



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
August 20, 2015**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Ms. Terry Walker
Mr. John Hawkins
Mr. David Jackson
Ms. Julie Tompa
Ms. Janet Barlow

REGRETS: Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
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 Active Transportation Advisory Committee are available online:
<http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommittee.php>*

The meeting was called to order at 4:05 p.m. and adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

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

Committee members made a number of community announcements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – April 16, 2015; May 21, 2015 (Notes); June 11, 2015 (Notes)

MOVED by, Councillor Hendsbee seconded by Councillor Mason that the Minutes of April 16, 2015 and Notes of May 21, 2015 and June 11, 2015 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: Consideration of a citizen Vice-Chair – Mr. Buckwold
Update on a representative from Walk and Roll HFX – Janet Barlow

Deletions:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Janet Barlow that the order of business be approved as amended. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

4.1 Motion from April 16, 2015 RE Sideguards

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Terry Walker that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report, to investigate the implications of installing side guards city-owned and contracted vehicles; specifically addressing the following items:

1. The cost of installing side guards on all city-owned heavy trucks, plows, and other heavy equipment.
2. The cost and legal authority of requiring long-term contractors (such as garbage collection and snow removal) to install side guards on all heavy vehicles.
3. The cost legal authority of requiring all city-contracted (including hourly/daily jobs) vehicles to be equipped with side guards.
4. The cost of including side guards on all newly-purchased city vehicles.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

6.1 Correspondence - None

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentations - None

7. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

7.1 STAFF

7.1.1 Active Transportation Staff

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, gave a verbal update on current active transportation projects. As she informed the Committee, the Dal Bike Lane has been delayed due to legal matters. HRM will be piloting a protected bike lane on Rannie Drive which will be constructed in either fall of 2015 or early 2016.

Responding to a question from Councillor Hendsbee, Ms. Koblents commented that public engagement would be arranged for this project.

Responding to a question from Ms. Tompa, Ms. Koblents informed the Committee that the protection for the pilot bike lane would be formed by a row of parked cars.

Ms. Koblents explained that WSP consultants have been engaged to explore if the new bike lane can be extended around Citadel Hill and Brunswick Street to the Central Library, or if the Brunswick Street bike lanes could become protected and extended to the library. Staff are also working on exploring improvements for the South Park bike lane.

Ms. Koblents outlined other potential active transportation projects and improvements and informed the Committee that the St. Pat's Greenway is now open, with the Lacewood Terminal opening on Monday August 21. The Hollis Street bike lane is under construction and should be completed by the first week of September.

The "bicycles excepted" sign at the intersection of Quinpool and Quingate is currently posing an issue as not everyone is seeing the sign. Responding to this problem, Staff have proposed painting sharrows in the intersection.

The Committee discussed the issue of re-painting lane markings at the end of the summer season and the damage caused by winter weather. Councillor Mason addressed this issue, explaining that the weather has created bad conditions for painting this year with barely more a two-week window in which repainting could occur.

7.1.2 Regional Trails Staff

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator, gave a verbal update on behalf of Halifax Regional Trails Staff. As she explained:

- The Sackville Greenway Section B Phase 1 will be going into construction for this fall. No paving will take place this year. Once the tender is finalized, a community information session will be organized.
- The Active Transportation greenway corridor connection the Porters Lake Elementary School, the Metro X station and part way up the hill toward the pedway crossing of the 107 is going into pre-tender review. The paving will likely occur once the entire greenway is constructed.
- The work on the Acadian Marsh Greenway feasibility study is reaching its final stages. Once all the comments are received from the stakeholders a recommendation report for the location of the Acadian Marsh Greenway will be made by WSP.
- Cole Harbour Parks and Trails Association is receiving quotes for the bridge design at Jennifer Place (Phase 1) section of the Bissett Greenway.
- The Greenway to connect the 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 and is a road right of way that belongs to NS TIR. Construction of the K road section will take place this fall.

- Work continues with WSP to determine the routing study to connect the Mainland North Linear Parkway to the Chain of Lakes Greenway on the south and the Larry Uteck Greenway on the north. Public consultation will likely be happening in the fall. Dates will be announced at the next AT meeting.
- Construction crews are working at present for road construction for sidewalk and intersection improvements at Penhorn Drive and Somerset Drive Intersection. This improvement was part of the Penhorn Lake Associations' AT Plan.
- Repair work on a small section of the Halifax Urban Greenway will be taking place in early September to remediate the asphalt greenway to direct water to flow into a catch basin. Work will be undertaken to remediate the back slope that has been washed away in the past.

7.2 Halifax Regional Trails Association

Mr. John Hawkins informed the Committee that he is filling in for Mr. Walter Regan as a representative of the Halifax Regional Trails Association.

Mr. Hawkins explained that Ms. Debaie covered many of the updates from HRTA, adding that it continues to be a challenge for non-AT trails to obtain funding.

Mr. Hawkins commented that HRTA is hoping to get a route across the Chezzetcook marsh. This project would be eligible for Trans-Canada Trail funding, but this would require it to be completed by next year.

7.3 Bike Week Sub-Committee

No updates at this time.

7.4 Committee Members

Ms. Janet Barlow informed the Committee that an Active Transportation summit will be held on September 11, at the Dartmouth Sportsplex. This event is by invitation only, and if any member of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee would like to attend, they can contact Ms. Barlow for an invitation.

7.5 Crosswalk Safety Committee

No update this time.

8. ADDED ITEMS

8.1 Citizen Member - Vice-Chair

Mr. Buckwold reminded the Committee that Councillor Mason had agreed to take the role of Vice-Chair only temporarily until a citizen member was willing to take the position. Mr. Buckwold asked Committee members to consider taking on this role.

8.2 HFX Walk N Roll

Ms. Barlow asked if Regional Council had approved the recommendation to offer a place on the Active Transportation Committee to a member of HFX Walk N Roll. Councillor Mason explained that the group is not yet incorporated and that the recommendation has been sent back to Staff for the present time.

Ms. Barlow asked if a Committee member would be an alternate representative at the Crosswalk Safety Advisory Meeting in September if she were unable to attend. Mr. Buckwold agreed to attend if needed.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION - NONE
10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING: September 17, 2015
11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 4:54 p.m.

Cathy Collett
Legislative Support