

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES

April 14, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Debbie Hum  
Mr. Ted Scrutton  
Mr. Tom Boyd  
Mr. David Jackson  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Mr. Lawrence Plug

REGRETS: Mr. Myles McCallum  
Ms. Gai Thomas  
Mr. Scott MacPhee

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Anne Sherwood, Design Engineer  
Ms. Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1.	CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2.	ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR.....	3
3.	UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS .....	3
4.	APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 31, 2011 .....	4
5.	APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	4
6.	BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES .....	4
	6.1 Subcommittee Updates.....	4
	6.1.1 Bike Week 2011 .....	4
	6.1.2 Safety/Education .....	4
	6.2 Overview of the Active Transportation Strategy and Implications for the 2011/2012 Budget .....	5
7.	CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE.....	6
8.	CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS .....	6
	8.1 Correspondence .....	6
	8.1.2 Correspondence from Transportation Standing Committee – Chair	6
	8.2 Petitions – None .....	6
	8.3 Presentations.....	6
	8.3.1 HRM Sidewalk Program – Ms. Anne Sherwood, Design Engineer .	6
	8.3.2 Regional Trails Program – Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator .....	7
	8.3.3 HRM Bike Program – Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator .....	8
9.	REPORTS - NONE.....	8
10.	ADDED ITEMS .....	8
	10.1 Reimbursement for Work-Related Bicycle Trips - Councillor Watts .....	8
	10.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 16, 2010 & February 17, 2011 ....	7
	10.3 Bike Week 2011.....	7
	10.4 Correspondence from Transportation Standing Committee – Chair .....	7
	10.5 Earth Day Events – Chair .....	9
11.	PUBLIC PARTICIPATION .....	9
12.	NEXT MEETING DATE – May 19, 2011 .....	9
13.	ADJOURNMENT .....	9

## 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. in the Bloomfield Centre.

## 2. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

**MOVED by Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Councillor Watts be elected Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee for 2011.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

**MOVED by Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that Councillor Hum be elected Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee for 2011.  
MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 3. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Scrutton advised that an Active Transportation gathering would be held on June 9 and 10, 2011 in Dundee, Cape Breton and invited members to attend; noting that he, Ms. Pugh, Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator and Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trail Coordinator would all be attending.

Ms. Koblents provided the following announcements:

- The annual Nova Scotia Bike Summit will be held on May 7, 2011 in Salmon River, Yarmouth
- A winner has been chosen for the Bike Rack Design Competition and will be formally announced at the Earth Day Celebrations on April 20, 2011
- June is Active Transportation Month and \$500 grants are available to community groups to create events
- The Dutch Economic Ambassador, Mr. Hans Moor, will be in Halifax on May 5 and 6, 2011 for a public lecture and Planning Conference
- New amendments to the One Metre Rule will be proclaimed on June 1, 2011 and staff would like to hold a province-wide relay. Members were encouraged to let staff know if they would like to participate

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator, stated that staff were looking for photos of people biking and roller blading on the Chain of Lakes Trails, the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail and the Bedford Sackville Greenway Connector in order to create bus signs in June and July.

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 31, 2011**

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Plug that the minutes of March 31, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

Additions:

- 10.1 Reimbursement for Work-Related Bicycle Trips - Councillor Watts  
Ratification of Motions - March 31, 2011
- 10.2 Approval of Minutes - December 16, 2010 & February 17, 2011
- 10.3 Bike Week 2011
- 10.4 Correspondence from Transportation Standing Committee – Chair
- 10.5 Earth Day Events - Chair

**MOVED by Mr. Plug, seconded by Councillor Hum that the agenda be accepted as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES**

**6.1 Subcommittee Updates**

**6.1.1 Bike Week 2011**

- i) Bike Week Subcommittee Minutes dated March 21, 2011

Ms. Koblents provided a verbal update on Bike Week 2011. Highlights were as follows:

- Staff are accepting grant applications from schools and school groups to hold events on June 1, 2011
- Grants will be awarded in the first week of May 2011
- Mountain Equipment Co-op has sponsored a school bike day
- CBC communications staff will be Bike Week's media sponsor
- The Bike Week 2011 website should be active in about one week and there is no deadline to add electronic events

The Chair thanked the Bike Week 2011 subcommittee and encouraged the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to attend and support Bike Week.

**6.1.2 Safety/Education**

The Chair provided an update from the most recent Safety/Education Subcommittee meeting. Highlights were as follows:

- Bill 93 and the opportunity for an education strategy were discussed

- There may be an opportunity to do further education for cycling and active transportation with the SWITCH project and the Subcommittee is investigating how to better support this project
- A public education process for the Cross Town Connector was discussed which Ms. Koblents will bring back at the next meeting
- A school travel planning program received a \$5,000 grants from the Sustainable Environment Management Office

In closing, the Chair stated that the subcommittee decided on four areas they would like to explore as follows:

1. School Travel Planning Programs;
2. The Ecology Action Centre Making Tracks Program;
3. The SWITCH Program;
4. The Skating Oval as a site to conduct active transportation training or education during non-winter months

The Chair asked if the Committee would like to endorse these areas for the subcommittee to explore.

**MOVED by Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee endorse in principle that the Safety/Education Subcommittee explore ways to enhance four active transportation areas as follows:**

1. School Travel Planning Programs;
2. The Ecology Action Centre Making Tracks Program;
3. The SWITCH Program
4. The Skating Oval Site

Discussion on the motion ensued.

It was noted that roller blading and skateboarding would be addressed at the next Subcommittee meeting.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## **6.2 Overview of the Active Transportation Strategy and Implications for the 2011/2012 Budget**

A report dated April 5, 2011 was before the Committee.

The Chair provided background on the report dated April 5, 2011 from the Committee; noting that it had gone to the Regional Trails Association and the Transportation Standing Committee. She stated that the Transportation Standing Committee had revised the original motion and it would be brought forward to the 2011/2012 Regional Council budget debate. The Chair indicated that there may not be much funding for

active transportation available this budget year; however, the idea was to at least get on the agenda and look at incorporation in the five year cycle.

A discussion ensued.

Ms. Koblents stated that staff were now focussing on small key items such as the Burnside Drive Trail which was shovel ready and required funding to go to tender. It was noted that funding for the whole project including a trail and bridge was not available at a total of approximately \$600,000.

The Chair advised that she would discuss this matter with the Chief Administrative Officer to see who the Committee should approach to endorse and encourage active transportation funding.

**7. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**8. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**8.1 Correspondence**

**8.1.2 Correspondence from Transportation Standing Committee – Chair**

Correspondence dated April 11, 2011 was submitted.

The Chair stated that correspondence came to the Transportation Standing Committee regarding commuter cyclists and the way drivers, including Metro Transit drivers, interact with them. The correspondence suggested that Metro Transit drivers be provided with more education and consideration when it comes to cyclists. The Chair advised that education and enforcement was necessary and harassment was not allowed; noting that if such incidences occur, a licence plate number should be reported. She also suggested a media campaign regarding proper driving etiquette.

Mr. Plug stated that there would be a campaign around Bill 93 with the message, “share the road. Here’s how”; noting that some information should be available in early May for Police Week and the Bike Summit.

Ms. Koblents suggested not dividing people into two groups as many residents drive and cycle. She stated that she found a good training video for busses and cyclists produced in Chicago which she could show the Committee at the next meeting.

**8.2 Petitions – None**

**8.3 Presentations**

**8.3.1 HRM Sidewalk Program – Ms. Anne Sherwood, Design Engineer**

Ms. Anne Sherwood, Design Engineer, provided the presentation on the HRM Sidewalk Program.

A discussion on the presentation ensued with staff responding to questions.

Ms. Sherwood stated that sidewalks and multi use trails had a different set of standards and staff were looking to be more consistent to find the best fit for the specific area where the sidewalk or trail would be installed.

Ms. Koblents stated that there would be a provincial discussion on the best way to look at active transportation on rural cross roads since paved shoulders, as Councillor Hendsbee suggested, were less costly than sidewalks.

Ms. Sherwood stated that sidewalks are built out of concrete rather than asphalt for longevity and maintenance purposes; noting that sidewalks did not have the same users as trails which were paved with asphalt.

The Chair suggested that the Committee commit itself to finding models that would be useful to staff regarding alternative and creative ways to install sidewalks.

### **Ratification of Motions - March 31, 2011**

#### **10.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 16, 2010 & February 17, 2011**

The following motion was dealt with at the March 31, 2011 meeting and, as quorum was not present at that time, was now before the Committee for ratification:

**MOVED by Mr. Plug, seconded by Mr. Scrutton that the minutes of December 16, 2010 & February 17, 2011 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### **10.3 Bike Week 2011**

The following motion was dealt with at the March 31, 2011 meeting and, as quorum was not present at that time, was now before the Committee for ratification:

**MOVED by Councillor Hum, seconded by Mr. Scrutton that the Ride your Riding invitation be sent to Councillors. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Hendsbee left the meeting at 5:42 p.m.

#### **8.3.2 Regional Trails Program – Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator**

Due to lack of time, this item was deferred to the May 19, 2011 meeting.

**8.3.3 HRM Bike Program – Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator**

Due to lack of time, this item was deferred to the May 19, 2011 meeting.

**9. REPORTS - NONE**

**10. ADDED ITEMS**

**10.1 Reimbursement for Work-Related Bicycle Trips - Councillor Watts**

A report dated April 13, 2011 was submitted.

The Chair advised that the report dated April 13, 2011 came from a request she brought to the Transportation Standing Committee as a way to get compensation for employees who bike to work. She stated that there is precedent for this in other cities and compensation was usually \$2.00 per trip; noting that the Sustainable Environment Management Office had an interest in purchasing bikes for staff to use to get to meetings. The Chair indicated that a report on this matter would be forwarded to the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee. In closing, she noted that there have been concerns and discussion regarding appropriate travel distance.

Councillor Hum left the meeting at 5:48 p.m. and quorum was lost.

Ms. Koblents stated that there were many misconceptions about this request and that it was sustainable, healthy and economical. She indicated that the Chief Administrative Officer would ultimately decide on reimbursement if the idea is approved.

As quorum had been lost, the Chair stated that this item would be deferred to the May 19, 2011 agenda to potentially move a motion supporting staff access to a bike share program.

**Ratification of Motions - March 31, 2011**

**10.2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES - December 16, 2010 & February 17, 2011**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 7.

**10.3 Bike Week 2011**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting. Please see page 7.

**10.4 Correspondence from Transportation Standing Committee – Chair**

This item was dealt with earlier in the meeting under Correspondence. Please see page 6.



**10.5 Earth Day Events – Chair**

Ms. Koblents reviewed the Earth Day Events previously distributed to the Committee via email.

**11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no one wishing to speak at this time.

**12. NEXT MEETING DATE – May 19, 2011**

**13. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:56 p.m.

Shawnee Gregory  
Legislative Assistant