



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
MINUTES  
February 20, 2020**

**PRESENT:** Jessie Harlow, Chair  
Kate Sullivan, Vice Chair  
David Jackson  
Maher El Shaar  
Paul Berry  
Elizabeth Pugh  
Meaghan Doucette  
Ella Dodson  
Councillor Sam Austin

**REGRETS:** Ben Buckwold  
Kelsey Lane

**STAFF:** David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor  
Emma Martin, Active Transportation Community Programs Coordinator  
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](http://halifax.ca).*

*The meeting was called to order at 4:35 p.m., the Committee adjourned at 6:27 p.m.*

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m., at Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax NS.

**1.1– ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR**

Alicia Wall, Legislative Support called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Councillor Sam Austin

**THAT Jessie Harlow be nominated Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Jessie Harlow accepted the nomination.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

Alicia Wall called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Jessie Harlow was declared Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Jessie Harlow assumed the Chair position and called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Ella Dodson, seconded by Councillor Sam Austin

**THAT Katie Sullivan be nominated Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.**

Kate Sullivan accepted the nomination.

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

The Chair called three more times for any further nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. There being none, Katie Sullivan was declared Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

**2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 16, 2020**

MOVED by Meaghan Doucette, seconded by Councillor Sam Austin

**THAT the minutes of January 16, 2020 be approved as presented.**

**MOTION PUT AND PASSED.**

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

MOVED by Elizabeth Pugh, seconded by Maher El Shaar

**THAT the agenda be approved as presented.**

**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 – NONE**

**7.1 Correspondence**

Correspondence was received from Tobias Gerhard Schminke in support of the Bedford Highway Multi-use pathway and was circulated to the Committee.

**7.2 Petitions - None**

**7.3 Presentation - None**

**8. REPORTS/ DISCUSSION/ UPDATES**

**8.1 Staff**

**8.1.1 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Orientation**

Judith Ng'ethe took the floor to present the Committee orientation.

Ng'ethe explained that the role of Active Transportation Advisory Committee is to provide recommendations to Transportation Standing Committee who then makes a recommendation to Regional Council. The Committee only makes recommendations and does not make decisions.

Ng'ethe went through role of Chair and confirmed the Chair is the only person authorized to speak on behalf of the Committee. Attention was drawn to the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* and to the process of the meeting.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

**8.1.2 Staff Presentation on Update on Future Roles and Responsibilities of Community Trails Associations with respect to Active Transportation.**

The Chair invited Emma Martin to take the floor.

Martin indicated this project originated with the Integrated Mobility Plan and stakeholder engagement is taking place in advance of the Administrative Order being developed. Monthly meetings with the Province have been taking place as the Province owns a lot of the lands on which trails are located.

Some key objectives for developing the Administrative order are to provide clarity on roles and responsibilities, manage risk, clarify maintenance/operation costs and confirm inter-jurisdictional roles and responsibilities between HRM and the Province.

Engagement with internal stakeholders has resulted in a survey being launched and sent to 18 trail associations that are Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) members. To date, responses have been received from 14 of the 18 groups. As far as engagement with external stakeholders, meetings and presentations have taken place as well as surveys being sent to active transportation groups. Education and promotion are being done through bike week as well as ad-hoc funding. Survey results present inconsistent views on the roles that HRM should have related to maintenance.

Transportation and Public Works and Parks and Recreation focus groups would like to continue the practice of HRM being responsible to plan, construct, operate and maintain trails on HRM land.

HRM currently has no mandate to operate provincial trails.

Issues raised by the public and HRTA volunteers and researchers include trail surface and environmental damage, safety/perception of safety, user experience, trail volunteers experience and lack of active enforcement.

Members of the Advisory Committee on Accessibility wish to collaborate with the Active Transportation team to develop standards and programs.

The Administrative Order and Recommendation Report are expected to go to Transportation Standing Committee on May 28, 2020 and hopefully have the Administrative Order implemented in September, 2020.

Members would like to see a clear definition of non-motorized vehicles in the Administrative Order and consistent signage in consistent locations on the trails.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

### **8.1.3 HRM Bicycle Education & Promotion Activities and Bike Week**

David Maclsaac took the floor to present.

Maclsaac advised that bike week has been going on since the early 1990s. This year, instead of bike week over 10 days, a shift toward HRM supporting community groups all year round is being proposed. They are trying to promote cycling as a four season form of transportation by ensuring events are accessible and having adequate staff to manage workload.

A bike promotion campaign is being launched in the spring with a theme of "Get there by bike".

The Committee supported this approach. However the following points were noted:

- Members would like to see a focus on younger generations;
- The Committee would like to see Bike Week scaled down instead of omitting it all together; and
- Members would like to see training on how to put your bike on a bus correctly.

### **8.1.4 Active Transportation Group Update**

David Maclsaac took the floor to present.

Maclsaac provided the following updates:

- Active transportation planning has started in North Preston with respect to possibly extending the multi-use pathway and adding bus stops;
- Work is being done with property owners along the Dartmouth Harbour Walks Trail to fill in the gaps;
- Work is being done in Lucasville to ensure safer facilities for walking and biking;
- Planning safer walking and biking facilities through the Africville National Historic Site is in the works;
- Development of rural active transportation framework is being done;
- A report to Council is being prepared regarding safer facilities with respect to Almon Street and coming up with a better option in the area where the development is happening;
- Phase 1 of the Micromobility Readiness Study is almost complete;
- A recommendation report on all ages and abilities bikeways in the North End will be coming to Regional Council shortly;
- The sidewalk criteria assessment tool is being worked on;
- The Bedford Sackville Greenway Study is close to final stages;
- The MacDonald Bridge bikeway connector project should start this Spring with protected bike lanes being installed on Wyse Road;
- A report should be going to Regional Council in the near future respecting new candidate routes to the active transportation plan in East Preston and Crichton Avenue in Dartmouth; and
- The Bedford Highway Functional Plan for improving safety conditions should be going to Council shortly.

**9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE**

**10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – March 26, 2020

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.

Alicia Wall  
Legislative Support