

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 21, 2012

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

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1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:01 p.m. in Room 108, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan informed the Committee of the Sackville Rivers Association Open House on June 27, 2012 at 6:30 p.m. in Acadia Hall, Sackville. He added that trail conditions would be discussed.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 17, 2012

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the minutes of May 17, 2012 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee agreed to hear item 7.3.1 after item 4. The Committee agreed to add an update on the June 20, 2012 meeting on accessibility under item 9.

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

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Macdonald Bridge Suspended Span Redecking Project – Halifax Harbour Bridges

- An Information Report dated June 8, 2012 titled Macdonald Bridge Sidewalk Deck Panels was before the Committee.

Mr. Steve Snider, Ms. Alison MacDonald and Mr. Jon Eppell provided a presentation on behalf of Halifax Harbour Bridges, using maps, diagrams, photographs and a scale model. The anticipated bridge closure schedule was explained and the proposed shuttle service for cyclists and pedestrians. The presenters also described the forthcoming Request for Proposals (RFP) process to salvage and re-use the existing sidewalk and bikeway panels as Active Transportation (AT) bridges or other projects. In response to questions from the Committee, the presenters provided clarification on the following points:

- the width of the panels and the potential role for HRM in storing panels until they can be used in community or HRM AT projects
- the changes to the bridge design and the possibility of allowing power-assisted bicycles
- the current twice-annual count of cyclists and the need for additional counts
- Halifax Harbour Bridges ownership and running of the shuttle vans and temporary waiting shelters and how the schedule would be determined

The Chair noted the budget allocated to messaging targeting drivers about traffic congestion during the redecking. She requested that the presenters take the message back to Halifax Harbour Bridges that the redecking was an opportunity to change patterns and improve access to the bridge for cyclists which would assist in reducing congestion. Committee members mentioned options such as free ferry service for cyclists during the closure, some AT access to the three car lanes during the times the lanes are open. The presenters were asked to keep the Committee informed of forthcoming communications plans directed at cyclists and pedestrians so that they can assist in getting the information out via the members' networks.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hum that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee consider requesting an analysis of the opportunity of reconfiguration of the Halifax side of the bicycle lane as part of the Macdonald Bridge redecking project, and that Metro Transit consider the project an opportunity to recapture and enhance use of public transit. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5.1 Active Transportation Plan Review – Ms. Maria Jacobs, Active Transportation Coordinator

Ms. Jacobs provided an update on recent meetings held with HRM Business Units and with Provincial departments and noted that the table of contents for the AT Plan Review was forthcoming. In response to a request from the Chair, Ms. Jacobs agreed to forward the draft table of contents to the Legislative Assistant to be circulated to ATAC members.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Walkability Workshop – Chair

The Chair noted that this workshop took place in addition to the AT Conference and encouraged members who recalled specific walkability recommendations to forward them to Mr. MacIsaac or Ms. Jacobs so that the recommendations could be included in the AT Review.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence -- None

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Macdonald Bridge Suspended Span Redecking Project – Halifax Harbour Bridges

This item was dealt with previously, see page three.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Updates

8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee

The Chair stated that the sub-committee has not met but could arrange to meet if a specific task or issue arose. Committee members entered into a discussion of a recent crosswalk fatality and whether ATAC's role should include receiving investigation reports of serious crosswalk accidents and the subsequent recommendations.

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. MacLennan that the Active Transportation Standing Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee consider their request that the investigation reports of serious crosswalk accidents and the report recommendations be forwarded to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as information items. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that a survey of event organizers has been completed and a report on Bike Week will be available once additional feedback is gathered at an upcoming appreciation event.

8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA)

Mr. Regan provided an update on provincial Department of Health and Wellness funding to HRTA community groups. He informed the Committee that preliminary counts indicate that more than 50,000 residents use the Chain of Lake Trail and that designated COLTA members are learning about providing counts for other greenways. He added that the Sackville Rivers Association is doing a call for proposals for two community open houses to inform residents about the Sackville multi-year development plan.

8.1.4 Staff

Mr. MacIsaac circulated an information page of updates on AT projects including the 2012 Bike Map, the SmartTrip SmartCycle course, sharrow awareness, bike lane extensions, additional research and consultation on the North-South Bike Corridor, bike parking, and new signal detection to detect bikes at the Bell Road/Trollope/Summer intersection. He also noted the review of the Armdale Rotary and the peninsula/Halifax Urban Greenway connection options to the Chain of Lakes Trails.

The Chair requested that members send the location of any “bike-unfriendly” catch basis grated to Mr. MacIsaac.

The Chair also requested that a discussion of incentives for private businesses to install bike parking on their properties be a future agenda item.

Ms. Debaie provided an update on the Preston Waterline Greenway, the old Lawrencetown Road trail, public consultations in the Cow Bay, Penhorn Lake and Fall River areas, the Bissett Lake Trail, and the Trans-Canada Trail signage on the Barrington AT Greenway. She circulated Get Out Check it Out booklets and fridge magnets and explained the greenways vision of a network of trails and AT opportunities.

8.1.5 Committee Members

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that on September 1, 2012 the Safer School Zones Act (an amendment to the Motor Vehicle Act) comes into effect reducing speeds in school areas to 30 km/h in 50 km/h zones. She noted that there will be TV ads and other resources encouraging motorists to slow down in school zones. She also circulated an information sheet on the Thrive! initiative to ensure Provincial decisions are consistent with healthy public policy. She added that active transportation is a key component of the initiative.

8.2 New Business

8.2.1 Peninsula Bike Corridor Update – Mr. David MacIsaac

This matter was dealt with under item 8.1.4, see page six.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Accessibility Meeting, June 20, 2012

The Chair informed the Committee that the Accessibility Meeting attracted a large turnout and good discussion. She requested that the report from that meeting be provided to Committee members.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE – August 16, 2012

The Chair canvassed members who agreed that the Committee would not meet in July 2012 but would meet August 16, 2012.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support