



ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON ACCESSIBILITY IN HRM
Minutes
January 20, 2020

PRESENT: Julia Bremner, Chair
Victoria Levack, Vice Chair
Jillian Banfield
Elizabeth Doull
Jacki Purcell
Councillor Richard Zurawski
Deputy Mayor Lisa Blackburn

OTHERS PRESENT: Ezra Lipton, ALTA Planning & Design
Kalle Halaka, ALTA Planning & Design
Heather MacKenzie, Manager, Diversity Services, Halifax Public Libraries
Lynn Barrington, Manager of Operations, Halifax Transit
Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Isaac Cormier, Assistant to Accessibility Advisor, Office of Diversity and Inclusion
Darren Young, Senior Project Manager Corporate Facility Design & Construction
Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
Alicia Wall, 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 4:00 p.m. and adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. at Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 16, 2019

MOVED by Victoria Levack, seconded by Councillor Richard Zurawski

THAT the minutes of December 16, 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 Richard Zurawski, seconded by Victoria Levack

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

Item 10 of the December 16, 2019 meeting for Appointment of Member Representative to the Active Transportation Advisory Committee will be deferred to the next meeting of the Committee, awaiting appointments of members of the Committee.

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

6. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

7.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received from LIME (Canada) dated January 14, 2020 and was circulated to the Committee.

7.2 Petitions- NONE

7.3 Presentations- NONE

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS

9.1 STAFF

9.1.1 Staff Presentation – Shared Micromobility Readiness Study – Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner, Transportation and Public Works

The following was before the Advisory Committee on Accessibility:

- A staff presentation dated January 20, 2020

The Chair invited Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner to take the floor. Nener was joined by employees of ALTA Planning & Design. Nener gave a brief introduction and turned the floor over to Kalle Halaka and Ezra Lipton.

Kalle Halaka advised that the request originated from the May 29, 2019 Motion of the Transportation Standing Committee asking staff to prepare a report regarding shared micromobility. The work is being done in two phases. Phase one, which is almost completed, consists of background work including looking into existing policies to identify ones that need to be amended to allow for micromobility. Phase two is basically a feasibility study.

Ezra Lipton indicated this is a new technology and research is coming out every day. They spoke to the survey conducted by LIME and stated that 8% of riders identified as having a disability and of those, 39% use e-scooters to get to work. Research and auditing are being done on shared micromobility apps to ensure they are meeting accessibility needs as they want to ensure the whole experience is accessible. Some accessibility challenges include the parking of scooters, maintaining clear sidewalks and where the e-scooters are being used.

The Committee questioned what this would look like in rural areas.

Nener answered that the initial scope was within the Regional Centre and that population density is needed as well as access to infrastructure. It really depends on the need and demand.

Members responded to the presentation. The following points and clarification were noted:

- Members questioned how the parking of the e-scooters will be enforced and whether or not there are penalties for improper parking
- Questions were asked with respect to licensing

Lipton stated a lot of cities where scooters weren't being parked properly didn't have a regulated environment and that penalties could be imposed through the permitting agreement. Some cities require riders to provide a picture of the parked scooter. Toronto has done some studies on licensing and the end result has been that they will not be licensed.

Further points of clarification included:

- The Committee questioned if shared micromobility would be funded by tax dollars
- The Committee would like to see the prices comparable to Transit
- Members asked about seat belts
- Inquiries were made as to the average speed of e-scooters
- The Committee noted the importance of having diversity with the vehicles to meet a full range of needs
- Current bicycle parking around the City was questioned
- The age requirement was questioned
- Members asked if lights would be mandatory and would like to see riders wear reflective vests

Nener advised that the source of funding would depend on if it is a permit system or a procurement system. If it is a permit system, the cost would fall to the private operator and in a procurement-based system the City would procure someone to act on its behalf. This is something that will be looked at in phase 2. Private operators have expressed interest in operating in Halifax.

Lipton confirmed a lot of scooters do not have seatbelts as they are like bike seats and the average speed depends on the regulation and they are typically regulated between 20-25 kms per hour.

Nener stated that bicycle parking will continue to be installed around the City as per the bike parking program and that though cyclists are legally required to have front and back lights, beyond the legal requirement it is about education to ensure riders are as visible as possible.

Lipton advised operators can set age requirement and that the average ages seems to be between 16 and 18 years of age.

A copy of the presentation is on file.

9.1.2 Update – Darren Young, Senior Project Manager, Corporate Facility Design & Construction

The Chair invited Darren Young, Senior Project Manager to take the floor.

Darren Young stated that an accessibility review has been completed on the Woodside Ferry Terminal. New washrooms with universal access have been installed at Needham Community Centre, Penhorn Beach and at Acadia in Sackville. The construction on the St. Andrews Community Centre is on time and will hopefully be completed by late summer. Young hopes to arrange a tour for the Committee once the work is done.

The Chair thanked Young for the update.

Victoria Levack requested an update on the MUVE program and it was noted that integrated mobility alternative business models that include accessible, on-demand, pre-booked transportation services solution through mobile, desktop and kiosk applications, such as had been presented to the Committee by MUVE Inclusive Technology Solutions in June, 2019, could not be introduced into the Municipality until the Municipality had concluded the vehicle for hire licensing program review currently underway.

The Committee noted the importance of fast tracking the accessible transportation services solution to enhance mobility options in the Municipality for physically disabled residents.

It was further noted of the importance of having the Committee contribute to discussions on the licensing program review and approved a motion to request for the Committee to be included in ride share discussions with the Province and transportation network companies.

MOVED by Victoria Levack, seconded by Councillor Richard Zurawski

That the Committee request to be included in ride share discussions with the Province and transportation network companies

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

11. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – February 24, 2020 - Halifax Hall, 2nd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

13. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support