

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES

June 20, 2013

PRESENT: Ms. Allison Sparling, Vice Chair
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Waye Mason
Mr. Clive MacGregor
Ms. Elizabeth Pugh
Ms. Janet Barlow
Mr. Gordon Smith
Mr. Mark Coffin
Mr. Matthew Worona
Ms. Cynthia Bryant

REGRETS: Councillor Jennifer Watts, Chair
Mr. Walter Regan
Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator
Ms. Jessie Debaie, Assistant Regional Trails Coordinator

STAFF: Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand
Management
Ms. Julie Vandervoort, Legislative Support
Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant
Mr. Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator

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1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Sparling assumed the Chair and called the meeting to order at 4:07 p.m. in Room 208, Bloomfield Centre.

2. COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following announcements were made:

- Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee of the HCC (Halifax Cycling Coalition) AGM on June 26, 2013.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2013

MOVED by Mr. MacGregor, seconded by Ms. Pugh that the minutes of May 16, 2013 be approved as presented. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Mr. MacGregor informed the Committee that the HCC presenter on Cycle Fix was not available and he requested the opportunity to provide a brief presentation on a HCC cycling survey instead. The Committee agreed to the order of business as amended.

5. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Mr. Coffin requested an update on when the Committee would receive information on its three May 16, 2013 motions on bike lanes. Mr. David MacIsaac, Supervisor, Transportation Demand Management, responded that the ATAC motion on the Windsor-Vernon route would come before Regional Council on June 25, 2013 and possibly the other two ATAC motions

Mr. MacGregor noted that HCC is seeking opportunities to work with HRM to create a cycling database with specific categories such as the number of cyclists interviewed, the location, and when the surveys was conducted.

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS -- NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS AND PRESENTATIONS

7.1 Correspondence -- None

7.2 Petitions -- None

7.3 Presentations

7.3.1 Mr. Jamie Newman – MapAbility.ca

Consultants Mr. Newman and Mr. John Read provided a presentation on a application, currently in development, that would use social media/crowdsourcing models to continually capture information on cycling and pedestrian routes. The application would be interactive and could be customized for level of cycling expertise, accessibility concerns and data on temporary or long-term obstacles and barriers, institutional floor plans, travel and route planning, intersections and places of business. The application could also be coordinated with existing data from 311, Metro Transit, HRM maps, trail groups and other sources. Potential clients include advocacy organizations and large institutions such as municipalities, Capital Health, and universities. In response to questions, Mr. Newman clarified how data would be moderated and kept current and that the marketing campaign would emphasize the risk of distraction so that cyclists and pedestrians are not distracted by using the application in an unsafe manner.

Committee members expressed interest and general support for the application and a possible HRM pilot project. Mr. Newman agreed to send a brief summary of his presentation and his request for ATAC support to Mr. Quentin Hill, Legislative Assistant, to be circulated to Committee members. The Committee agreed to return to this item at its next meeting on July 18, 2013.

7.3.2 Cycle Fix

As the HCC representative scheduled to speak on Cycle Fix was unable to be present, Mr. MacGregor provided a brief presentation on a survey HCC conducted on the Halifax Commons on June 2 and June 9, 2013. He circulated a copy of the survey and a summary of the data and noted that he would make the same material available to ATAC members in a pdf.

The Committee agreed that it would hear the Cycle Fix presentation at its July 18, 2013 meeting.

8. REPORTS

8.1 Safety and Education Sub-Committee – No report

8.2 Bike Week Sub-Committee

Mr. MacIsaac informed the Committee that the final Bike Week event (the Sackville Bike Rodeo) will take place June 22, 2013. He added that the response to Bike Week was very positive, that information is still coming in and that a fuller report will be available at the next ATAC meeting.

8.3 Halifax Regional Trails Association

HRTA members were not present but Councillor Hendsbee informed the Committee that provincial Department of Health and Wellness funding for several HRM trails had been announced on June 20, 2013.

8.4 Staff

Mr. MacIsaac provided an update on the AT Plan Review and noted that staff are in the process of summarizing the public feedback on AT priorities. He added that if the Windsor-Vernon bike route is approved at Regional Council on June 26, 2013, staff are preparing to implement the route by the fall of 2013. He noted that additional bike parking was installed June 15, 2013, and that the next round of installations would be in October 2013. He also informed the Committee that additional information on AT Way-Finding, the process and signage, would be available for the next ATAC meeting and that the provincial Department of Health and Wellness approved funding for free “try cycling” and “learn to bike” pilot project with phase one directed at adults.

8.5 Committee Members

8.5.1 Gordon Smith – HRM Urban Roads

Mr. Smith read a statement to the Committee on the need for safer walking conditions on rural roadways in HRM, especially for seniors who may feel housebound or forced to use cars for very short distances. He requested Committee support for a motion to address this concern.

MOVED by Mr. Smith, seconded by Councillor Hendsbee that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend to the Transportation Standing Committee that to encourage and help senior citizens to walk more often within their community, that the condition of the road shoulders, or other pedestrian infrastructure, receive a priority of consideration and action. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.5.2 Janet Barlow – EAC

Ms. Barlow described a recent meeting between Halifax Harbour Bridges and several community groups to discuss the 2015 Macdonald Bridge closure. She noted that more than 60 residents attended the discussion and she will send a summary to Mr. Hill to be distributed to ATAC members.

Ms. Barlow then circulated “Chapter 4: Transportation” of the May 17, 2013 Draft 2 Regional Municipal Planning Strategy. She stated that she did not feel the chapter represented sustainable transportation and she encouraged ATAC members to send feedback before the July 19, 2013 deadline. Other Committee members noted that the RP+5 process has specific targets and timelines for roads but not for alternatives to

roads and that residents can demand that the level of detail and commitment be more balanced.

8.5.3 Cynthia Bryant – Accessibility Committee

Ms. Bryant provided a brief summary of the work of the Accessibility Committee, noting that a town hall style meeting is planned for late September and that the Committee continues to work with Metro Transit on a number of issues including seniors groups, service dogs, and the adaptation of audio/visual announcements.

8.6 Crosswalk Safety Committee

Ms. Barlow informed ATAC members that she had attended her first Crosswalk Safety Committee meeting earlier that day on June 20, 2013. She added that members are new and are receiving presentations from police and traffic specialists.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Push Button Crosswalk Signals

Mr. Worona raised the issue of resident confusion using push button signals at intersections. Mr. Maclsaac stated that research information on this matter has previously been requested by ATAC and that he would inquire into the status of any report.

10. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION -- NONE

11. NEXT MEETING DATE - July 18, 2013

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Julie Vandervoort
Legislative Support