

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
NOTES

November 15, 2012

PRESENT: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Mr. Myles McCallum

REGRETS: Mr. Clive MacGregor  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Ms. Devon Peavoy  
Mr. Lawrence Plug  
Mr. John MacLennan  
Ms. Cynthia Bryant

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand  
Management  
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support

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**1. CALL TO ORDER**

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

**2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. Regan invited Committee members to the Halifax Regional Trails Association holiday social, December 10, 2012 at the Fairbanks Centre.

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 25, 2012**

As the Committee did not have quorum, the approval of the October 25, 2012 minutes was deferred to the next ATAC meeting.

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

The Committee agreed to approve the order of business as presented.

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

**5.1 Hantsport Rail Line**

Mr. Regan informed the Committee that the current lease for the Hantsport Rail Line expires January 1, 2013. He requested that the Committee strongly encourage HRM to acquire the line for AT and recreation purposes. The Chair and Councillor Hendsbee noted that this matter has come before the Transportation Standing Committee (TSC). The Chair added that although TSC is not meeting in November 2012, ATAC could send a motion to the next TSC meeting requesting an update and outlining possible options to move this forward. Mr. Euloth offered to prepare a short information report for the next ATAC meeting. The Chair requested that this item return to the ATAC agenda for the December meeting.

**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 NS Trails Federation**

Ms. Vanda Jackson, Executive Director of NS Trails Federation, and Garnet McLaughlin, Cobequid Trail Consulting, displayed maps and provided a presentation on the goals, structure and membership of NS Trails which is a provincial registered charity. Ms. Jackson explained the 2017 Connection Strategy of the TransCanada Trail and how NS Trails will undertake planning throughout 2013 to begin construction of trail links in 2014. She clarified funding criteria under the Greenways Vision of the TransCanada Trail and how this affects previously registered (grandfathered) sections and new sections in terms of seasonal access to snowmobiles or ATVs.

### **7.3.2 Switch**

Mr. Mark Nener, representing the Planning and Design Centre, Dalhousie University, provided a presentation on the September 9, 2012 Switch event. He informed the Committee that the event drew more than 3000 participants and involved more than 40 community partners. Mr. Nener noted that feedback included suggestions such as starting later than 9 am and going later into the afternoon, providing more entertainment and more opportunities for bike rentals/bike sharing, and increased use of volunteers at intersections. He further noted that no complaints were received from abutting property owners.

Mr. Nener then provided an outline of Switch goals: set dates and neighbourhood locations for 2013, build partnerships with Bike Week and with Dalhousie University, contribute to an Open Streets policy for HRM, and apply for United Way and provincial Department of Health support. He added that organizers learned that the approval process needs to be streamlined and that the block party model doesn't fit a Switch event. He also noted options to lower costs, and that the role of police assistance at intersections may not have been clearly conveyed to some officers assigned to the event.

The Chair suggested that Switch organizers implement improvements gradually while continuing to build awareness of the event and how it works. Committee members requested that Mr. Nener put his presentation points in a brief written report, including what is needed in terms of streamlining approval and reducing costs. Mr. Nener agreed to send this report to the Chair.

The Chair requested that improving the process for an "open streets" policy return to the Committee as an agenda item for the December 2012 ATAC meeting.

## **8. REPORTS**

### **8.1 Updates**

### **8.1.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee**

The Chair informed the Committee that this sub-committee has not met and there is no report.

### **8.1.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

Mr. MacIsaac noted that the Bike Week event has been held for the past eight years and the Bike Week sub-committee will conduct a strategic planning session for future events. He added that the sub-committee will examine the issue of grant maximums and that he will circulate an invitation to ATAC members to attend the planning session.

### **8.1.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association**

Mr. Regan provided an update on the following items: the successful Trail Camp held November 2-4, 2012, the swing gates installed by the St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails Association, the distance markers installed on the COLTA Trail, and the boardwalk improvements on the Bluff Trail. He noted that the First Lake Trail Group is the first HRM Regional trails group to install tactile signs for the visually impaired. He suggested that a presentation on this signage could be arranged for the February ATAC meeting. He also noted that the McIntosh Run Association had more than 110 people turn out for its open house, and that HRTA is examining the possibility of hiring a staff person to strengthen greenway development.

### **8.1.4 Staff**

Mr. Euloth informed the Committee of current routing study proposals, a donation of land and legal services by National Gypsum to the Carroll's Corner Walking Trail group, a NS Tourism pilot project promoting the HRM to Lunenburg Trail with support from the Department of Health and Wellness, and the installation of the Bissett Lake AT Greenway Bridge. He added that construction of 900 metres of trail will connect Lawrencetown residents to Cole Harbour, and that the Atlantic View Trail Association has completed phase one of causeway protection work and is also constructing a new, safer trail head location with a kiosk and shelter. He noted that a hike has been planned for November 21, 2012 for those interested in the Hantsport Rail Line.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the subcommittee for the AT Plan Review met recently, that HRM staff are working with Halifax Water on sewer grate replacements, and that he is preparing a presentation for the December ATAC meeting on the North-South Bike Corridor.

### **8.1.5 Committee Members**

Councillor Hendsbee informed the Committee that a group in the Porter's Lake area met on November 14, 2012 to discuss AT matters in their community.

**9. ADDED ITEMS**

**9.1 December meeting date**

The Committee discussed two dates, December 10, 2012 from 3-5 p.m. at the Fairbanks Centre and December 13, 2012 from 4-6 p.m. at Bloomfield School. The Committee agreed that the Legislative Assistant would poll the members on their ability to attend a December ATAC meeting and circulate the decision.

**10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE**

**11. NEXT MEETING DATE - TBD**

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 04 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort  
Legislative Support