



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
NOTES
May 21, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason, Vice Chair
Ms. Terry Walker
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. David Jackson

REGRETS: Mr. Jeremy Josey
Ms. Julie Tompa
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Walker Regan
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, TDM Program Supervisor
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant
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 Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 4:07 p.m. and adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall without quorum

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councillor David Hendsbee and Councillor Wayne Mason gave several community announcements

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015

The minutes could not be approved due to a lack of quorum.

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

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 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Active Transportation Staff

Mr. David MacIsaac informed the Committee that at the next Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, to be held in conjunction with Bike Week, staff will give the first annual report addressing the priorities and projects outlined in the Active Transportation Plan. The presentation will include a slide or two on each project and explain each project's development. There will be four sections to the presentation: multi-use facilities, bicycling, pedestrians, and education/outreach. The overarching question for the presentation will be "how are we doing 9 months into the plan?"

The Chair suggested that if anyone else from the Committee would like to give a report at the meeting, they should submit their request at least one week beforehand. The Legislative Assistant offered to send out a reminder a week and a half before the meeting. The Committee decided to announce the meeting on the Bike Week website in order to encourage public attendance and to put the presentations first on the agenda so that any members of the public in attendance would not be required to sit through the usual Committee business first.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that staff are working on an update of the Bike and Greenway map for 2015 that is nearing completion and will likely be completed by Bike Week. The bike rack replacements from the snow damage will begin on May 22, 2015. The cost of these replacements will be covered by the "snow budget," not the Active Transportation budget. Additionally, Peninsula Screenline Bicycle counts will be taking place imminently, the Highfield Greenway is under construction and the greenway connection behind St. Pat's will begin construction in the next week.

Mr. MacIsaac announced that Council approved the University Avenue Bike Lane Pilot Project, that the final Hollis Street open house took place on April 30, 2015 with good attendance, and that staff are working on an Administrative Order addressing local street bikeways. He concluded his report by informing the Committee that the Porter's Lake Greenway Project is close to being tendered, that functional planning is underway on Rainnie Drive/Brunswick Street, and that there will be a study on what to do with the existing bicycle lane on Brunswick Street and on how to make the connection with the new Central Library on Spring Garden Road. Similar work is being done on South Park Street and Devonshire Avenue.

Councillor Mason questioned what the magnitude of cost is for approximately 400 meters of street bikeway. Mr. MacIsaac replied that he didn't have this specific information, but the cost is relatively low and not very different from that of a bike lane.

Councillor Hendsbee questioned if there was any consideration of work on Duke Street between Bedford and Sackville. Mr. MacIsaac replied that this is unlikely unless the Province decides to extend Highway 107 or if HRM does recapitalization on the road.

Mr. MacIsaac mentioned that staff are working on an interesting project on Cobequid Road that involves putting in either a greenway or a sidewalk, depending on what is determined to be more appropriate.

7.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Jessie Debaie gave a report to the Committee on behalf of the Halifax Regional Trails Staff. As she explained:

- Work continues towards putting the base of the Sackville Greenway in place this summer and temporary construction easements are being negotiated with adjacent landowners.
- Council approved the regular 850,000 for greenways in HRM; all the community groups who have been approved for funding in 2015/2016 are groups that fit into the Active Transportation greenway network as established in the Active Transportation Plan.
- The Active Transportation greenway corridor connecting Porters Lake Elementary School, the Metro X station, and the pedway across the bridge on William Porter Road over Hwy 107 to a stairway down the side of the embankment toward the Blueberry Run is scheduled to be constructed this summer. Funding for this section come from NS Moves and HRM.
- The work on the Acadian Marsh Greenway feasibility study is ongoing. A site visit with the Shore Active Transportation Association community, WSP, HRM and Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR) staff took place in early May. All site options were considered.
- The Shore Active Transportation Association has sent an expression of interest letter to Department of Natural Resources about their desire to plan a greenway to connect the Acadian Marsh Greenway at Exit 20 to Musquodoboit Harbour via the rail corridor. This project could be considered as part of the Blue Route.
- Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association is finalizing the engineered drawings for the bridge at Jennifer Place. It was determined that the bridge was the best solution for the area that has had a history of flooding issues. The Jennifer Place (Phase 1) section of the Bissett Greenway is scheduled to be constructed this summer.
- The Cole Harbour Parks & Trails Association is working with HRM Open Space Planning to plan and design a greenway over the Hospital lands. Once constructed, this greenway will make the connection to Bissett Road, the Heritage Park AT Greenway, the Salt Marsh Greenway to the Eastern rail lines and to the Shearwater Flyer that will eventually connect to the Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway.
- The Greenway to connect Fall River area to Dartmouth is planned section by section by the Shubie Watershed Environmental Society (SWEPS) The Blue Hill Road is a former K Road. It a road right of way that belongs to NS TIR. The SWEPS group has received a letter of permission to work within the highway right-of-way.

- Work continues with WSP to determine the routing study to connect the Parkway to the Chain of Lakes Greenway on the south and the Larry Uteck Greenway on the north. Stakeholder consultations are continuing. Public consultation will likely occur mid-summer.
- Trail staff are examining ways of partnering with Halifax Water to extend a culvert to include a greenway opportunity that will continue the waterline greenway to the village of North Preston.
- The Penhorn & Areas Trail Association & Ekistics are nearing completion of the Penhorn Lake Greenway Planning Study. Exciting connections to Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway and the Shubie Canal Greenway are included. This is a high level concept plan at the moment, but provides a framework for future AT connection opportunities.
- An initial response has been received by AT staff from St. Mary's University with regard to crossing their land to extend the Greenway to Point Pleasant Park. CN, another major player has also provided a preliminary review. Negotiations with both parties will be ongoing in order to move this greenway opportunity forward.
- At the last meeting of the Chain of Lakes Trail Association, the association voted to opt out of their participation in the Provincial Tourism Destination Trail Project, the Rum Runners Trail.
- Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency ACOA has announced a federal funding opportunity called Canada 150. Parks, recreation trails such as fitness trails, bike paths and other types of trails are projects that qualify. This funding is in effect until March 31, 2018.

Upon the Chair's request, Ms. Debaie responded to questions of clarification regarding the Chain of Lakes Trail Association's (COLTA) decision.

7.1.3 Legislative Assistant – Sideguard Motion

This item was postponed to the next meeting because of a lack of quorum.

7.2 HALIFAX REGIONAL TRAILS ASSOCIATION

7.3 BIKE WEEK SUB-COMMITTEE – June 11, 2015 during Bike Week.

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that there are currently forty events confirmed for Bike Week and these events are spread out well over the municipality, not just focused in Halifax's North End. There are thirteen schools participating in the Bike to School program and the Mayor's Ride will take place on June 10, 2015. All events are posted on the Bike Week website (<http://www.halifax.ca/bikeweek/>).

7.4 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Councillor Hendsbee announced that he believes that the Provincial Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal will be repaving a 6 km stretch on Highway 7 through Lake Echo and may be putting in paved shoulders.

Terry Walker announced that the Halifax Cycling Coalition and the Ecology Action Centre are collaborating on a program for teaching refugees how to bike.

7.5 CROSSWALK SAFETY COMMITTEE

8. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

The Chair suggested that the Committee discuss the funding cuts to the Ecology Action Center at the next meeting.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

10. Date of Next Meeting: June 11, 2015

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support