

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTES

September 15, 2011

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Mr. David Jackson
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Mr. Myles McCallum

REGRETS: Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Lawrence Plug
Mr. Troy Nauffts
Mr. Ted Scrutton
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Scott MacPhee

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator
Mr. Dave Mclassic, TDM Program Supervisor
Ms. Sarah Pellerine, Legislative Support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. CALL TO ORDER.....	3
2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS	3
3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 18, 2011	3
4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS.....	4
5. STAFF UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS.....	4
5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.....	4
5.1 Potential Modifications of Bicycling Rules in Provincial Legislation	4
5.2 Civic Addressing for Trails	5
5.3 Draft Active Transportation Plan Review	5
5.4 2011 Work Plan	6
5.5 Licensing of Bikes.....	6
5.6 Push Button Activated Lights.....	6
6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERED BUSINESS	6
7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS	6
7.1 Correspondence	6
7.1.1 Public Gardens No Bicycle Rule – Ms. Marla MacLeod	6
7.2 Petitions	7
7.2.1 Letter From Citizen	7
7.3 Presentations	7
8. REPORTS	7
9. ADDED ITEMS.....	7
9.1 Bike Maintenance	7
9.2 Crosstown Connector	7
9.3 Status Update Sheet.....	7
9.4 Bridge Access.....	8
9.5 Helmet Law Speaker	8
11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE.....	8
12. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 20, 2011.....	8
13. ADJOURNMENT	8

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08PM in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre, Halifax.

It was noted the Committee did not have quorum. The Committee agreed they would like to continue with the meeting for discussion purposes with no motions given.

2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chair would like to add an additional bullet after number 4 to be left for staff updates and keep the Updates and Announcement section solely for Community updates.

It was announced that Dalhousie is hosting an open house on the Draft Transportation Management Plan, which will be held in the Student Union Building on September 28th, 2011. There will be a presentation from a consultation firm discussing transportation around Dalhousie, mainly how to move people throughout the campus effectively. It was noted that this is not in conjunction with the industry transportation plan, which included Dalhousie, Saint Mary's, Capital Health and the Downtown Business core, but they will eventually be integrated together. The Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) noted that during Dalhousie Frosh Week there were biking events held, as well as some Smart Cycle events.

Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) announced that their annual trail camp will be held November 4-6, 2011. It was noted that bus boards will be put up throughout November and December to promote trails as a year-round alternative, this is expected to increase some traffic to the website as well. Another way their website traffic has increased was by putting up the trails challenge.

The Ecology Action Centre noted that October is International Walk to School Month. As well, the first week of October is International Walk to School week, with October 5th being International Walk to School Day.

The Chair also brought the widening of Bayer's Road petition to the Committees' awareness, stating this could be a good way to promote active transportation alternatives.

3. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – August 18, 2011

It was noted that in section 2, the last sentence should read ... The Committee would like to have an accessible trike demonstration made during Bike Week.

Motional for approval deferred to the next meeting.

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

Changes:

8.1 Draft Active Transportation Plan Review is now 5.3

5.4 2011 Work Plan

5.5 Licensing of bikes

5.6 Push button activated lights

7.1.2 Family Cycling in the HRM

9.1 Bike maintenance

9.2 Crosstown connector

9.3 Status sheet

5. STAFF UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

An update was given regarding 200 bike racks to be put in place around HRM, it was noted that the racks will be coming from a local company and 130 racks are expected to be put in place by October 31, 2011. The 130 racks will go within the downtown Halifax area and the 70 extra racks will hopefully go in Dartmouth early next year. These racks are meant to go into places that are extremely urban that are looking for places to park bikes, but are currently unable to do so based on location.

The new one-way street system in the downtown core will start Monday, September 19, 2011, with the bike lane along Lower Water Street happening on Sunday. It was noted there have been warning signs placed around the city informing the public of the upcoming street changes. It was also noted that the bike lane along Hollis Street will not happen until next year.

It was brought to the attention of the Committee that Council has the approval for 1 million dollars for use on the multi-use trail, which will connect Burnside to Bedford/Sackville. As well there has been approval on linking transit from Highfield Park to the Burnside Business Centre over the existing overpass.

The bike valet equipment is being tested by Clean Nova Scotia to see if there are any environmental effects, as well the staff will commence to take the equipment to events, starting with the Atlantic Film Festival.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Potential Modifications of Bicycling Rules in Provincial Legislation

It was noted to the Committee that both the HCC and Ecology Action Centre have submitted comments on the proposed modifications to the Motor Vehicle Act.

There was discussion and consensus among the Committee with regards to submitting the previously discussed modifications to the Motor Vehicle Act on official letterhead. The six members at the meeting were all in agreement and the Chair will contact absent members to gain their approval for the submission.

5.2 Civic Addressing for Trails

The Chair had a discussion with police with regards to trail addresses and cell phone GPS. The police noted that cell phone GPS use back to dispatch depends on the type of cellular phone a person has, what their location services are, reception on the phone as well as the type of GPS on the phone. If the GPS is working on the cellular phone based on pole-to-pole triangulation the police can narrow down the location in an urban setting from 200m to 5km and in a more rural setting from 500m to 25km.

It was noted to place the topic on the Status Update Sheet, so the Committee will remember to talk to additional people on this topic, as well as HRTA is to speak about this.

5.3 Draft Active Transportation Plan Review

Staff provided a brief update on the Draft Active Transportation Plan Review.

Mr. Regan put a request out to the various trail groups and community stakeholders with regards to rails to trails, stating there should be more of these within the province. It was noted staff has received these comments and they will be taken into consideration.

In response to the question raised with regards to the "Map" talked about on page 3 item 7, it was noted that this is in reference to the big map which has been in use for many years with all trails and potential trails located on it.

Mr. Regan inquired if there could be a special consultation meeting which would take place with the sole topic being the Active Transportation Plan Review.

It was noted to place the topic of an update on the HRM Plan as well as an update on the liaison between communities outside the HRM and the HRM on the Status Update Sheet.

Proposed Motion to be carried forward to next meeting:

MOVED that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee consider approving the initiation of a 5 year Planning Review of the Active Transportation's Functional Plan. Which is to be overseen and implemented by the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as outlined in the attached Terms of Reference dated September 2011.

5.4 2011 Work Plan

An overview of the Committees work plan is as follows:

- Meet on a regular basis to provide information to each other as well as HRM staff
- Education and Safety Committee – look at Making Tracks and participating in the support of Bike Week as well as looking into increasing staff members.
- Perform the Active Transportation Plan review
- Review the bike map
- Look into the Crosstown Connector consultation process
- Look into cycling in HRM parks

5.5 Licensing of Bikes

The concern about licensing bikes is so that if a person is not using a bike in the proper manor there can be consequence. This is felt to be an important issue so that people can move about HRM in a safe manor. Comments from the police is that it would be expensive and a license plate on a bike would be irrelevant because no one would be able to see the plate to take a plate number to report an incident.

In the first six months of 2011 there have been the following tickets issued on the Peninsula:

- 28 for no helmet
- 7 driving on sidewalks
- 1 driving without a light
- 1 driving to far to the right

5.6 Push Button Activated Lights

It was noted that in the May 19th, 2011 meeting minutes it was brought up that this issue should be addressed. The Committee would like to have this brought to the next meeting under item 8.2, and would like to have an update on this topic.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERED BUSINESS - NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

7.1.1 Public Gardens No Bicycle Rule – Ms. Marla MacLeod

Staff read the letter to the Committee from Ms. MacLeod.

There was discussion around the issue among the Committee and it was requested to staff to have the roles of the various park committees as well as the history of the rules brought to an upcoming meeting so that the Active Transportation Committee can

construct a letter so go to the park committees. The letter was dealing with the Public Gardens but it is a know issue in various other parks around the HRM.

7.2 Petitions

7.2.1 Letter From Citizen

The Chair read a letter from an HRM citizen wondering how children can ride their bikes on the sidewalks safely in a way that protects pedestrians using the sidewalks currently.

It was discussed there should be more education around how to ride on the sidewalk safely, but also noted children should be taught how to bike on the road and not on the sidewalk. The Motor Vehicle Act was quoted stating children can ride a velocipede in a public space, which would be a sidewalk.

The Committee would like to have Ms. Pugh bring back the definition of a velocipede and that of a child under the Motor Vehicle Act. The Chair will contact HRM legal department for their interpretation of this rule as well.

7.3 Presentations - NONE

8. REPORTS

This item was moved to 5.3

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Bike Maintenance

It was noted the Transportation Standing Committee will see the information at the next meeting.

9.2 Crosstown Connector

It was noted that now that Mr. McIsaac is on board this seems to be moving along and there are consultants looking at possible route drawing considerations. The only impact that is known as of now is loss of parking along roadsides.

The public consultation should happen in November and the Committee would like to discuss this topic at the next meeting to see what type of a role they can play at the public meeting.

9.3 Status Update Sheet

The Chair would like to have would like to have a status sheet started to keep track of on going topics.

9.4 Bridge Access

It was brought to the attention of the Committee that in 2014 there will be work on the MacDonald Bridge which will affect bike and pedestrian traffic. The Committee would like to have a representative from the bridge commission at the next meeting or an upcoming meeting to speak about these changes to the bridge.

9.5 Helmet Law Speaker

The Chair noted there is a person who would like to come in front of the Committee and speak about the helmet law and why it should not be put in place. The Committee said they would hear a 5 minute presentation on this subject.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE

12. NEXT MEETING DATE – October 20, 2011

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:57PM.

Sarah Pellerine
Legislative Support