated that neither Traffic nor Design and Construction was involved with this matter.

A discussion ensued regarding available options.

Ms. MacIsaac indicated that the site would need to be evaluated and that the issue should go to Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning, as it had a tie in with the Halifax Urban Greenway Initiative.

9.4 Halifax Urban Greenway Initiative (HUGA)

Councillor Hendsbee reported on the Halifax Urban Greenway Initiative (HUGA). He explained that Mr. Bigelow presented at a Halifax Regional Trails meeting concerning achievements to date and current gaps that have been identified. Councillor Hendsbee explained he noted many similarities between Mr. Bigelow's presentation and many of the Committee's discussions.

The Vice Chair requested that Mr. Bigelow be invited to present to the Committee at their May or June meeting.

Mr. Scrutton asked that the requested presentations be put on one agenda as an information session with discussion following at the next meeting.

Mr. Regan noted that the issue of civic addresses at regional trails needed to be addressed as it impacted upon the ability of Access-A-Bus to pick up passengers.

9.5 Changing Gears Workshop

The Vice Chair reported that she had attended the Halifax Cycling Coalition's Changing Gears Workshop.

Ms. Sim indicated that a report on the workshop would be produced and that she would

forward it the Committee.

9.6 When Ontario Bikes, Ontario Benefits

The Vice Chair highlighted for the Committee a new initiative in Ontario called When Ontario Bikes, Ontario Benefits. The document can be found on the Share the Road website (www.sharetheroad.ca).

9.7 - ZEBRA CROSSWALK MARKINGS

- Zebra Crosswalk Markings - Halifax Regional Council Information Report was before the Committee.

Councillor Hendsbee noted an inconsistent standard in crosswalks and pointed to the need for a unified approach. He added that some crosswalks were not even marked.

A discussion followed regarding the means by which pedestrians safely cross intersections.

The Vice Chair highlighted the need for more investigation regarding pedestrian safety and asked each member of the Committee to do some research into the issue and bring ideas to the next meeting.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting was scheduled for May 20, 2010.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:44p.m.