



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
May 15, 2014**

PRESENT: Councillor Waye Mason
Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair
Councillor Jennifer Watts
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Bob Hayter
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Jessie Debaie

REGRETS: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair
Mr. Gordon Smith
Mr. Matt Worona

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor
Mr. Darcy Warren, Legislative support

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, supporting documents, and information items circulated to Active Transportation Committee are available online:

www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.html

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m., and. the Committee adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.in Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax, with Councillor Wayne Mason acting as Chair..

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Committee noted a number of community announcements.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 17, 2014

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Mr. Regan that the minutes of April 17, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

- 9.1 Bike Stats
- 9.2 Meeting Schedule and Committee Work Plan

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Mr. Hayter that the agenda be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair and Councillor Jennifer Watts entered the meeting at this time.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

6.1 Winnipeg Winter Cycling Congress – Mr. Ben Buckwold

This item was deferred until the next regular meeting.

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - None

7.2 Petitions - None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS/UPDATES

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 AT Staff

Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor, informed the Committee of the following updates:

- The Active Transportation Plan will be presented to the Committee at the June 19, 2014 meeting;
- Pilot AT Way Finding bike signage is being developed for the Barrington Green Way and the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal;
- Work is still on-going on Hollis Street; and
- RFP's have been requested for permanent bike lanes in pilot areas.

8.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Halifax Regional Trails Staff, updated the Committee on the following:

1. The Trans Canada Trails (TCT) is interested in moving into Halifax Regional Municipality with greenway construction. The two phases be considered are Musquodoboit Harbour to Porters Lake and the Pleasant Street connection that will join the Shearwater Flyer section down Pleasant Street to connect to the Dartmouth Harbour Front Trail. Trans Canada Trail stated informally that they are willing to commit 100% funding if both projects are considered designated routes by Halifax Regional Municipality. Charters for both projects are being prepared by staff at this time.
2. Continuation of the Dartmouth Harbour Front Trail will be going under construction this summer as part of the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal Restoration Project.
3. The Shore Active Transportation Association (SATA) has made a formal request to become members of the Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA).
4. TCT is interested in the Salt Marsh Trail. A Charter is being prepared for this proposal. The Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association would like to have HRM approach the province to take over management of the shearwater Flyer. The use of ATV's would have to be discontinued in order to be eligible for TCT funding.
5. Construction continues on the Chain of Lakes Trail.
6. The Sackville Greenway along the Halifax Water Easement is in planning stages with engineers and landscape architects from WSP.
7. The budget has passed for the Halifax Regional Trails bundle of \$850,000.00. The Regional Trails Council report will be going to Regional Council on May 20, 2014. The report will decide whether the Capital and Maintenance Agreements will be signed.

MOVED by Ms. Pugh, seconded by Mr. Regan that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Transportation Standing Committee support the installation of tactile markers in the re-instatement of the Chain of Lakes Greenway to assist with accessibility for the sight impaired. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.2.1 Porters Lake Active Transportation Plan

Mr. MacIssac gave a presentation to the Committee on the Porters Lake Active Transportation Plan. He stated that the rationale for the plan came from: the community because of no Active

Transportation facilities; concerns about crossing of William Porter Connector; request from The Shore Active Transportation Association; new facilities such as Metro X Park and Ride, Recreation Centre and the school having very limited access to AT connections.

Mr. MacIssac informed the Committee that this plan is part of the Regional Greenway Vision and Trans Canada Trail. There is provincial interest in connecting a segment of Blueberry Run across Highway 107. Mr. MacIsaac stated that this plan will assist other rural areas in planning Active Transportation.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Members that upgraded AT connections to the Metro X Park and Ride is included in 2014-1015 budget. He stated that coordination is required with the province on all projects. He informed the Committee that a local non-profit group has a letter of authority for sections of the core greenway, if HRM decides to develop the core greenway this would have to be addressed.

Mr. MacIsaac finished the presentation stating that SATA will be working on the Marsh Greenway and Chezzetcook to Musquodoboit Harbour Greenway and will be seeking support for detailed design from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation. He stated that this plan is included in the Regional Active Transportation Plan.

The Committee thanked Mr. MacIsaac for the presentation.

8.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. Walter Regan, Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) gave the following update to the Committee:

- The HRTA held their Annual General Meeting on Monday April 14, 2014. Mr. John Hawkins agreed to continue as Chair.
- Mr. Mike Connors, Transportation Engineer with WSP, made a presentation on the Trail Counter Project to HRTA before the Annual General Meeting. Training for electronic counters and data collection for four volunteers will take place by the end of May 2014.
- HRTA is pleased to welcome the Shore Active Transportation Association (SATA) to its membership. SATA is planning a hybrid model of direct delivery and community development.
- HRTA would like to welcome more new members. HRTA questioned if it is time for HRM to consider a recreational trail mandate in the Parks Division to assist groups who want active recreational trails. Councillor Mason responded that he would contact the Clerk's Office to see who to contact regarding recreational trails and discuss this at the next regular meeting.
- HRTA has been waiting for the Council Report for the authorization to spend money by the community development model. The HRTA groups need to be able to sign both the Capital and Maintenance agreements to proceed on work that needs to be done.

MOVED by Councillor Watts, seconded by Mr. MacGregor that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee request the Transportation Standing Committee that the minimum spending authority to spend be raised from \$1000.00 to \$5000.00. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

An organizational chart of the HRTA Committee structure was circulated to the Committee.

8.2.1 Halifax Regional Trails Report – Maintenance, Capital Budget and Spending Authority – Mr. John Hawkins, Chair, Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. John Hawkins, Chair, Halifax Regional Trails Association, presented the HRTA Capital and Maintenance Overview to the Committee. The following was presented:

Capital Budget:

- Annual capital application limit of \$50,000.00 per group set by HRTA;
- Must take advantage of available leveraging other sources such as the Trans Canada Trails Foundation
- There may special cases which will exceed \$50,000.00;
- Requests are vetted by the Chair of Finance Committee against criteria laid out by HRTA and agreed to by staff;
- The Chair of Finance passes requests to staff;
- Staff review for HRM criteria;
- Staff make recommendations to Infrastructure Development;
- Included in Planning and Infrastructure budget;
- Unspent funds may be reserved for projects less than \$50,000.00 or pending approvals;
- Reallocation may be made for special cases;
- Capital may be transferred to Non-HRTA Projects;
- Funding had operated pursuant to Regional Council Agreement of 2008 by agreement with Real Property;
- Discovered that there was no legislative authority;
- Authority for Capital Agreement sought from Regional Council; and
- Current funding and five year projection of \$850,000.00 per year

Maintenance:

- Maintenance requests are vetted by the Maintenance Finance Committee for compliance and criteria;
- Fifty percent of maintenance for motorized trails;
- Must apply for provincial funding;
- Maintenance may be completed by volunteers, contracted or directed by TPW;
- Some maintenance is seasonal and year round;
- Funded through Transportation and Public Works; and
- Current funding (HRTA component) is less than \$200,000.00 per year.

Councillor Watts questioned if Active Transportation and Recreational Trails recommendations were turned down. Mr. Hawkins responded that there is no clear policy on recommendations.

Councillor Watts stated that recreational trails may or may not be included in the open spaces plan.

8.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee

No report at this time.

8.4 Committee Members - None

8.5 Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that the Pedestrian Action plan is being review and plans are under way for the Crosswalk Safety Day. She noted that staff will be sending a report to the Transportation Standing Committee with their recommendations on the Pedestrian Action Plan.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Bike Stats

Mr. Clive MacGregor circulated the June 2013 Cyclists Statistics to the Committee which included total cyclists and hour screen line for Peninsula Halifax for their information. Mr. MacGregor question whether statistics from other provinces would be of any use. Mr. MacIsaac responded that they would not.

Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Committee will be receiving vehicle/pedestrian collisions statistics on a monthly basis from Halifax Regional Police.

9.2 Meeting Schedule and Committee Work Plan

The Committee entered into discussion on the meeting schedule and Committee Work Plan.

Councillor Watts expressed concern over changing the meeting schedule. She stated that this Committee is an Advisory Committee and that there will be a lot of work once the Active Transportation Plan goes to Regional Council.

Councillor Watts questioned if the AT plan will include all holdings and projects in the trail network. Mr. MacIsaac responded that they would be included in the AT Plan.

The Committee decided to remain with the meeting schedule as approved.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - None

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – June 19, 2014, Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**Active Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes
May 15, 2014**

The Committee agreed to dedicate the next meeting solely to the Active Transportation Plan.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Mr. Darcy Warren
Legislative Support