



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 17, 2019**

PRESENT: David Jackson
Ella Dodson
Ian Watt
Peter Fritz
Jillian Banfield
Elizabeth Pugh
Ben Buckwold
Emily Miller
Kelsey Lane
Jessie Harlow
Councillor Sam Austin
Councillor David Hendsbee
Councillor Matt Whitman

REGRETS: Sarah Manchon

STAFF: David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor
Simon Ross-Siegel, Legislative Assistant
Sharon Chase, Legislative Support

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

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, and information items circulated are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m. and adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

David Jackson, Acting Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, City Hall 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

1.1 Annual Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Sharon Chase, Legislative Support, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Hendsbee, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT David Jackson be nominated Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Legislative Support called three times for any further nominations. There being none, nominations for the position of Chair were closed.

Legislative Support declared David Jackson, Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Chair then called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Kelsey Lane, seconded by Emily Miller

THAT Jillian Banfield be nominated Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

The Chair called three times for any further nominations. There being none, nominations for the position of Vice Chair were closed.

The Chair declared Jillian Banfield, Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 15, 2018

MOVED by Peter Fritz, seconded by Ella Dodson

THAT the minutes of November 15, 2018 be approved as distributed.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions:

9.1 Pedestrian Safety

9.2 Sidewalk Clearing – Winter maintenance

MOVED by Ben Buckwold, seconded by Councillor Whitman

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES – NONE

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS – NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence – None

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentation

7.3.1 Halifax Regional Trails Association- Doug MacLeod and Michael McFadden

MacLeod and McFadden shared a brief history of the association which currently includes 24 community groups. There are three categories of trails: active transportation-greenway, recreational and wilderness developed and managed by these groups. It was noted that some of these trails are located on provincial land. Shared use trails have been identified as a challenge where motorized users have negatively impacted enjoyment of the trails by non-motorized users and created additional costs in trail maintenance. Halifax Regional Trails Association presented their concerns and some of the feedback received in their communities regarding OHV use on the trails. MacLeod and McFadden shared some photos of the conditions and damage on the Shearwater Flyer Trail and compared it to the Salt Marsh Trail which does not allow OHV use. They are requesting that HRM take a closer look at this issue. A copy of the presentation is on file.

Regional Council just approved a report which recommended a new Administrative Order to update and modernize the relationship it has with trail groups through the contribution program. It will provide clarification of the roles of trail groups. OHV use is one of the 8 key issues noted in the report.

The Committee discussed how organized OHV groups have helped to enforce considerate use of trails where they exist. The potential for parallel trails was raised. It was acknowledged that sometimes hostile relationships exist between user groups. It was clarified that the Municipality provides funding to community groups as the trails form a part of HRM's Active Transportation Network and that the provincial government mandates the use of OHV's.

MOVED by Ben Buckwold, seconded by Ian Watt

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report examining the economic, trail user, community group and environmental implications of including motorized use in HRM's support for trails, based on the request of the Halifax Regional Trails Association as presented to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The Committee felt that the long term economic costs of trail maintenance and a clear definition of motorized use would be important.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8. REPORTS/DISCUSSIONS/UPDATES

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 Active Transportation Group Update

David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor, provided an update on work being done by the Active Transportation Group:

- Herring Cove Road Functional Plan public engagement is underway. Part of what is being planned are improved walking and bicycling facilities;
- Spring Garden Road Streetscaping engagement is underway;
- Staff are planning next year's capital program and working on the budget;
- Functional planning for the Almon Street and Downtown bikeways projects is almost complete and staff are writing the report for Council consideration;
- Bike Week 2019 planning is about to begin. If anyone is interested in learning more, contact David;
- The Active Transportation wayfinding project is progressing. HRM is working with Bicycle Nova Scotia on a sign template that is consistent across the province and replicable by other municipalities. The goal is to implement this on five projects in 2019;
- The Active Transportation section of the Halifax web site is being updated. Updates have been posted on bicycle projects. New content on pedestrian projects and multi-use projects will be posted in the next couple of months.
- A "What we Heard" report from engagement for the North End and West End local street bikeway functional planning projects was posted on the Shape Your City web site.
- Staff are supporting the Sackville Lakes Community Trails group in planning Active Transportation connections between Sackville and Fall River and the Shubie System;
- Council approved the staff report on the future of HRM support for Community Trails Associations. This directed staff to develop a new Administrative Order. There will be engagement with community associations, Active Transportation groups that offer outreach and education programs and ATAC in 2019 on this.

MacIsaac will follow up with staff and report back to the Committee regarding the use of pedways and how HRM might partner with the owners of the pedways around access and signage, as they are a part of HRM's right of way. Active Transportation's web content is being updated and the Committee was asked to provide suggestions of external links they would like to see on the site. MacIsaac will be returning to the Committee with presentations on the Almon Street and Northwest Bikeways once they are nearer completion and there is something tangible to share. The Barrington Street Pilot Program is moving along with barriers and signage being improved and there is a public open house scheduled where HRM Planning will roll out the program. MacIsaac suggested that Planning could attend a future meeting to address concerns and answer member's questions about how construction mitigation guidelines are used to ensure projects consider active transportation impacts.

8.1.2 Proposed 2019 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 23, 2018

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Peter Fritz

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee approve the 2019 Meeting Schedule as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

8.1.3 Staff Update on Capital Budget

Dave MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor, gave an overview of the four budgets used by the Active Transportation Group. The Active Transportation Strategic Budget is used to fund the recapitalization of new sidewalks, bike lanes, pathways and trail association contributions. The \$4 million budgeted is consistent with other years and there will also be \$2.8 million carried over from the previous year. There is a \$440,000 budget for Other Related Works which covers: guardrails, retaining walls and will fund the recapitalization of street to street walkways. The Sidewalk Renewal Budget is \$3 million. The MacDonald Bridge project has been budgeted \$1 million for design and project management and will likely focus on the Dartmouth side of the bridge. MacIsaac confirmed that the Cogswell design project has a separate budget. The 3-year Capital Budget will go before Council and is used as a planning tool, allocating roughly \$3 million a year for projects. MacIsaac noted that implementation timelines and targets for the Integrated Mobility Plan cannot be met presently. The Active Transportation Group will continue to plan and design to ensure projects are shovel ready.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 Pedestrian Safety

The Committee discussed the issue of pedestrian safety and the importance of keeping this topic front of mind for HRM. The example of Lower Water Street as an area of concern was shared. There is heavy commercial truck traffic along with an increase in pedestrian traffic as waterfront development is encouraged, as well as increased volumes of cruise passengers and tourists in the area. This weekend there is a walk organized by "HRM Safe Streets for Everyone" who are a Facebook Group working to raise awareness for pedestrian safety concerns. The Committee is interested in getting an update on the Road Safety Strategy and how it looks at pedestrian safety. Dave MacIsaac will reach out and see if Taso Koutroulakis, Manager of Traffic Management or Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works could come and speak to the Committee in the spring. The Strategic Road Safety Framework does include some tools and countermeasures such as: new sidewalks curb extensions, zebra crossing, traffic calming measures and leading intervals; all of which are new areas of focus.

9.2 Sidewalk Clearing – Winter Maintenance

The Committee discussed safety concerns with the amount of snow and ice on sidewalks. It was felt that sidewalks should be cleared to the same degree as the streets. Presently, pedestrians are sometimes forced to walk in the streets when the sidewalks are not passable. Questions were raised around adequate budgets, contractors being held to the same standards as HRM crews and whether appropriate equipment is being used. MacIsaac suggested that Trevor Harvey, Winter Works Superintendent, could come and speak to the Committee at the end of the winter season and ahead of any contract renewals. It was noted that this topic has been raised at Regional Council as well, with a notice of motion presented by Councillor Cleary at the last Council meeting.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 21, 2019

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:38 p.m.

Sharon Chase
Legislative Support