



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JULY 20, 2017**

**PRESENT:** Kelsey Lane, Vice Chair  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor Lindell Smith  
Councillor Tim Outhit  
Ella Dodson  
David Jackson  
Ian Watt  
James McMillin

**REGRETS:** Ben Buckwold, Chair  
Maggie Lucas  
Lindsay Slade  
Eliza Jackson  
Elizabeth Pugh  
Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

**STAFF:** Leslie Neate, Legislative Support  
David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Program Supervisor  
Siobhan Witherbee, Active Transportation Planner  
Sherryl Murphy, Deputy Clerk

*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).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:33 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m.

- Community Announcements - NONE

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 15, 2017**

MOVED by Ella Dodson; seconded by David Jackson

**THAT the minutes of June 15, 2017 be approved, as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The agenda was accepted as circulated.

## **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**

### **7.1 Correspondence – None**

### **7.2 Petitions – None**

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Cogswell Redevelopment and Active Transportation – Donna Davis**

The Vice-Chair introduced Donna Davis, Project Manager, Cogswell Redevelopment Program. Donna Davis provided a presentation to the committee relating to the active transportation components of the Cogswell development plan. The Cogswell interchange is an under-utilized infrastructure, designed in the sixties. The goal of the redevelopment plan is transform it into a brand-new neighbourhood on the lands currently occupied by the interchange and to extend the downtown northward reinstating connections for bicycles, pedestrians, and vehicular traffic to the north and west ends of the city. It is a transformational project for the northern gateway to downtown - not simply a construction project. The objective is to create a vibrant downtown neighbourhood, that would extend and reconnect downtown and the waterfronts to the north end.

Vision for Cogswell:

- Walkable and transit oriented
- Re-establish fine grain of the City
- Reconnect neighbourhoods
- Emphasize public space
- Mixed-use core
- Renewable energy district
- Inspirational public & private space
- Highest environmental standards

Current Project Status:

- Pop up AT meeting - April 13, 2017
- Working toward 60% design
- Return to Regional Council with 60% design for go/ no-go decision
  - 60% design concept plan, drawings & report
  - Construction phasing
  - Constructability assessment
  - Environmental & sustainability review
  - Class B cost estimate
  - Construction schedule

Staff described the existing infrastructure followed by the variety of possible future street designs, to include two roundabouts into the downtown, and new east/west streets. Reviewing artist's renderings, they described the active transportation component including considerations for connectivity for bicycles to the north and south, AT greenways, 2-way off-street bikeways, 1-way bike lanes, and key roadway crossings. With regard to pedestrian connections, new east/west streets will be created to enable connections to the north, the west, and the Halifax waterfront.

AT Connections and Street Design possibilities include considerations of the following:

- Proctor, Bell and Cogswell Street to Waterfront
- Linear Plaza- Barrington Street
- Granville Plaza/ Ordinance Yard
- Granville Mall
- Waterfront Boardwalk- north of Marriott Hotel
- Cogswell Street to Commons
- POPS (Privately-owned public-assessable spots)

The complete streets notion is that streets are for everybody, not just bicycles or pedestrians or vehicular traffic. The activities at side-walk level are planned to be integrated though design with adjacent uses (shops, businesses, side-walk cafes, restaurants). To meet the urban forestry objectives, street trees will be re-instated.

For transit hubs, staff are looking at how existing and proposed buildings can enhance the experience for riders. Granville Square is being considered as a major pedestrian hub. They are also looking to improve the amount of area that buses have on Barrington street, with the possibility of bus-only lanes on sections of it. The inclusion of bus shelters within buildings along the route is also a possibility. The Scotia Square redesign will include in-door sheltering.

The Cogswell Street and east-west connectors redesign will be challenging due to grade. These are not flat areas. Creative solutions to help facilitate the journey for pedestrians will be required.

The next steps are:

- Continue work on 30-60% design
- Focus on infrastructure planning & land acquisitions
- Review of concept- transportation aspects- with TSC
- Public outreach & consultation in the fall

Following the presentations, comments were provided by committee members:

- The Cogswell area cannot accommodate another 2500 people and commercial space. At this time there is no place to shop; and, as a result, everyone who lives there drives to other locations

to pick up items for daily needs. Small businesses don't survive because rents are too high. Small spaces at reasonable rents need to be a consideration.

- Construction is going to cause serious traffic hassles for downtown. Has anyone looked at the long-term viability of a truck corridor along the rail route? Councillor Outhit advised that there are currently discussions on-going with the Port and CN.
- It was suggested that district heating piping be placed under sidewalks to keep them free from ice.
- Walking during constructions needs to be reviewed. It was noted that construction will cause serious disruption to walking. While there is currently no specific plan in place, this will definitely be under review for the consideration of walkers and to minimize the difficulty that may be encountered.

The presenter advised that the timeline is expected to be a three-year build out. If Council approves the plan early in the new year, the hope is to begin digging late spring or early summer, 2018.

The Vice-Chair thanked Donna Davis for the update. It was requested that the presentations be forwarded to the committee members for further review and the ability to provide additional feedback directly.

### **7.3.2 Mount Hope Greenway Extension and Connection – Ellen O'Hara, DesignPoint**

The Vice-Chair introduced Ellen O'Hara, DesignPoint, to provide an update relating to the Mount Hope Greenway Extension and Connection. DesignPoint was hired by the municipality to look at a connection routes between two existing sections of trail.

The project goals are:

- Evaluation and selection of route for connection of Mount Hope Greenway and Dartmouth Harbourfront Greenway
- Evaluation and selection of active transportation road cross section
- Preliminary design and Class C cost estimate of selected option

Possible connection routes were reviewed. Two routes under consideration are Estates Road/Atlantic Street or Acadia Street route. The high-lights of each are as follows:

Estates Rd/Atlantic St:

- Connects to Mount Hope Greenway without requiring street crossing
- Connects directly to Woodside Ferry Terminal
- Pleasant Street signalized intersection (dismount or possible cross ride in future)
- Consistent with goals of Integrated Mobility Plan

Acadia:

- Requires crossing from Mount Hope Greenway
- Connects directly to NSCC and towards downtown Dartmouth
- Street already has pedestrian facilities
- Pleasant Street signalized intersection (dismount or possible cross ride in future)

Next Steps:

- Continue discussions with HRM department stakeholders to confirm proposed road cross section
- Develop functional design of selected route
- Develop Class C cost estimate

To assist with the selection of a route, DesignPoint conducted an intercept survey. Right now, they are leaning towards the Estates Road/Atlantic Street route. The timeline for the project is to have review

work completed by the end of the summer, so that it can move to design and construction for this year's capital budget.

Councillor Austin suggested to the presenter that the stairs heading to the Woodside Ferry Terminal should be turned to allow pedestrians to be aware of cyclists and vice versa to avoid serious collisions at the bottom of the stairs.

Councillor Smith inquired about Nova Scotia Power Inc. (NSPI) poles or guide wires in the right-of-way. David MacIsaac advised that if we need them moved, NSP would be required to move them.

The Vice-Chair thanked Ellen O'Hara for the presentation and asked that the presentation be provided to the committee.

## 8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION

### 8.1 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES

### 8.2 STAFF UPDATES

David MacIsaac, HRM Active Transportation Project Supervisor, provided the following updates:

#### A) New Sidewalks:

There are 17 projects for implementation in 2017-18. About half are carry-over projects from 2016. 14 of these are tendered or under construction. Three (Herring Cover Road and two segments of Coronation Dr.) are delayed to next year.

#### B) AT Greenways:

##### **HRM Implemented (no HRTA group)**

- 1) Burnside Greenway extension – *Due to be tendered in 2017 and built in 2018.*
- 2) Penhorn Lake Greenway Design/Property – *Property discussions underway.*
- 3) Chain of Lakes Greenway Wayfinding Signage and Enhancements – *Wayfinding is part of larger HRM project. Kiosk development still on track for 2017.*
- 4) Sackville Greenway – *Segment one complete. Final segment tendered and construction to start in late summer.*
- 5) Halifax Urban Greenway Association (HUGA) – *Planning study in RFP stage.*
- 6) Porter's Lake Metro X AT Exit 20 Connection – *In discussions with Province.*
- 7) Mount Hope to Woodside – *Planning near completion.*
- 8) Barrington Greenway extension north – *Planning to start in fall 2017.*
- 9) Forest Hills Parkway – *Planning almost complete.*

##### **HRTA Group Implemented**

- 1) Gaetz brook AT Greenway – *Bridge assessment about to begin.*
- 2) Atlantic View Greenway – *Recapitalization to begin late summer.*
- 3) Beechville, Lakeside, Timberlea Trail – *Recapitalization to begin late summer.*
- 4) Crimson Dr. to Sackville Lakes Park Parking Lot (Sackville Lakes Parks & Trail) - New Greenway Segment – *Construction for late summer and fall.*
- 5) St Margarets Bay Rails - Recapitalization – *Construction for late summer and fall.*
- 6) Saltwater Marsh - Recapitalization – *Construction for late summer and fall.*
- 7) River-Lake Greenway Planning Studies (Shubie Watershed Environmental Society) – *Planning project just about to begin.*

**HRTA Proposed and HRM Implemented**

- 1) Mainland North Community Connector Upgrades - four connections – *Detailed design almost complete. Construction will begin this fall.*
- 2) Sackville-Bedford Greenway - Realignment and Recapitalize Segment – *Awaiting property permission from two landowners.*

**C. On-Road Bicycle Facilities**

- 1) Morris - University Bikeway – *Planning to begin in late 2017*
- 2) Local Street Bikeway – *RFP for Vernon-Seymour and Allan-Oak out. Planning will begin in September.*
- 3) Wyse Road and Almon Street – *Planning underway*
- 4) Fall River bike lanes – *Pending decisions on the Halifax Water project*
- 5) Rainnie Dr. – *Considering upgrade in 2018 as part of larger project to extend to Spring Garden Road via Brunswick.*
- 6) Downtown Bikeway planning – *Project will begin in early August*

**D. AT GENERAL**

- 1) Railing System Along Chain of Lakes Greenway – *Will be finalizing guidelines by end of summer*
- 2) AT Wayfinding on HRM Greenways – *Currently preparing RFP*
- 3) Integrated Walkability Enhancements – *Main project (Kaye-Gottingen) postponed to 2018*
- 4) Bike Parking, and Amenities – *Several rounds of bike parking installs have taken place. New inventory ordered*
- 5) AT Planning Studies – *Africville National Historic Site connections to begin late fall 2017.*
- 6) Macdonald Bridge Bikeway Connectors – *Going to TSC at end of July and then, pending decision, to Regional Council in mid-August*
- 7) Integrated Mobility Plan – *AT staff part of this process. Refining current draft and preparing to send to TSC in fall 2017.*
- 8) Cogswell Redevelopment Planning – *AT staff advising this process. Public engagement this fall.*
- 9) Green Network Plan – *AT staff advising on this process.*
- 10) Request for changes to MVA to enable modern bikeway treatments – *Various discussions with province. Will submit staff report for early September.*

**9. ADDED ITEMS - None**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – September 21, 2017

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.

Leslie Neate  
Legislative Support