



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
JUNE 20, 2019**

PRESENT: David Jackson, Chair  
Jillian Banfield, Vice-Chair  
Paul Berry  
Ella Dodson  
Jessie Harlow  
Sarah Manchon  
Emily Miller  
Councillor David Hendsbee

REGRETS: Ben Buckwold  
Peter Fritz  
Kelsey Lane  
Elizabeth Pugh  
Councillor Sam Austin  
Councillor Matt Whitman

STAFF: Hugh Morrison, Traffic Services Supervisor  
Donna Davis, Project Manager-Cogswell Redevelopment Program  
Siobhan Witherbee, Active Transportation Program 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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:14 p.m. and adjourned at 6:12 p.m.*

## **1. CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:14 p.m. at the Harbour East Marine-Drive Community Council Meeting Space, 60 Alderney Drive, Dartmouth.

## **2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – May 16, 2019**

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Emily Miller

**THAT the minutes of May 16, 2019 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

The Committee agreed to change the order of business to deal with items 8.1.2 and 8.1.4 prior to item 8.1.1

MOVED by Paul Berry, seconded by Ella Dodson

**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**

The Legislative Assistant noted that the Committee received correspondence from Jamie Hartling and this correspondence was circulated to the Committee.

### **7.2 Petitions – None**

### **7.3 Presentations**

#### **7.3.1 Martyn Williams – HRM Safe Streets for Everyone Group**

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A presentation by Martyn Williams, HRM Safe Streets for Everyone Group

The Chair invited Martyn Williams to make a presentation. Martyn Williams informed the meeting that the informal Facebook group they founded, HRM Safe Streets for Everyone, currently had about 1,050 members. It was founded to address the frequent number of conflict situations being experienced in HRM between pedestrians and cyclists on one hand and drivers on the other, resulting from infrastructure shortcomings.

Highlights of the presentation were:

- Unsafe road conditions in HRM included left turns on green and right turns on red at signalised intersections, lack of sidewalks on some roads and barely visible crosswalks.
- Inexpensive and simple remediation, design and concept ideas that were in use in other cities and jurisdictions to protect pedestrians and cyclists included bright crosswalk signs, visible crosswalks, protected left turn phasing, posts on roads at crosswalks within drivers' sightlines, reduced speed limits, inexpensive sidewalks using painted concrete bump outs along curbs and bollards to separate the sidewalks from cars, offset pedestrian refuge islands on wide roads and advanced yield lines.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Members encouraged HRM to continue to petition the Province to decrease speed limits within HRM to 40 kph.
- Members suggested HRM utilize simple and quick interim measures to increase pedestrians and cyclists' safety on roads and at crosswalks.
- Members noted that though HRM had a trial program in place reviewing advanced signal leading pedestrian intervals in approximately ten locations, recent data had shown that these had minimal impact in reducing incidents.
- Members requested that the Legislative Assistant circulate, to members, the Strategic Road Safety Framework Annual Information Report that had been presented to the Transportation Standing Committee earlier that day, as it was relevant to the topic.
- Members requested that the Legislative Assistant circulate the presenter's email address to members of the Committee.

## **8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION/UPDATES**

### **8.1 STAFF**

#### **8.1.1 Active Transportation Group Update**

Siobhan Witherbee, Active Transportation Program Planner, provided a verbal update on work being undertaken by the Active Transportation group:

- The South Park bike lane from Inglis Street to Spring Garden Road had been tendered and construction should start in the next few weeks.
- The Porters Lake Exit 20 Blueberry Run Trail reconnection project was under construction.
- The Bissett Greenway final segment construction would start soon.
- The first phase of the Allan Street local street bikeway was under construction between Windsor Street and Havard Street.
- The first Phase of the Vernon Street local street bikeway construction was almost complete.
- The Barrington Street Complete Streets Project (from North Street to Niobe Gate) new sidewalk, transit priority and Barrington Greenway extension project was close to the beginning of construction.
- Planning and design for Wyse Road protected bike lanes was underway.
- Several new sidewalk projects were under construction, including Althorpe Drive, Eastview Drive and Coronation Avenue.
- An AT wayfinding pilot project was ongoing and signage plans for pilot project locations were almost complete.
- On the Bedford-Sackville Greenway Corridor Recapitalization and Extension Functional Plan, the proposal evaluation had been completed and the contract was about to be awarded to the successful proponent.
- A Triple AAA cycling route was being developed through Dartmouth North and the project was in the initial stages of data collection and project scoping.

- In the Africville AT Connections project, community conversations and public engagement slated for summer/fall 2019 were being organized. Expertise was being brought to the team to help lead these conversations in a way that honoured the significance of the site.
- In the Midtown AAA Bikeway Connections project, feedback received from public engagement and pop-ups was being analyzed. A report would be ready in July, 2019.
- Bike Week was held and there was a good turnout despite the inclement weather.
- The Annual Mayor's bike ride which had been postponed was scheduled to be held in Sackville on July 4, 2019.
- A new project to develop a strategy for promoting and providing education about facilities and AT in general had been started and would be launched shortly. The Committee's input would be sought.

Siobhan Witherbee also provided responses to queries raised at the last meeting as follows:

- Rainnie Drive would receive bollards as an interim measure. Curbs would be installed at a later date.
- On the Northwest Arm Drive connector to Chain of Lakes Trail / Long Lake Park, the detailed design was nearing completion and final approval from land owners was awaited.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- In response to a query regarding the Department's plans for the design of the intersection at Almon Street and Robie Street, where two cyclists had been hit by vehicles the previous week, Siobhan Witherbee informed the meeting that consultants were already working on the design of the intersection. However, Siobhan Witherbee would establish whether the collisions had impacted their plans.

### **8.1.2 Staff Update on the Cogswell Interchange Redevelopment**

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff update on the Cogswell Interchange Redevelopment

The Chair invited Donna Davis, Project Manager-Cogswell Redevelopment Program, to make a presentation. Donna Davis gave a high-level overview of the Cogswell Interchange Cogswell plan presented to Regional Council in February, 2019 and discussed the status of the project. Donna Davis outlined the purpose of the project which was to replace the highway infrastructure of the interchange, reintroduce the infrastructure in a four-lane grid design as urban designed streets and create a new neighbourhood. This would regain land, create development blocks and introduce pedestrian friendly streetscapes. There would also be active transportation components including two bi-directional bikeways, a pedestrian greenway, a multi-use path and four open spaces (including a community garden). The redevelopment aimed to achieve Rick Hansen Foundation standards where possible. Donna Davis explained that currently the construction drawings were being reviewed, with the aim of releasing the tender in August, 2019 and commencing demolition in November, 2019.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Members suggested that covered bike parking spots be considered.
- Members expressed concern that cyclists would be required to dismount in the parks.
- Members recommended that bike rack designs accommodate space for wider bikes, cargo bikes and bikes that have accommodations for accessibility, as well as space for locking strollers and mobility devices.
- Members noted that the design should reflect the climate emergency.

### **8.1.3 Staff Presentation on Halifax Online Interactive Bike Map**

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff presentation on Halifax Online Interactive Bike Map

Siobhan Witherbee, Active Transportation Program Planner, presented the features of the Halifax Online Interactive Bike Map to the Committee. Siobhan Witherbee informed the Committee that the bike map application could be accessed on a smartphone. Further, that the online bike map had been released on open data so members of the public can download it for personal use.

Responding to questions from the Committee, Siobhan Witherbee confirmed that there were no grade indicators on the bike map but this could be considered going forward. Further, that paper maps were still available.

#### **8.1.4 Staff Update on Location and Design of Pedestrian Crossing for BiHi Park - Common Roots Urban Farm**

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff update on location and design of pedestrian crossing for BiHi Park – Common Roots Urban Farm

Hugh Morrison, Traffic Services Supervisor, presented a staff update on the pedestrian access for BiHi Park, for the relocated Common Roots Urban Farm. Hugh Morrison took the Committee through the analysis used in choosing the Bayers Street pedestrian crossing site. Staff informed the Committee that two sites were considered. The first site, at the end of De Moines Avenue, was dismissed for a number of reasons, including the wide width of the potential crosswalk, as well as utility poles and other infrastructure that would block the crosswalk site and crosswalk signage. Further, pedestrian landing pads would be required at that site. The Bayers Street crossing location chosen was narrower, had lower volume of traffic and traffic flowed in one direction only. It would be a basic crosswalk with pavement markings and signage. Pedestrian ramp work would also be required. The crosswalk would be in place within the next month.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Concern was expressed that this was a noisy crosswalk for vision impaired pedestrians.

#### **8.2 Committee Members**

Sarah Manchon announced that on Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> June, 2019, the Annual General Meeting of Halifax Cycling Coalition would be held from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the Glitter Bean Café, Halifax.

#### **9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – July 18, 2019 at Halifax, Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

**11. ADJOURNMENT** – 6:12 p.m.

Judith Ng'ethe  
Legislative Assistant