

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

May 17, 2012

- PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Councillor Debbie Hum, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Myles McCallum
Mr. John MacLennan
Mr. Troy Nauffts
- REGRETS: Mr. David Jackson
Ms. Devon Peavoy
Mr. Lawrence Plug
- STAFF: Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator
Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Mr. Don Ambler, HRM Regional Trails, Regional Planning
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan informed the Committee of the Youth Bike Rodeo on May 26, 2012, organized by the Sackville Rivers Association, and of the Musquodoboit Trailway Hike and Bike Extravaganza on June 2, 2012. He also noted that the Dartmouth Development Plan would be presented later that evening, May 17, 2012.
- Mr. Don Ambler, on behalf of Ms. Jessie Debaie, Regional Trails, provided an update on the Halifax Urban Greenway Association opening event on May 26, 2012. He added that the Halifax Northwest Trails Association would celebrate the opening of their information kiosk, located in front of the Canada Games Centre, on June 2, 2012, International Trails Day.
- Councillor Hum announced the May 31, 2012 public meeting at St. Peter's Church Hall to discuss the Blue Mountain/Birch Cove area. She also informed the Committee that the Bedford Watershed Study was now available through the Bedford Watershed Advisory Board and that the Board was seeking community feedback by June 7, 2012.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 19, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. McCallum that the minutes of April 19, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Chair requested the following added items:

- 9.1 Walkability Workshops
- 9.2 The Active Transportation Review
- 9.3 The June ATAC agenda

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hum that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES -- NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence -- None

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Intersection Street Art Project – Ms. Kate MacLennan, Community Arts Facilitator, HRM

As all the presenters were not yet available, the Committee agreed to return to this item later in the agenda.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

The Chair noted that this sub-committee has not met due to involvement in a number of Bike Week events. She requested that members send her any safety and education suggestions after Bike Week.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac circulated the Bike Week flyer and noted that the event received increased sponsorship this year, with some events taking place off the peninsula. The Chair added that use of the Oval for trikes would be part of Bike Week.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Regan provided an update on the recent meeting between HRTA and the HRM Transportation Committee to discuss the Sackville Trails and Greenway. He also noted that HRM and HRTA have signed a trail maintenance agreement and have created templates for contact information and to clarify roles and responsibilities.

8.1.4 Staff

Mr. MacIsaac provided information on summer student AT projects. He noted that further suggestions were received during a recent meeting with the Agricola Street Merchants Association regarding the North-South Bike Corridor and that there was Provincial and Quest funding for one additional public consultation, to be held in June or July 2012, on the corridor. In response to questions, he clarified the following:

- The role of the Traffic Authority
- the four proposed corridor routes are still under discussion
- he would return to this Committee to work toward a route recommendation to go forward through the Council process
- data and feedback from the previous public consultations are on the HRM website and members are encouraged to circulate the information

Mr. Ambler informed the Committee that the Barrington Street Greenway (from the MacDonald Bridge to Cornwallis Street) was nearing completion; he circulated photographs. He added that TransCanada Trail funding has been secured to assist with signage and benches. He also updated the Committee on the Mainland North Linear Parkway extension.

The Committee agreed to hear item 7.3.1 at this time.

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Intersection Street Art Project – Ms. Kate MacLennan, Community Arts Facilitator, HRM

Ms. MacLennan introduced Ms. Sophia Horwitz and Mr. Eli Gordon, community volunteers working with her on this project.

The presenters described the Northwood Terrace/Black Street intersection and the surrounding neighbourhood, stating that the intersection is confusing and prone to traffic accidents. They explained that the purpose of the “pavement mural” is to draw attention to the intersection in order to increase safety and develop community solutions. They gave examples of similar initiatives in other cities. They noted that residents of the Northwood Seniors Residence and organizers of the Northwood 50th anniversary celebration are enthusiastic about being part of the project. In response to questions from the Committee, they clarified the following:

- a vehicle traffic count is underway to help determine how long the mural will last
- the mural will be designed in consultation with the community, outlined in chalk and then painted in one day, with the intent that it will last approximately one year
- the homeowner sign-off needed on the intersection corners (100%) and the immediate adjacent blocks (80%) for the project concept and final design
- the potential for a time-lapse photography record of the intersection painting and other video documentation so other areas in HRM could launch similar projects

Ms. MacLennan agreed that she would send an electronic version of their presentation to the Legislative Assistant to be distributed to the Committee members as well as a Facebook link to the project.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacLennan that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee endorse the Intersection Street Art Project as a pilot project and that the Committee encourage the organizers to provide ATAC with regular updates. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee returned to the order of business at this time.

8.1.5 Committee Members

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the Halifax Cycling Coalition is preparing a survey for business patrons on Agricola Street to gather information on how patrons access the area. He added that an HCC representative is scheduled to meet with the Bridge Commission to discuss the retreading project.

Ms. Barlow circulated a flyer produced by the Ecology Action Centre (EAC) titled "Active Transportation 101" that encourages residents to download an AT toolkit. She noted that the EAC is working with the Province on policies to address sustainable transportation, prevent childhood obesity (the THRIVE program), a road safety action plan, and promoting youth safety while using forms of AT. She added that the EAC is also advocating for increased Provincial funding for municipal AT projects.

Ms. Pugh clarified the connections between AT, sustainable transportation and the Provincial departments of the Environment, and Health and Wellness.

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Bicycle Boulevards and Traffic Calming – Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator

Ms. Jacobs circulated a handout titled "Bicycle Boulevards" and provided a presentation on the function of "sharrows", bike lanes, and bicycle boulevards. She confirmed that on such boulevards, bicycles set the pace of traffic and have priority over other vehicles.

The Chair clarified that bicycle boulevards are not part of the current AT Plan; however, the goal is for staff and residents to become better informed about this option.

8.2.1 Consultant's Report re: Chain of Lakes Trail Connection to the Peninsula – Mr. Dave MacIsaac, Transportation Demand Management Supervisor

Mr. MacIsaac presented a summary of the report and showed a series of maps indicating potential connecting trails into the peninsula. He noted that the connectors would be dedicated cyclist/pedestrian trails, not multi-use, and that the trails would have "wayfinding" signage. Committee members requested a list of pros and cons for each proposed route and approximate costs. Mr. MacIsaac agreed to provide additional details and encouraged members to then respond with their feedback. He added that if the report is available on the HRM website, he will request that the Legislative Assistant forward the link to ATAC members.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Walkability Workshops

This item was deferred to the June ATAC agenda.

9.2 The Active Transportation Review

Ms. Jacobs informed the Committee that the work plan is underway, the first meeting was held on May 9, 2012 and she would provide a more detailed report on the Review at the June ATAC meeting.

9.3 The June ATAC Agenda

The Chair informed the Committee that representatives from the Bridge Commission would make a presentation at the June ATAC meeting about the MacDonald Bridge retreading.

She noted that the Head Gardener for the Halifax Public Gardens had offered to speak to the Committee about the recent trial period permitting cyclists to walk their bikes through the Gardens and the decision to increase bike parking but revert to the policy of no bikes allowed. Committee members agreed that they did not require a presentation or additional information on this matter.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE -- June 21, 2012

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support