

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

February 16, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Troy Nauffts
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. Myles McCallum
Mr. David Jackson
Mr. John MacLennan

REGRETS: Mr. Lawrence Plug
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Devon Peavoy

STAFF: Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trail Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:10 p.m. in Room 108 Bloomfield Centre.

2. UPDATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- The Chair introduced and welcomed Mr. Angus Knox, visitor and observer, to the meeting.
- Mr. MacGregor noted that the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) would host a free two-hour seminar on bike safety on March 22, 2012 at Dalhousie University, location details will be posted on the HCC website.
- Councillor Hendsbee provided an update on the future re-decking of the MacDonald Bridge and how this will affect cyclists.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 19, 2012

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Jackson that the minutes of January 19, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. MacGregor requested that the HCC “Crosstown Connector: Information Sheet” be added as a new item. The Committee agreed.

MOVED by Ms. Pugh, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Status of Current Active Transportation Initiatives – Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management

A memorandum dated February 10, 2012 was before the Committee.

Mr. MacIsaac provided a brief presentation on the status of current active transportation (AT) initiatives and projects. He explained roadway bike sensor “puck” technology and noted that the Ecology Action Centre will deliver AT skills and safety training for youth this spring. He added that a specific HRM neighborhood will be chosen for a small “drill-down” study on sustainability, including how social marketing is effective in changing travel patterns and AT behavior.

Committee members provided feedback on how to prioritize the projects by safety and hazard reduction and by how a project contributes to connecting and building a coherent AT system.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence -- None

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations -- None

8. REPORTS

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

Mr. MacGregor circulated a HCC draft version of a safety flyer that could be attached to bicycle handlebars at sales (or other) locations.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac stated that Bike Week is May 25 – June 3, 2012. He added that the sub-committee is meeting monthly, the next meeting is March 8, and the call for events has gone out. He noted that groups applying may be eligible for a \$250.00 grant from HRM, there has already been a good response from previous participants who want to sponsor events, and his office is encouraging participation by Business Improvement Associations. A call for volunteers will go out closer to the event date.

Mr. MacGregor informed the members of several HCC proposed events including art projects in galleries, a photography display at City Hall, a movie night, a video contest and a Bike Fest street party.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Ms. Debaie provided an update on the Halifax North West Trails Association Linear Parkway connection, the Barrington Street Trail, and the Trans Canada Trail connection with Point Pleasant Park and the Halifax Waterfront. She noted the recent Chain of Lakes Trail Association and the Second Lake Regional Park Association open houses, and the spring 2012 release of the Bike and Trail map.

She also informed the Committee that HRM is working with the provincial Department of Natural Resources and the Department of Health and Wellness to develop a community

consultation process for the use of acquired rail corridors. She concluded her report by noting that improved coordination has resulted in new trail head civic address numbers that provide additional Access-a-Bus stops to guaranteed wheelchair accessible trails.

8.1.4 Staff

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the position of Active Transportation Coordinator has been posted as a term position. He added that work is ongoing with the provincial Department of Transportation on how cyclists and visually-impaired pedestrians can safely negotiate roundabouts. He also noted that the area inventories are underway for the north-south bike corridors, with public consultations proposed for March 2012.

8.1.5 Committee Members

No additional reports.

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Proposed New Cross-Section for Rural Roads – Implications for Active Transportation – Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management

A Memorandum dated February 10, 2012 was before the Committee.

Mr. MacIsaac circulated an additional graphic of existing and alternative cross-sections for travel lanes along part of Hammonds Plains Road. Committee members expressed concern about underbuilding the infrastructure for future growth in cycling and about the width and safety of the shoulders and bike lanes. Ms. Pugh noted that provincial standards are a one-metre bike lane at lower speed limits (70 kilometres per hour or under) and 1.5 metres at higher speeds.

8.2.2 Kickstand & Copenhagenize Workshops – Follow Up and Discussion

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that more than 200 participants attended the free Copenhagenize seminar which emphasized strategies to make cycling a mainstream activity. He added that the conference overall drew great attendance and unified support from across the province. The Chair noted that the conference keynote speakers also provided a session to HRM Councillors.

8.2.3 Future Agenda Items

The Chair informed members that a representative from the Halifax Bridge Commission would attend the June 2012 meeting to discuss the retreading of the MacDonald Bridge.

She also suggested that the March 2012 agenda should include a discussion of how the Committee and its goals can most effectively be involved in the AT Review. Mr. MacGregor stated that AT and sustainable transportation as upcoming municipal election issues should be a future ATAC agenda item.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Halifax Cycling Coalition “Crosstown Connector: Information Sheet”

Mr. MacGregor circulated an information sheet on the crosstown connector route promoted by HCC and noted that HCC would make a presentation to the Regional Council Transportation Standing Committee on February 23, 2012. The Chair stated that ATAC could not endorse one proposed route over another prior to public consultations but could support the implementation of a crosstown connector.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. McCallum that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee express its support for the implementation of a crosstown connector bicycle corridor. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – March 15, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support