HALIFAX

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
DRAFT MINUTES
September 21, 2026

PRESENT:	Rachele Manett, Chair Nikolas Harris, Vice Chair Councillor Trish Purdy Councillor Laura White Councillor Jean St-Amand Candice Colwell Regan Oliver Jorge Saldaña Anne Sinclair Jamil Sinno
REGRETS:	Geoff Hurst
STAFF:	Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor Morgane Evans, Coordinator Accessibility Community Outreach and Research Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant Chintushig Boldsukh, Legislative Assistant

These minutes are considered draft and will require approval by the Accessibility Advisory Committee at a future meeting.

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.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:08 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

1.1 African Nova Scotian Affirmation

The Chair led the Committee in the African Nova Scotian Affirmation.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – August 24, 2026

MOVED by Councillor St-Amand, seconded by Jamil Sinno

THAT the minutes of August 24, 2026 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Regan Oliver, seconded by Candice Colwell

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
7.1 Correspondence – None
7.2 Petitions – None
7.3 Presentation – None

8. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

9. REPORTS/DISCUSSION
9.1 STAFF
9.1.1 Peninsula South East Connection Functional Plan

The following was before the Committee:

- Staff presentation dated September 21, 2026

Martin Brien, Active Transportation Planner and Amy Do, Senior Transportation Engineer, Parsons Corporation gave a presentation, seeking feedback on the proposed designs.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Prioritize pedestrian and cyclist safety, including accessible crossings and clear separation between pedestrian and cycling infrastructure;
- Consider intersection design, slip lanes, bus stops, loading areas and access to community services as part of the overall route evaluation;
- Assess the impacts of each option on emergency response, traffic congestion, transit service and access to destinations along the corridor;
- Balance route directness with grade, comfort, safety and accessibility for users of different ages and abilities; and
- Provide information on operational impacts and stakeholder concerns during public engagement, including input from emergency services and Dalhousie University.

Brien, Do and Mark Nener, Supervisor, Active Transportation Planning responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.1.2 2026 Town Hall Planning

The following was before the Committee:

- Handout dated September 21, 2026

The Committee reviewed the handout outlining staff and Committee member roles and responsibilities for the upcoming October 8, 2026 Accessibility Advisory Committee Town Hall. The Committee discussed parking passes, assistance with opening and closing the auditorium curtains, and the use of multiple accessible entrances and exits.

The Committee requested that the Legislative Assistant confirm with Halifax Public Libraries that the upper auditorium would be accessible despite the back wall remaining closed.

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2026 Accessibility Advisory Committee Town Hall Feedback Form to gather feedback from business unit staff following the event. The Committee requested that Question 3 asking what participants liked and disliked be divided into two questions, and the survey description indicate that the survey contained ten questions. The Committee requested the survey be circulated to staff following the Town Hall.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant, and Melissa Myers, Accessibility Advisor responded to questions of clarification from the Committee.

9.2 COMMITTEE MEMBER UPDATES
9.2.1 Halifax Regional Council Update

On behalf of Councillor White, the Chair spoke to Halifax Regional Council's activities over the past month:

- Dismantling Racism and Hate Strategy;
- Affordable Housing Strategy;
- Deputy Mayor Cuttell – HRM Parks Washrooms and Drinking Fountain Strategy;
- Mayor Fillmore's motion regarding options to purchase one new passenger ferry servicing Alderney Landing and Woodside routes;
- Proposed amendments to Terms of Reference for Active Transportation Advisory Committee; and
- Councillor Austin – Victoria Road Redesign.

The Chair noted the following items would be included on upcoming Regional Council agendas:

- Conversion of Argyle Street to Year-Round Pedestrian Zone;
- Staff report regarding tax cap information; and
- Councillor Cleary – Affordable Housing in private development along Robie Street.

10. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – October 19, 2026

12. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:58 p.m.

Chintushig Boldsukh
Legislative Assistant