



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 18, 2016**

PRESENT: Mr. Ben Buckwold, Chair
Councillor Waye Mason, Vice Chair
Mr. Scott Borden
Ms. Julie Tompa
Mr. David Jackson
Mr. Walter Regan
Mr. Tristan Cleveland
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Mr. James McMillin
Ms. Terry Walker
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator
Ms. Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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/ActiveTransportationAdvisoryCommitteeAgendas.php>

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m., and adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall.

Committee members provided community announcements.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21, 2016

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Mr. Regan

That the minutes of January 21, 2016 be approved.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

There were no additions or deletions to the agenda.

The Chair suggested that agenda item 8.2.2 ATAC Strategic Planning for 2016 be deferred until Council has appointed the Walkability representative to the Committee, **to which it was agreed.**

MOVED by Mr. Regan, seconded by Councillor Mason

That the agenda be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES
4.1 On Street Bicycle Parking Policies

At the Committee's last meeting, Ms. Walker circulated a document entitled, *On-street bicycle parking policies* on behalf of the Halifax Cycling Coalition. It provided information on an on-street bicycle parking pilot project that was initiated by the Coalition and supported by staff, and was implemented in 2015. The document reviewed what went well with the project, policy changes the Coalition would like implemented, and a proposed model for future on-street bicycle parking.

Ms. Walker noted that of the recommendations the Coalition put forward, the permanency of the structure is the most important issue for keeping bicycles safe from being stolen. In addition, she noted that the design of the structure is an important feature as well, advising that tubular structures are easier to lock a bicycle to.

The Chair indicated that the pilot project appears to have gone well, with a couple of recommendations for improvements; i.e. allowing the bike racks to be bolted to the ground; and allowing the bike corral on the main street instead of the side street. He explained that enabling the bike corral to be bolted to the street helps prevent theft of bikes, and it is suggested that allowing bike corrals to be installed in front of businesses on a main street provided benefits such that cyclists don't have to search for a place to park.

Referring to the submitted document the Chair questioned if the Committee would consider making a recommendation to the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Mr. Cleveland, seconded by Ms. Walker

That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) request the Transportation Standing Committee consider asking for a staff report on the subject of On- street Bicycling Parking Policies, as per the information submitted by the Halifax Cycling Coalition to ATAC on February 18, 2016.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence - NONE

7.2 Petitions

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Trans Canada Trail – Vanda Jackson

Ms. Vanda Jackson, Executive Director, Nova Scotia Trails Federation, and Ms. Angela Morin, Coordinator, Atlantic Region, Trans Canada Trail (TCT) provided a presentation, updating the Committee on the Trans Canada Trail, and specifically highlighting the importance of the Trail routing through HRM. In their presentation it was noted that a connected Trans Canada Trail in HRM will be approximately 120 km. and that Trans Canada Trail is seeking HRM support for the routing of approximately 10 km of municipal roads and trails.

The representatives advised that their request of HRM will be to:

- endorse the interim Trans Canada Trail connection and support its implementation through actions such as supporting installation of the TCT roadway wayfinding signage;
- that HRM expedite the process to connect the Trans Canada Trail by December 2016; and
- that HRM prioritize establishing a permanent connection for the Trans Canada Trail.

Ms. Morin advised that their purpose today is to obtain input from the Committee on the Trans Canada Trail connection in HRM. She reviewed TCT's three best options for connecting the trail and advised that their preferred option is pedestrian bridge route – it runs parallel to TR 7 and connects directly from Forest Hills Parkway to Shubie Corridor Trail on the south side of Lake Banook. It is preferred because it accommodates cyclists for the entire route, however it lacks some sidewalk and stairs up over the pedestrian bridge. She added that the Shearwater Flyer Trail (Option D) is an alternative that has been raised, but TCT does not consider it an ideal route because of its status as an ATV Trail. She pointed out, however, based on the feedback they've received, TCT has agreed to allow them to bring it forward as an option to consider as an interim TCT route.

The Committee entered a discussion and there was general consensus that the Shearwater Flyer Trail (Option D) was the best option.

Ms. Jackson noted that if HRM were to support Option D as the preferred option, the TCT will require official documentation from HRM of this recommendation.

The Committee recessed briefly to hear the next presentation, and then returned to discussion on this item and put forward the following motion:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Ms. Tompa

That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) requests the Transportation Standing Committee take steps to enable endorsement of the Trans Canada Trail request to finish the Trans Canada Trail connection in Halifax by December 2016. ATAC endorses the Shearwater Flyer alignment Option as presented to the February 18, 2016 ATAC meeting.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

7.3.2 Rum Runners Trail – Sandy Hamilton

Mr. Sandy Hamilton, Chair of the Rum Runners Trail Committee addressed the Committee members indicating that he had an issue of concern of which he thought the Committee may be able to provide assistance. He explained that three years ago, under the initiation of the Provincial Department of Tourism, a number of the trail groups came together to create a destination trail that would span from Halifax to Lunenburg. He noted that the municipalities of Lunenburg, Chester, and Halifax all contributed money to this project. Mr. Hamilton advised that toward the end of the project, one of the partners—the Chain of Lakes Trail Association—made the decision to drop out, without giving a reason. He advised that last fall the destination trail, i.e. Rum Runners Trail was completed, and the Committee decided to stay together because they believed they could accomplish more staying together as a group than individually. Mr. Hamilton pointed out that Committee is preparing to apply to ACOA for funding, and their concern is that they feel it is key to have the Chain of Lakes Trail Association (COLTA) as part of the destination trail in going forward with the request. Mr. Hamilton questioned if the Committee had means to find out why COLTA dropped out and if there were an opportunity to persuade them to rejoin.

A discussion ensued, and Councillor Mason advised that he and the other Councillors on the Committee would speak to the Councillors of the districts where the Chain of Lakes Trail goes through, and report back at the next meeting.

8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

8.1 STAFF – Verbal Updates

8.1.1 Active Transportation – David Maclsaac

Mr. Maclsaac encouraged members to complete the Active Transportation Promotion Survey if they haven't already done so. He explained that the survey was part of staff's effort to market walking and bicycling in the Municipality. Mr. Maclsaac advised that this year Bike Week will be from June 3 – 12, and soon there will be a call-out for community grants. He noted that this year staff will be supporting events during bike week, and will also be supporting community bike events throughout summer.

8.1.2 Regional Trails – Jessie Debaie

Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Trails Coordinator provided the following update:

- Plans are being finalized to complete the section of the Sackville Greenway between Sackville Drive and Glendale Ave. HRM is finalizing plans to hire a consultant to help with the bridge location over Sackville River and bridge or culvert location over Rankin Brook. An information update session with stakeholders regarding the Sackville Greenway was held at the Sackville Library on February 5 with representatives from Sackville Rivers Association, Sackville Lions Club and HRM Recreation, Municipal Operations, Community Policing, Project Planning and Design and Councillor Steve Craig in attendance.
- Active Transportation Staff letters with recommendation for funding for 2016 17 greenways projects have been sent to the community groups for their information. The recommended allocations are pending Council approval of the budget.

- A draft final report for the functional planning of the Mainland North Linear Parkway is nearing completion. The scope of the work provided by WSP was to outline the preferred alignments to connect the Linear Parkway to Chain of Lakes Greenway on the south and Larry Uteck Greenway on the north, along with options for the best community connections and potential upgrades to the greenway.
- Planning and consulting work is underway with WSP and a landowner stakeholders committee including HRM, TIR and Halifax Water for the planning exercise to connect the Chain of Lakes Greenway along North West Arm Drive to Walter Havill Intersection.
- Dale Bracewell, Manager of Active Transportation for the City of Vancouver was invited to give a public lecture at the Maritime Museum of the Atlantic on February 10. HRM staff in Planning, Transit and Active Transportation was included in a staff workshop with Dale on the morning of February 11.

8.2 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

8.2.1 Verbal Updates - None

8.2.2 ATAC Strategic Planning for 2016 - Chair

This item was deferred during the approval of the order of business.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 24, 2016

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:57 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds
Legislative Assistant