



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
JULY 18, 2019**

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

REGRETS: David Jackson, Chair
Ben Buckwold

STAFF: Eliza Jackson, Active Transportation Planner
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
Hannah Forsyth, 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 5:51 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Vice-Chair called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. in Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – June 20, 2019

MOVED by Emily Miller, seconded by Jessie Harlow

THAT the minutes of June 20, 2019 be approved as amended.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 9.1 MacDonald Bridge Fines – Jessie Harlow

The Committee agreed to change the order of business to deal with 8.1.1 under item 7.3 Presentations.

MOVED by Elizabeth Pugh, seconded by Peter Fritz

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 Linda Cameron and Trans Canada Trail Foundation and this correspondence was circulated to the Committee.

7.2 Petitions – None

7.3 Presentations - None

8. REPORTS/DISCUSSION/UPDATES

8.1 STAFF

8.1.1 Staff Update on Development of an AT Marketing and Promotion Strategy

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff update and presentation on Development of an AT Marketing and Promotion Strategy

The Vice-Chair invited Eliza Jackson, Active Transportation Planner, to introduce the consulting firm that staff are working together with to develop the AT marketing and communications strategy as per the Integrated Mobility Plan. Jackson gave the background context of the strategy and introduced Kristi

Strowbridge of National PR. Strowbridge informed the Committee that the goal was to develop an engaging and educational strategy. The main objectives of the campaign are to promote active transportation and teach residents how to navigate streets safely. Strowbridge asked the Committee for views on which groups should be consulted on the strategy, as well as appropriate target audiences and how best to reach them.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Use social media and create tool kits with shareable posters and images that are easy for groups to distribute.
- Ensure that pictures include images of all ages and abilities using the streets.
- Use pop up presentations with hard copy bike maps and demonstrations on how to use active transportation for commuting, not just for recreation.
- Engage with hospitals and other major high-traffic centres.
- Build relationships and liaise with active transportation groups, like the Halifax Regional Trails Association.
- Engage with residents that do not frequently use active transportation.
- A-frame sandwich boards on the street with people to answer questions.
- Use billboards on roads with large volumes of traffic with messages such as: “you are not in traffic, you are traffic”.
- Signage for how to interact with new infrastructure.
- Short educational videos.
- Close down a street for a weekend to invite residents to come see the new infrastructure.
- Newcomers use active transportation when they first arrive, so it is important to have materials in multiple languages.
- Explain how new projects are beneficial for everyone, not just cyclists.

The Committee was encouraged to send any further feedback, ideas or information to Jackson.

8.1.2 Active Transportation Group Update

Eliza Jackson, Active Transportation Planner, provided a verbal update on work being undertaken by the Active Transportation group:

- Working with community engagement facilitators from North End to confirm their proposal for the North End West End Bikeways. Staff recommended engagement activities and timelines, and the Committee should see a larger event in mid-late September.
- Staff are currently analyzing the public feedback on the Midtown Bikeways. The information collected will inform a set of preliminary bikeway designs for public review and comment.
- For the Vernon-Seymour Local Street Bikeway, the new signage at Vernon-Jubilee is up, and cameras, counters, radar will be installed to look at the impact on vehicular volume and speed on Vernon. The traffic volumes on surrounding streets (such as Henry Street and Walnut Street) and compliance with ‘not through traffic’ signage will also be monitored.
- Staff are meeting with Saint Mary’s University to discuss an easement through the ‘Oaks’ property for southern extension of the Halifax Urban Greenway to Pine Hill Drive / Point Pleasant Park.
- A public engagement session for the Connrose Park Pathway Landscape Plan with neighbours is taking place on July 29th, 2019 to discuss a small section of pathway through Connrose Park (Waegwoltic Avenue to Coburg Road, where Halifax Water construction project was completed). There is some community concern about the three-metre path width, therefore staff are mocking up trail widths with tape on the floor for residents to experience.
- The hard copy bike maps for Halifax Bike Map 2019 are sent to print, and Committee members are encouraged to let staff know how many copies they would like to have.
- The construction for the Herring Cove Road Sidewalks and Bike Lanes is expected to start this fall. There will be sidewalks on both sides, hatched buffered bike lanes on both sides (interim), and improvements to bus stops and pedestrian crossings (RA-5 crosswalk to convenience store).

- Construction for phase 1 for the South Park Street Bike Lanes is underway. Construction is expected to take eight weeks.
- Staff are working through the procurement process for the University Avenue/Morris Street/Robie Street (south of University Avenue) Bikeway Functional Plan. The first round of public engagement is scheduled for September or October 2019.
- On Almon Street, staff are working to integrate with a large adjacent land development (the Westwood site near Robie Street) and with the Robie Street Transit priority project. The target is to take a recommendation to Council this summer or early fall, complete detailed design this year and tender the project for construction in spring 2020.
- Detailed design of the Hollis Street protected bike lane is ongoing (interchange to Terminal Road) and the target remains to build the section this year.
- Staff is collaborating with an organization from the North End community to develop an engagement process for the Africville AT Connections, with engagement sessions in the summer and fall.
- Staff have commenced the functional planning process for local street bikeway connections through the Dartmouth North community from the future protected bike lanes on Wyse Road to the current MUP on Highfield Park Drive.
- The Bedford-Sackville Greenway Recapitalization and Extension Functional Plan was awarded to DesignPoint and has now been initiated.
- Pop up engagements are underway for the MacDonald Bridge Bikeway project.
- Website Updates are currently underway, with further information to follow.
- Jackson thanked all of the Committee members who were part of the Bike Week Committee or Bike Week event hosts. There was a debrief with that committee to bring forward lessons learned and shape next year's event.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- There was only six days notice provided for the Isleville pop-up. Communications should go out earlier in advance.
- Parts of the Allan-Oak Street corridor construction have made streets no longer passable for cyclists.
- The Common Link Association is live, with a link to Victoria Park, the Commons, and Citadel Hill with a marked walking path.

8.2 Committee Members

8.2.1 Jillian Banfield – Bicycle Parking in HRM

Banfield raised concerns with the proposed parking meter removal and noted that parking meters are frequently used for locking up bikes. Banfield asked staff if there are plans to replace the meters with bicycle racks.

Eliza Jackson briefly explained the parking program and noted that resident requests for bike racks can be submitted through 311 and the Halifax.ca website. Other requests come from Business Improvement Districts, businesses and during enhancements to maintenance areas. Jackson added that all bike racks must be on HRM property. Jackson also spoke to the Bicycle Corral program, a shared micro-mobility study, and the specific guidelines for bike racks outlined in Package “A” of the Centre Plan.

The Committee asked if all the parking meters will be removed or if there will be any bike rack conversions. Jackson advised that a preliminary review had been started to identify meters for bike rack conversion. An in-depth analysis would be required to determine the cost to convert.

The Committee enquired about snow clearing standards for bike racks. Jackson noted that parking spaces are maintained by the Transportation and Public Works Department and that there are no standards for the snow clearing of bike racks under current guidelines. However, the Active Transportation Department are working with Transportation and Public Works to explore strategic investments in bicycle parking.

8.2.2 Jillian Banfield – Change of Time for Committee Meeting

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A request for consideration form

The Committee discussed moving the meeting time from 4:00 p.m. to a later start time to better accommodate the work schedules of members. Start times of 4:30 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. were considered.

MOVED by Paul Berry, seconded by Ella Dodson

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee change its meeting time from 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. - 6:30 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. ADDED ITEMS

9.1 MacDonald Bridge Fines – Jessie Harlow

Harlow informed the Committee of the current design problem at the MacDonald Bridge bikeway / Wyse Road intersection. A Bridge Commissioner had recently instructed Harlow to dismount before crossing the slip lane to the island or be subject to a \$200 fine. Harlow noted that while the upcoming Bikeway Connector Project and the enhancements at the Wyse Road / Nantucket Avenue intersections would address the current design challenges, a workable interim solution was needed. Jackson undertook to raise the issue with Halifax Harbour Bridges staff and the Halifax Regional Police. Councillor Austin also agreed to follow up with Councillors on the Halifax Harbour Bridges Commission.

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – August 15, 2019 at Halifax, Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax at 4:30 p.m.

11. ADJOURNMENT – 5:51 p.m.

Hannah Forsyth
Legislative Support