



**HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MINUTES
December 5, 2017**

PRESENT: Mayor Mike Savage
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason
Councillors: Steve Streach
David Hendsbee
Bill Karsten
Lorelei Nicoll
Sam Austin
Tony Mancini
Shawn Cleary
Russell Walker
Stephen Adams
Richard Zurawski
Matt Whitman
Lisa Blackburn
Steve Craig
Tim Outhit

REGRETS: Councillors: Lindell Smith

STAFF: Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
John Traves, Municipal Solicitor
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk
Krista Vining, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 a.m. The Committee recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m. They recessed again at 12:08 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m. Committee of the Whole adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Savage called the meeting to order at 9:31 a.m.

2. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES – NONE

The Committee consented to deal with the 2017-2020 Multi-year Priority Outcome prior to the Integrated Mobility Plan. The minutes reflect this change.

3. 2017-2020 Multi-year Priority Outcome Update – Continuation from November 14 & 28, 2017

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 7, 2017
- A map and photo submitted by Councillor Craig

Bruce Zvaniga, Director of Transportation and Public Works reviewed the 2018-19 Transportation Priority Outcomes:

- **Interconnected and Strategic Growth:** transit service plan; parking program; Cogswell redevelopment plan
- **Well Maintained Transportation Network:** transportation capital works; transit asset & infrastructure renewal; traffic signal control solutions – phase 2
- **Safe and Accessible Transportation Network:** transit technology; transit accessibility
- **Pedestrian Safety:** road safety strategy; Heads Up Halifax (3rd annual Crosswalk safety awareness day)

Staff responded to question on Halifax Transit's operator training to serve customers, in particular those with visible and non-visible needs.

Members discussed having staff come back to Council in six months' time to look at the fee structure for the parking meter app. Members questioned whether the Municipality should absorb the \$20 annual fee for the app rather than the users. Staff explained that the fee is part of the vendor's (Hotspot) business model to provide the service/technology, with no cost to HRM. The revenue collected by the vendor is transferred to the Municipality. The app is also interchangeable with other Atlantic Canada cities such as: Fredericton, Charlottetown, St. John and Moncton. Presently 1,500 users have downloaded the app.

In response to a question raised, staff confirmed that the report on the Crosswalk Flags program would be coming to Council December 12, 2017.

The Committee saw a photo that identified pedestrian travel ways in Lower Sackville, and a photo of a backroad pedestrian path. A copy of the photos are on file. Councillor Craig explained that there were gaps in the network of paths where there are no sidewalks. There is currently no definition for sidewalks or pathways and there is a need to determine a way to measure and maintain these assets.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Committee of the Whole (COW) recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

1. **Proceed to prepare the 18/19 multi-year budget and business plan in support of Council's Priority Outcomes and consistent with the Outcome Plans as presented or amended by COW.**

2. Continue development of key performance indicators to inform progress in advancing Council's Priority Outcomes.

Points were made around traffic calming and safe passage for pedestrians. Staff recognized the need to put more emphasis on the state of good repair and address infrastructure deficit, which would be brought to Council during the budget process.

MOVED by Councillor Craig, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Multi-year Priority Outcome Update be amended by inserting a clause 3 as follows:

3. Prioritize capital projects using Council's six priority Outcome areas and specifically address neighborhood walkways, sidewalks and pedestrian paths.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Committee of the Whole (COW) recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to:

- 1. Proceed to prepare the 18/19 multi-year budget and business plan in support of Council's Priority Outcomes and consistent with the Outcome Plans as presented or amended by COW.**
- 2. Continue development of key performance indicators to inform progress in advancing Council's Priority Outcomes.**
- 3. Prioritize capital projects using Council's six priority Outcome areas and specifically address neighborhood walkways, sidewalks and pedestrian paths.**

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

The Committee recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:34 a.m.

4. Integrated Mobility Plan

The following was before Council:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 20, 2017 with a copy of the Integrated Mobility Plan attached
- Correspondence from Alan Inkpen, Jayme Margaret Melrose
- Staff presentation
- A map submitted by Councillor Nicoll

Members of the Integrated Mobility Plan Team were introduced, which included Municipal staff from Transportation and Public Works, Halifax Transit, Planning and Development, as well as, representation from the Nova Scotia Public Health.

Rod McPhail, Integrated Mobility Plan Project Manager presented the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP), which recommends 137 actions and mobility strategies that are integrated and will provide HRM residents with viable mobility options.

Foundational policies

- **land use & transportation:** plan complete communities; plan in advance for transit facilities that can support walkable, mixed use neighborhoods; locate housing and jobs within walking distance of transit stations; avoid road expansion that would encourage dispersed development

- **complete streets:** adopt a new approach to address the future needs of all users of the public right of way; adopt new guiding principles for complete streets; development a new process to determine what streets will become complete streets
- **transportation demand management:** work with employers to encourage flexible work arrangements; community outreach and education to spread awareness of TDM initiatives; make it easier to avoid vehicle ownership through support of ridesharing and car sharing

Mode-specific policies

- **active transportation:** complete priority gaps in the sidewalk network; expedite implementation of priority sections of the greenway network; develop an all ages and abilities (AAA) bicycle network in the Regional Centre; implement AAA pedestrian and bicycle connections to all Halifax transit terminals
- **transit:** implement the Moving Forward Together Plan; implement transit priority corridors; investigate potential for higher order transit
- **goods movement:** continue to work with Port Authority on Port Master Plan; aim to reduce truck/pedestrian conflicts on peninsula
- **road network:** manage congestion rather than try to eliminate it; identify and develop plans for strategic corridors; revise Red Book (HRM Municipal Design Guidelines); improved use of traffic signal technology and variable message signals; develop an innovative Data Collection Strategy
- **parking:** establish a better understanding of parking supply and demand; develop a process to deal with the potential loss of some on-street parking to implement active transportation and transit priorities; use technology to improve parking management; establish parking pricing that encourages turnover and trips by non-auto modes

Staff explained that from the perspective of the IMP, Commuter Rail is the best mobility option for the following reasons:

- would support future land use close to future stations
- integration with Halifax Transit and active transportation at all stations
- reliable year-round service
- initial park & ride facilities could be future development sties
- implementation utilizes existing CN Rail corridor

Points noted about the monitoring, implementation and financing included:

- establish a monitoring program to measure success of the IMP over time
- select key performance indicators and metrics
- develop an action plan to implement the IMP
- determine roles and responsibilities for implementation
- work with finance staff and other business units to formulate the necessary capital and operating funding to implement the IMP

Further, the IMP is a big move for HRM, has actions for the rural areas, suburban areas and Regional Centre, and will be rolled out over approximately 14-15 years (2017-2031).

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. **Authorize the direction contained in the Integrated Mobility Strategy as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and developing new planning documents as may be necessary to implement the Integrated Mobility Plan direction; and**
2. **Direct staff to prepare the long-term capital outlook, funding options and priorities, as directed by Regional Council on October 3rd, 2017, to include the Integrated Mobility Plan, and return to Halifax Regional Council for discussion of the capital outlook and its implications.**

Members spoke in support of the IMP.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT phased updates to the Municipal Design Guidelines (Redbook) be completed in 24 months beginning at the start of the 2018/2019 fiscal year and that staff report quarterly on progress to the Transportation Standing Committee.

In response to a question raised, staff explained that the project charter has been drafted but agreed that there is a need to look at project management.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion before Council now reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Authorize the direction contained in the Integrated Mobility Strategy as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and developing new planning documents as may be necessary to implement the Integrated Mobility Plan direction; and**
- 2. Direct staff to prepare the long-term capital outlook, funding options and priorities, as directed by Regional Council on October 3rd, 2017, to include the Integrated Mobility Plan, and return to Halifax Regional Council for discussion of the capital outlook and its implications.**
- 3. That phased updates to the Municipal Design Guidelines (Redbook) be completed in 24 months beginning at the start of the 2018/2019 fiscal year and that staff report quarterly on progress to the Transportation Standing Committee.**

Members recognized the importance of cross-referencing future reports and initiatives against the IMP. It was also recognized that the IMP fits within Council's Poverty Solutions project and will reduce the need for future road construction.

The Committee recessed at 12:08 p.m. and reconvened at 1:03 p.m.

Mayor Savage stepped down as chair and Deputy Mayor Mason assumed the chair.

A special presentation from City of Boston Fire Commissioner Joseph Finn was made, followed by a moment of silent reflection.

Mayor Savage resumed as chair and Deputy Mayor Mason took their seat.

The discussion ensued on the Integrated Mobility Plan. Staff responded to questions on the education/communication process. It was also noted that there are ongoing discussions with the base commander for the Shearwater Connector project, Council had previously approved funding for the survey work, and staff are following budget parameters for 2018-19.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include:

- 1. That staff be directed to prepare a supplementary report regarding:**
 - a) Amend the IMP to set the target date for the Bike Network minimum grid for completion by end of summer 2020 construction;**
 - b) Amend the IMP to set the target date for implementation of the Young/Robie Transit Priority corridors to fiscal 2020/21; and**
- 2. That Regional Council direct staff to include an implementation plan in the upcoming staff report for Bayers & Gottingen Transit Priority corridors functional design to allow Council to consider construction in fiscal 2019/20.**

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT Regional Council direct:

- 1. The IMP's Integrated Staff Team to report annually on progress made on the actions listed in the IMP to Council through the Transportation Standing Committee; and**
- 2. That future staff reports to Council on transportation projects include the IMP's Evaluation Scorecard.**

The Transportation Standing Committee will forward the report to Regional Council for information.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED.

The motion before Council now reads:

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Mancini

THAT Committee of the Whole recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Authorize the direction contained in the Integrated Mobility Strategy as a framework for amending the existing Regional Plan and developing new planning documents as may be necessary to implement the Integrated Mobility Plan direction.**
- 2. That staff be directed to prepare a supplementary report regarding:**
 - a) Amending the IMP to set the target date for the Bike Network minimum grid for completion by end of summer 2020 construction; and**
 - b) Amending the IMP to set the target date for implementation of the Young/Robie Transit Priority corridors to fiscal 2020/21.**
- 3. Direct the IMP's Integrated Team to report annually on progress made on the actions listed in the IMP to Council through the Transportation Standing Committee and that future staff reports to Council on transportation projects include the IMP's Evaluation Scorecard.**
- 4. Direct staff to prepare the long-term capital outlook, funding options and priorities, as directed by Regional Council on October 3rd, 2017, to include the Integrated Mobility Plan, and return to Halifax Regional Council for discussion of the capital outlook and its implications.**
- 5. Direct that phased updates to the Municipal Design Guidelines (Redbook) be completed in 24 months beginning at the start of the 2018/2019 fiscal year and that staff report quarterly on progress to the Transportation Standing Committee.**
- 6. Direct staff to include an implementation plan in the upcoming staff report for Bayers & Gottingen Transit Priority corridors functional design to allow Council to consider construction in fiscal 2019/20.**

Discussion continued, specifically around commuter rail, with staff responding to questions.

Further to communication, it was noted that the Chief Administrative Officer would write letters to the appropriate deputy ministers, advising them on the adoption of the IMP. The IMP is a big move for the Municipality and sharing this information with its counterparts will aid in future conversations around each of the Province and Municipal's planning and infrastructure priorities.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED.

5. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:04 p.m.

Kevin Arjoon
Municipal Clerk