



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
November 20, 2014**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Vice Chair  
Ms. Terry Walker  
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh  
Ms. Janet Barlow  
Councillor David Hendsbee  
Councillor Jennifer Watts  
Mr. Bob Hayter  
Mr. Walter Regan  
Councillor Waye Mason

REGRETS: Ms. Allison Sparling, Chair

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator  
Mr. David MacIssac, TDM Program Supervisor  
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator  
Ms. Cathy Collett, 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 the Committee are available online at:*

<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommitteeAgendas.php>

*The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m.; the Committee adjourned at 5:43 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m. in the Media Room, City Hall.

Committee members noted a number of community announcements.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014**

**MOVED by Mr. Buckwold, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the minutes of September 18, 2014 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Ms. Debaie noted a minor correction.

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

Additions:

- 8.1 Update on Blue Route project – Mr. Buckwold

**MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Ms. Debaie that the agenda as amended be approved. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

**4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES - NONE**

**5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE**

**6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS**

**6.1 Correspondence - None**

**6.2 Petitions - None**

**6.3 Presentation**

**6.3.1 Cycling Safety – Const. Shawn Curry, Downtown Community Constable**

Constable Curry explained to the Committee that, as he rides his bike for work every day, he is acutely aware of the current issues relating to cycling safety. Constable Curry began his presentation by addressing the three main components of cycling safety: enforcement, education and infrastructure. He provided statistics regarding both bicycle-related accidents and tickets written for cyclists for such infractions as not wearing a helmet and not adhering to the 1 meter rule. He acknowledged that there could be a lot more tickets issued for cyclists, however, he pointed out that when the police see an infraction by a cyclist they have to consider the risk to the public by speeding to catch the cyclist and engaging the lights and sirens of the police car versus the seriousness of the infraction.

Moving to the education component, Constable Curry addressed the role of “Bike Week.” Acknowledging the importance of a week devoted entirely to bike safety, he emphasized that this education needs to be repeated every September for the great number of students that come to the city, often from places with different regulations for cyclists.

On the matter of infrastructure, Constable Curry praised the success of newly developed bike lanes and noted that the transition to the Windsor street bike lane has been very smooth and that more bike lanes would continue to make cycling safer. He explained that one issue that has yet to be addressed is that of

roundabouts. Clarifying that cyclists have the right of way in a roundabout to ride in the same manner as a motor vehicle, Constable Curry addressed the fact that most people are unaware of how to navigate the roundabout when cyclists are present and suggested that further education might be needed.

Councillor Mason noted the great number of cyclists riding at night without a light and questioned whether there might be some way to make bike lights readily available. Addressing the problem of the roundabouts, he questioned whether the "Share the Road" signs are working, to which Constable Curry explained that the less visual clutter in the roundabouts, the better and safer it is for cyclists.

Ms. Pugh added that sharrows do not work in the roundabouts and reiterated the importance of keeping signage minimal in these areas.

Constable Curry considered that by the time the second new roundabout is finished, the problem may have resolved itself, but also suggested that perhaps the media could do something about bike safety in roundabouts in the meantime.

Ms. Barlow questioned whether the streamline numbers have been calculated and requested the data to be presented at a future Committee meeting.

Mr. Regan raised the issue of "dooring" and questioned whether there are any statistics for "dooring" incidents in Halifax. Discussion of this issue ensued.

The Committee shifted their discussion to the danger of riding at night without a light and suggested methods for increasing the use of bike lights, emphasizing that, ideally, all bike shops would hand out a list of cycling regulations and reminders with every purchase of a bike, in addition to encouraging the purchase of a helmet and a light.

Councilor Watts addressed the issue of cyclists riding on sidewalks and acknowledged that enforcement is required in some situations.

Ms. Koblents questioned the Committee's position of the licensing of cyclists and the Committee discussed the subject at length.

Councillor Hendsbee questioned Constable Curry about the regulations regarding electric bikes, to which Constable Curry replied that if they have pedals and the correct wattage and combustion, then they are treated the same as a bicycle.

Constable Curry asked the Committee if there were any particular statistics they would like him to provide, and Ms. Koblents requested information about the policy and statistics regarding enforcement of cyclist infractions.

Constable Curry exited the meeting.

### **6.3.2 Winnipeg Winter Cycling Congress – Ben Buckwold**

Presentation deferred until next meeting.

## **7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION**

### **7.1 STAFF**

#### **7.1.1 Active Transportation Staff: (1) Staff Request for Stakeholder Consultation Re: Enhancements to MacDonald Bridge Bike Lane – Hanita Koblents.**

Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that Staff is targeting the next meeting for engaging the Committee as stakeholders on the plan for proposed enhancements to the MacDonald Bridge Bike Lane and emphasized the importance of there being quorum so that Staff has the information they need to take to Council.

### **7.1.2 Regional Trails Staff**

Ms. Debaie informed the Committee that Regional Trail Staff is now part of the Parks & Recreation unit since the reorganization in October, and that AT Staff was re-organized into Transportation and Public Works. She explained that Trail Staff and AT Staff have been working in close alignment for the past few years throughout the consultation of the Active Transportation Review and commended the inclusion of the Greenway map and several Greenway projects as part of the AT plan for the next five years. However, now that Trail Staff and AT staff are in separate business units, she expressed concern that the Recreation Facilities Plan does not at this time include trails and greenways.

Ms. Debaie notified the Committee that the Shore Active Transportation Association (SATA) has written an RFP to hire a consulting firm to develop a feasibility study for the Acadian Marsh Greenway, upon which the landowner, NS TIR, will base the decision of whether or not to allow a greenway in the road right of way.

At the November 13, 2014 Harbour East Community Council Meeting the Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association requested HRM to take over the Letter for Authority for Shearwater Flyer section of the Rail line due to issues stemming from permissible ATV use.

The Sackville River Association in cooperation with Halifax Trails Staff and Active Transportation Staff has been working over the summer with WSP to develop detailed designs for the Sackville Greenway Section B the Downsview Park Link; Ms. Debaie circulated a map to show where this section is.

Ms. Debaie concluded her report by explaining that, upon the recommendation of managers, Halifax Trails Association Staff is recommending that a large share of the HRTA budget be dedicated to the Sackville Greenway project and that they are presently meeting with Finance staff to develop a business case.

Councillor Watts requested Ms. Debaie keep the Committee up to date with her concerns regarding AT policy and Mr. Regan emphasized the importance of trails being included in the New Recreation Plan. Councillor Watts assured the Committee that the AT Plan was Council's plan and that it still applies regardless of the reorganization of business units.

**MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Committee invite staff to give an update at January's or February's meeting on the Recreation Feasibility Plan. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Councillor Mason exited room.

### **7.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association**

Mr. Regan extended an invitation to the Halifax Regional Trails Association Christmas Party, mentioning that the evening would include a Trails and Greenways slide show and a presentation about the Destination Marketing Project and initiative of ACOA and NS Tourism. He continued to inform the Committee that the Sackville Rivers Association would be receiving their design and tender documents and cost estimate this week from WSP and acknowledged that the funding will likely come from funds not spent in previous years as well as new funds from the 2015/16 budget.

Mr. Regan notified the Committee that the Halifax Regional Trails Association Executive met with Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation, regarding the working of the HRTA groups and the mandate

and priority of the new business unit. Additionally, Halifax North West Trails Association, in cooperation with other community groups, hosted a public information session on the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness Area. Mr. Regan concluded his report by informing the Committee that five HRTA reps attended the presentation on November 18 sponsored by Bicycle Nova Scotia to outline the vision for the Blue Route in Nova Scotia. Their interest was to see how the Greenways and Trails were incorporated into the vision for Halifax and how the Blue Route is going to be funded and implemented.

### **7.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee**

Ms. Koblents reminded the Committee that it is time to start planning Bike Week and questioned who from the Committee would like to be involved. Both Ms. Walker and Mr. Buckwold agreed to help with Bike Week. The Committee acknowledged that Halifax's Bike Week is the frontrunner for such events in Nova Scotia.

### **7.4 Committee Members:**

#### **7.4.1 Presentation Request – Janet Barlow RE: Nova Scotia Speed Study**

#### **7.4.2 Presentation Request – Janet Barlow RE: Halifax Cycling Coalition and the Creation of More Protected Bike Lanes**

The Committee agreed that both presentations would be welcomed, and **there was general consensus** to have them placed on a future agenda.

### **7.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee**

Ms. Barlow acknowledged that Crosswalk Safety Day went over very well and might be held on a regular basis. She informed the Committee that a crosswalk enforcement unit will be discussed at the next Crosswalk Safety Committee meeting.

Councillor Watts questioned Ms. Barlow about the protocol for crosswalk flags. Ms. Barlow informed the Committee that, at this point, HRM has not approved the flags, but are allowing them. She advised the Committee that an interested community could contact Norm Collins for more information. Councillor Watts requested there be more clarification on the process.

## **8. ADDED ITEMS**

### **8.1 Blue Route**

Mr. Buckwold informed the Committee that the Blue Route could become much more of a reality by spring 2015. He explained that during the last Regional Council meeting the Blue Route had a stakeholders meeting and thus could not update Council at that time. He discussed the possibility of holding another stakeholders session in Halifax and expressed an interest in broader public engagement. The group is working on a communications process and there will be a website going up in the near future. The Committee discussed methods for Blue Route to communicate to Councillors about their developments and it was decided that requesting a space on the agenda for the Transportation Standing Committee and the three Community Councils would be a good method. It was further established that Blue Route would be asked make a presentation to the Committee in the spring or summer.

Councillor Hendsbee expressed regret that Cole Harbour Road and Waverly Road were pulled out of the plan.

**9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were no members of the public in attendance to address the Committee.

**10. NEXT MEETING – Monday December 15, 2014**

**11. ADJOURNMENT 5:43 p.m.**

Cathy Collett  
Legislative Support