



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
SEPTEMBER 19, 2019**

PRESENT: David Jackson, Chair
Jillian Banfield, Vice-Chair
Ben Buckwold
Ella Dodson
Peter Fritz
Jessie Harlow
Kelsey Lane
Sarah Manchon
Emily Miller
Elizabeth Pugh
Councillor Sam Austin

OTHERS
PRESENT: Ian Watt

STAFF: David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor
Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant

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 4:50 p.m. and adjourned at 6:12 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:50 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – July 18, 2019

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Ben Buckwold

THAT the minutes of July 18, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

MOVED by Councillor Austin seconded by Eizabeth Pugh

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Committee received correspondence from Trans Canada Trail Foundation and this correspondence was circulated to the Committee. Correspondence was also received from Halifax Regional Trails Association and would be circulated following appropriate redaction in line with the Clerk's Office procedures.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION/UPDATES

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 Staff Presentation on Engagement Strategy for Institutional District Complete Streets Project

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff update and presentation on the engagement strategy for Institutional District Complete Streets Project

The Chair invited Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner, to make a presentation. Nener announced that the AT Department is moving forward with the planning of the all ages and abilities bikeways project on the University Avenue-Morris Street corridor and Robie Street south of University Avenue. Nener informed the Committee that the functional planning process for the project has just been initiated. Nener indicated on a map where the project fits into the integrated mobility plan AAA network, noting that the

University Avenue-Morris Street corridor is a main east-west spine in the south end of the peninsula. He also noted that while the Robie Street segment south of University Avenue is not a segment in the Integrated Mobility Plan, it is a desired cycling connection in the Active Transportation Priorities plan and the AT Department decided to bundle the two corridors together in the same planning process due to the opportunities that connect them at the Robie Street intersection.

Nener outlined the objectives of the project, noting that the complete streets approach would be applied in line with the Integrated Mobility Plan, therefore also improving the pedestrian environment and conditions of people taking transit. Other objectives were to complete a functional plan for AAA bikeway connections, develop a district identity for University Avenue (a common design palate to apply to University Avenue and other streets in the district) and to consult with the public and stakeholders to gather their input and feedback throughout the process.

Nener indicated the study area on a map noting the goal of connecting University Avenue to the Halifax Urban Greenway, as well as the connection from University Avenue south to St. Mary's University. Due to traffic constraints, especially on Morris Street, other routing options would also be considered early into the project.

Nener reported that gathering of background information and identification of the existing conditions is currently ongoing. Routing options will be identified and analysis of these undertaken prior to the first round of public engagement in late October-early November, 2019. A draft district identity will then be developed and the preferred routing identified. Some concepts for the bikeway connections and pedestrian improvements will also be developed, followed by the second public engagement in January, 2020. Thereafter, the optimal bikeway connections options will be identified, together with final pedestrian improvements and a recommendation to Council prepared in the spring of 2020.

Nener informed the meeting that part of the engagement approach will entail forming an internal technical committee that will include colleagues from all the business units that have stack and role in designing and maintaining the public right of way. A project advisory committee, composed of external stakeholders, will also be formed and meet at least three times over the course of the project. Nener noted that the technical committee will be decision making body for the project, though a collaborative arrangement with the advisory committee is anticipated.

Nener went into more detail regarding the public engagement phases. He stated that the aim of the first phase in public/stakeholder consultation is to gather opinions and information. The second phase is an opportunity for the AT Department to show some bikeway concepts and gather feedback. For each of the two phases of public engagement planning, two large public events and three smaller pop-up events are planned. There will also be a Shape Your City webpage to host a survey for each phase of the engagement, plus a Shape Your City places tool; an interactive mapping tool. Nener requested for feedback from the Committee on the project, public engagement, format of the pop-up events and techniques.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- When setting up the public engagements and pop-up events, carefully consider the desired audience, time and venue (including well lit bicycle storage space,) to ensure good numbers;
- The median at University Way and the Victoria General Hospital cafeteria area were possible venues for pop-up events;
- Consider having some pop-up events on bikeways, such as the Vernon Street bikeway, or on Morris Street near the public library, so as to capture cycling traffic;
- When considering membership for the advisory committee, look to co-opt users of active transportation;
- Liaise with Halifax Transit to ensure that Halifax Transit priority project plans do not clash with this project at Robie Street;
- When determining the preferred routing, consider by whom it is preferred.

8.1.2 New Active Transportation Features

The Chair invited David Maclsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor and Nener to introduce the new active transportation features being installed on Halifax streets.

Nener informed the Committee about two new features in Halifax, namely two-stage bicycle turn boxes and shared bike lane bus stops. Nener illustrated how to use a two-stage turn box. He noted that a turn box provides a waiting area that helps a cyclist make a two-stage left turn while avoiding merging through traffic lanes to make a left turn and conflict with vehicles. He informed the Committee that there were information signs in advance of intersections with turn boxes, explaining how the turn boxes work. Nener also noted that the HRM website has information on how to use the facility. Nener then illustrated how to use a shared bike lane bus stop. He advised the Committee that in a shared bike lane bus stop, the bike lane shares the same space as the bus platform. The feature eliminates conflict between buses, cyclists and transit bus passengers at bus stops. Nener illustrated how buses, cyclists and passengers should navigate the shared bike lane bus stops. Nener informed the Committee that an educational campaign for the new features will be rolled out shortly.

Nener answered questions of clarification from members of the Committee, including questions regarding yield signs at shared bike lane bus stops and tactile warning surface indicators at shared bike lane bus stops for transit users with vision loss.

David Maclsaac informed the Committee about cross rides for multi-use pathways, where pedestrians and bicycle use is mixed. Maclsaac noted that cross rides will gradually be added to signalized intersections, first at new facilities and thereafter at old facilities.

Maclsaac responded to a question of clarification from a member of the Committee, noting that cross ride indicators will be done only by way of pavement marking.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- More public education may be required regarding four way stops with a yield for cars to bicycles in the bike lane;
- Committee members offered to assist by forwarding information on new active transportation features to their contacts;
- Committee members noted that the new cross rides offer a seamless ride.

8.1.3 Active Transportation Group Update

Nener provided a verbal update on work being undertaken by the Active Transportation group, noting that:

- The first round of public engagement on the Bedford-Sackville Greenway corridor recapitalization and extension functional plan is taking place on September 19, 2019 in the evening at Sunnyside Mall, Bedford and the Committee received communication regarding this event;
- On the Chain of Lakes Trail (COLT) signage strategy, site visits have been completed with the COLT Signage Committee members and the project will be undertaken throughout the winter in collaboration with the COLT Signage Committee members;
- The Triple AAA cycling route being developed through Dartmouth North is still in the initial stages of data collection and project scoping;
- The Porters Lake Exit 20 Blueberry Run Trail reconnection project (between Les Collins and Inspiration Drive Elementary School) is nearly complete;
- Lucasville functional planning and design is in the initial stages;
- The Bissett Greenway final segment (Phase 3) has been completed and an official grand opening is planned for October 5, 2019;

- At Forests Hill Parkway, a multi-use pathway is under construction as part of the roadway recapitalization;
- River Lakes Greenway (Fall River to Carroll's Corner) project is at the planning stage;
- Gaetz Brook rail trail is under construction from East Chezzetcook Road to Musquodoboit;
- Little River Trail rail trail section behind Musquodoboit museum project planning is complete but a complication has arisen with private ownership of a portion of the rail trail having come to light;
- AT education for new facilities is being worked on and will be undertaken in the fall;
- AT marketing campaign will be launched in the spring of 2020;
- The Barrington Greenway extension project trail has been paved and the project is close to completion;
- On the Northend-Westend local street bikeway project, public engagement will be undertaken in fall 2019 with Northend residents;
- A consultant will be hired to undertake a shared micro-mobility readiness study to establish what would be required for enabling of shared e-scooters in Halifax and to undertake a bike share feasibility study;
- Detailed designs are nearly ready for the Hollis Street protected bike lanes;
- Most of the new sidewalk projects have been finalized;
- A decision has been made regarding the preferred corridor from Lower Sackville through Bedford and into Burnside; and
- Simon Fraser University is continuing with their study of cycling in three mid-size cities, one of which is Halifax.

In response to a question from a member to the Committee on whether bicycles and pedestrians will be accommodated through the Cogswell Interchange after the project commences, Nener informed the meeting that a strategy is currently being developed.

8.2 Committee Members – None

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 17, 2019 at Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax at 4:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 6:12 p.m.

Judith Ng'ethe
Legislative Assistant