



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 15, 2018**

PRESENT: Eliza Jackson, Chair  
David Jackson, Vice Chair  
Ben Buckwold  
Kelsey Lane  
Lindsay Slade  
Ella Dodson  
Elizabeth Pugh  
Ian Watt  
Emily Miller  
Peter Fritz  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor Lindell Smith  
Councillor Tim Outhit

STAFF: Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant  
David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor

*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](http://halifax.ca).*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 4:05 p.m.

**1.1 ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

The Legislative Assistant called for nominations for Chair.

MOVED by Ben Buckwold, seconded by Ella Dodson

**THAT Eliza Jackson be nominated for Chair.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Legislative Assistant called three times for additional nominations; there being none, Eliza Jackson was declared Chair.

The Legislative Assistant turned the meeting over to the Chair to elect a Vice Chair.

The Chair called for nominations for Vice Chair,

MOVED by Ben Buckwold, seconded by Councillor Outhit

**THAT David Jackson be nominated as Vice Chair.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three times for additional nominations; there being none, David Jackson was declared Vice Chair.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 16, 2017**

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Ben Buckwold

**THAT the minutes of November 16, 2017 be approved.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.****3. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS**

Addition:

9.1 Snow Clearing Standards and Timelines – Kelsey Lane

There was unanimous consent to add the item to the agenda, and the agenda was accepted as amended.

**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 - NONE****8. REPORTS/ UPDATES/ DISCUSSION****8.1 Discussion****8.1.1 Commons Master Plan Public Engagement and Planning Process – Introduction and Update**

Carolle Koziak Roberts, Landscape Architect and consultant on the Halifax Common Master Plan project provided a presentation outlining the project and how to become involved in the public engagement aspect of the process. Providing a high-level overview of the project, Carolle noted the following:

- The project is focussed on park planning and recreational planning for the area.
- Develop a master plan that will be looking at the Centre core and what the needs are for park space, open space, and recreational amenities required on the Peninsula.
- There are heritage aspects staff are also considering
- Objective is to get an updated policy framework on how to manage and to provide direction on making open space decisions; and an open spaces plan which goes to south street, and the connections with the other institutional landowners; third outcome is to move forward on action plans which identify priorities and areas for re-investments and improvements, and this will focus on the municipal lands e.g. north common, south common, outdoor aquatic pool area and playground, and the wanderer's grounds area.

Carolle suggested that an area of interest for this Committee would be that the Common is between the west end and north end of the city, surrounded by a high employment hub, and that many people living on the peninsula commute by walking or cycling.

Ella commented that there was also a lot of non-commuter related traffic through the Common, advising that the Common is located between a neighbourhood and a shopping district. Ella noted safety concerns of walking through the Common at night, and that there is not sufficient access to water fountains and washrooms.

It was pointed out that recently in the media there was a proposal to put a rink in the middle of the Emera Oval, and Carolle was questioned whether this was going to be included. Carolle responded that it was an unsolicited proposal to staff and that it would be a consideration with the Master Plan.

Carolle reviewed the public engagement process, noting as follows:

- Have held two large public meetings
- In the spring there will be two more large engagements—one will focus on big key visions and principles to ensure staff are on track, and the other will present design ideas, options, and priorities, and wrap up in June with a final presentation
- First survey is closing this week; the next large public meeting will have a survey associated with it.
- Have been carrying out youth engagement and community outreach

Ella commented that at the session held at Citadel high school, there was local sentiment expressed that the Common is the local off-leash dog area, and that there is a sizeable part of the population that is older and want an off-leash area they can walk to, due to safety concerns of walking in winter. In addition, Ella advised that the community gardens are coming up for renewal and there is concern about whether this asset will be kept.

Carolle explained that the gardens are on land owned by the Province, and they are currently carrying out a master plan for their hospital building infrastructure. Carolle indicated that HRM staff have been working with them on their plan.

In response to a question, Carolle advised that the best way for the Committee to provide feedback is through David, and Committee members, individually, could get involved and provide feedback through the public meetings and the surveys.

The Chair questioned Carolle whether the Committee would be given an opportunity to reconnect on the second phase of engagement before it wraps up in June, and Carolle concurred and suggested that, at that stage, there may be some pieces in which staff could use the Committee as a sounding board.

## **8.2 Updates:**

### **8.2.1 Committee Member Updates**

Ian Watts, Halifax Regional Trails Association, presented two questions for staff's consideration. Ian asked about the status of the 2015 bike and trails map revision and whether staff will be seeking public input; and the status of the wayfinding and signs project that was in the 2017 budget.

David MacIsaac responded that the revising of the 2015 bike and trails map project is just getting underway and, typically, staff will have stakeholder engagement. With regard to the wayfinding and signs project, David advised that this was carried over to the 2018 budget and the project will begin once staff resource is available.

Ben Buckwold, Bicycle Nova Scotia advised that in the next few weeks Bicycle Nova Scotia will begin a wayfinding project related to the Blue Route Cycling Project and it is about bikeways wayfinding and how that relates to the branded trails. Ben suggested to Ian that it may be a project that HRTA would want to get involved with.

### **8.2.2 Staff Reports/Updates:**

#### **8.2.2 (i) Approval of 2018 Meeting Schedule**

The following was before the Committee:

- A recommendation report dated February 7, 2018 submitted from the Legislative Assistant

MOVED by David Jackson, seconded by Ian Watt

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee approve the 2018 meeting schedule as presented in the February 7, 2018 report.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

#### Staff Update – David MacIsaac:

David MacIsaac circulated two documents entitled Capital Project Supplementary Report and advised that they were potential AT projects and sidewalk renewal projects. David pointed out that these projects have not yet been approved. David suggested that there was not enough time today to discuss these in detail but if anyone had questions, they could speak to him offline. David also advised that if the Committee wanted to delve into how the list is compiled, this could be discussed at a future meeting.

David advised that his group has the addition of two new staff members – Siobhan Weatherby and Emma Martin.

David reviewed current priority projects and reports that staff will be bringing forward to the Transportation Standing Committee in March. Further updates of ongoing work, were noted as follows:

- Staff is working on the Implementation of the Integrated Mobility Plan
- Staff is preparing for a Redbook update
- Downtown Bikeways; Halifax Urban Greenway; and finalizing the Almon Street plan
- Bike Week preparations are about to being

- Letter from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal RE legislating bike traffic signals and cross rides in the Motor Vehicle Act

David explained that a couple of months ago there was an article in the CBC media about the Devonshire Bike Lanes project which he found disappointing because the author of the article was dismissive and critical of how staff carry out these projects. David advised that the article left the impression that the project was simply slapped together once it was found out there would be street paving. David added that he contacted the author and explained the planning involved and the detailed work that goes into such a project. David indicated that the reason for bringing forward this matter was because it is important that the Committee is aware and understands that a lot of work goes into these projects. David added that if there is ever a project that the Committee wants more in-depth information and discussion on, he would be happy to address this.

A brief discussion ensued and, in conclusion, the Chair noted that there seems to be a desire to have David provide a presentation on the AT planning process and upcoming projects. Ella suggested another presentation with a focus on walking and cycling would be beneficial as well.

## 9. ADDED ITEMS

### 9.1 Snow Clearing Standards and Timelines – Kelsey Lane

The following was before the Committee:

- A proposed motion submitted by Kelsey Lane.

Kelsey Lane advised that the matter was brought forward as a result of a discussion with Councillor Shawn Cleary based on the Halifax Cycling Coalition's membership concerns of winter maintenance of bicycle lanes. In particular, there were eight e-mails of various location concerns namely COLTA, Windsor, Rannie Drive, Hollis Street, and the McDonald bridge, and the lack of compliance around Bylaw S-300, Section 4.1 RE prohibiting snow being shovelled into the right-of-way.

Councillor Outhit noted that Councillor Cleary was a member of the Transportation Standing Committee and that at the last meeting he brought forward a Notice of Motion on a very similar matter.

MOVED by Kelsey Lane, seconded by Ben Buckwold

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommend the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report with recommendations on changes to snow clearing standards and timelines of active transportation infrastructure that reflect the prioritization of walking, cycling and transit made explicit in the integrated Mobility plan adopted in November 2017.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

## 10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 15, 2018

The Chair thanked Ben Buckwold for his past service as Chair. It was noted that two newly appointed members were on the Committee, and round table introductions were made.

## 12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Sheilagh Edmonds  
Legislative Assistant