



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
February 22, 2018**

PRESENT: Councillor Tim Outhit, Chair
Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Wayne Mason
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Richard Zurawski

GUEST: Councillor Sam Austin

STAFF: Bruce Zvaniga, Director of Transportation and Public Works
Colin Taylor, Solicitor
Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant

The following does not represent a verbatim record of the proceedings of this meeting.

The agenda, reports, supporting documents, information items circulated, and video (if available) are online at halifax.ca.

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 p.m. and adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Councillor Outhit, Chair called the meeting to order in Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – December 17, 2018 & February 1, 2018 (Special Meeting)

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason

THAT the minutes of December 17, 2018 & February 1, 2018 (Special Meeting) be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

The Transportation Standing Committee agreed by consensus to move Item No. 10.3.1 and Item No. 17 as the first and second items of business on the agenda.

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES

5. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

6. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

8.1 February 1, 2018 - Transit Priority Corridors: Gottingen Street

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 25, 2018
- Correspondence received by the Municipal Clerk's Office from Katherine Kitching, Michael Allen, Robert Chiasson, Heather Nicolson, Frederic Tandy, Victor Syperek, Don Hunt, Michael Crossman, Ross Cantwell, Patricia Cuttell, Jason Joseph, Tania Sures, Edward Edelstein, Jeanne-Éline Sures, Jeanne Cain, Ben Wedge

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council proceed with detailed design of a dedicated northbound bus lane on the Gottingen Street corridor, including a Parking Loss Mitigation Plan which includes engagement with the public and stakeholders, and return to Council with a recommendation prior to tendering the project.

Tanya Davis, Strategic Transportation Planning Program Manager provided a presentation with respect to the proposed Transit Priority Corridor for Gottingen Street.

In response to questions of clarification, Patricia Hughes, Manager of Planning and Scheduling, Halifax Transit provided further information with respect to peak and off-peak ridership data for transit busses servicing Gottingen Street.

MOTION PUT AND DEFEATED.

The following alternative recommendation was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council proceed with detailed design of a continuous northbound bus lane on the Gottingen Street corridor at peak (7am-9am and 3pm-6pm, Monday to Friday), with a provision for intermittent northbound transit priority measures off peak, that will include allowing short duration time regulated (15-90 minute) parking and loading where appropriate, and to return to the Transportation Standing Committee with:

- 1. A Parking Loss Mitigation Plan which includes engagement with the public and stakeholders, and return with a recommendation prior to tendering the project;**
- 2. A supplementary report regarding potential for moving northbound express buses to a different route and moving Dartmouth bound express buses to Barrington via the bridge ramp.**
- 3. A plan to measure and evaluate the impact of the project and recommend changes, if any, within one year of implementation.**

The following amendment to the alternative recommendation was proposed:

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT clause 2 be amended to read “a supplementary report regarding the potential for moving northbound express buses (as planned) to a different route and moving Dartmouth bound express buses to Barrington via the bridge ramp”.

This amendment was deemed friendly. The motion before the Standing Committee now reads:

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council proceed with detailed design of a continuous northbound bus lane on the Gottingen Street corridor at peak (7am-9am and 3pm-6pm, Monday to Friday), with a provision for intermittent northbound transit priority measures off peak, that will include allowing short duration time regulated (15-90 minute) parking and loading where appropriate, and to return to the Transportation Standing Committee with:

- 1. A Parking Loss Mitigation Plan which includes engagement with the public and stakeholders, and return with a recommendation prior to tendering the project;**
- 2. A supplementary report regarding the potential for moving northbound express buses (as planned) to a different route and moving Dartmouth bound express buses to Barrington via the bridge ramp.**
- 3. A plan to measure and evaluate the impact of the project and recommend changes, if any, within one year of implementation.**

AMENDED MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted correspondence received for agenda items 8.1, and 12.1.2. This correspondence was previously distributed to members of the Transportation Standing Committee.

For a detailed list of correspondence, please refer to the agenda item.

10.2 Petitions – NONE

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Bill Delaney, Volunteer, Feed Nova Scotia re: Proposal for Free Transit Fares for Dedicated Feed Nova Scotia Volunteers

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A presentation from Feed Nova Scotia dated February 22, 2018

Bill Delaney, Volunteer, Feed Nova Scotia and Nick Jennery, Executive Director of Feed Nova Scotia provided a presentation with respect to Free Transit Fares for Dedicated Feed Nova Scotia Volunteers.

In response to questions of clarification, Nick Jennery noted the following:

- The provincial government does not provide operational funding for Feed Nova Scotia.
- There are several jurisdictions across Canada, such as Winnipeg, Calgary and Vancouver that offer transit subsidization for non-profit volunteers.
- Feed Nova Scotia staff will confirm how many volunteers may qualify for the Low-Income Transit pass program.

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 Herring Cove Sidewalk Request

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated November 21, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee forward the staff report dated November 21, 2017 to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

In response to questions of clarification, Dave Hubley, Manager of Design and Construction advised that staff is currently undertaking a functional study on the entire corridor where the sidewalk in question is currently located as identified in the Integrated Mobility Plan. As such, construction of a new sidewalk and other active transportation infrastructure will take place in future budget years after the study is completed.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee defer consideration of the November 21, 2017 staff report pending receipt of a supplementary staff report with possible creative, immediate solutions for prioritized pedestrian safety that can be implemented in 2018/19.

MOTION TO DEFER PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 South Park Bicycle Lane Extension and Enhancement

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff report dated January 2, 2018
- Correspondence received by the Municipal Clerks Office from Juanita Spencer, William Breckenridge, Dan Peterson.

MOVED by Deputy Mayor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the installation of 1.2 km of protected bicycle lanes and related changes to the right-of-way on both sides of South Park Street between Sackville Street and Inglis Street as described in the staff report dated January 2, 2018.

In response to questions of clarification, Dave MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor provided clarification with respect to propose lane widths which were amended for safety. MacIsaac provided further commentary on alternative parking solutions for the area.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.3 Halifax Transit Ongoing Engagement Model

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated January 17, 2018

MOVED Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Zurawski

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:
1. Direct Halifax Transit staff to work with Corporate Communications to initiate an online advisory panel as an ongoing method of public engagement.
2. Direct Halifax Transit staff to undertake in person consultation to complement the online advisory panel.

In response to questions of clarification, Patricia Hughes noted that Transit staff are not anticipating hiring additional people presently for the proposed engagement model.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.4 Electric Bus Pilot

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated December 6, 2017

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to partner with Nova Scotia Power Inc., (NSPI) and the Canadian Urban Transit Research and Innovation Consortium (CUTRIC) as described in the staff report dated December 6, 2017 to undertake a two-year pilot of energy storage at charging stations to offset electricity costs during peak periods and determine the viability of a broader system deployment of battery electric buses in the Halifax Transit's fleet.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE

12.2.1 Councillor Nicoll – Onboard Wi-Fi for Halifax Transit

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- A Councillor request for consideration form dated February 22, 2018

MOVED by Councillor Nicoll, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of onboard Wi-Fi for Halifax Transit.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE – NONE

12.4 COMMITTEE UPDATES – NONE

13. MOTIONS

13.1 Councillor Cleary

Notice of motion was provided on February 1, 2018.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Nicoll

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report with recommendations on changes to snow clearing standards and timelines of active transportation infrastructure, given that the Integrated Mobility Plan that was adopted in November 2017 explicitly prioritizes walking, cycling, and transit over private vehicles.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Cleary

“Take Notice that at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, to be held on March 22, 2018, I intend to introduce a motion that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility, benefits, and authority to install red light cameras and electronic speed detection devices”.

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Patricia Cuttell, of the North End Business Association provided commentary with respect to the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street. Cuttell advised of the organization's opposition to the staff recommendation noting that the proposal will be detrimental to businesses and residence of Gottingen Street. Cuttell noted that a detailed time travel study and increased parking enforcement should be undertaken before any changes are made to transit service along Gottingen Street.

Colin May, of Dartmouth provided commentary on the state of sidewalks in the HRM noting that many are not level with the ground and have a one-inch lip that can be a tripping hazard. May also noted praise the staff that are responsible for clearing sidewalk and gutters. May concluded by suggesting that the municipality increase resources for public works to provide better equipment for snow clearing on sidewalks.

Emily Eager, Vice President of the Spryfield Community Association provided commentary with respect to the state of the sidewalk between Lynnett Road and Civic 564 along the Herring Cove Road. Eager read correspondence from a community member and noted that improvements should be made in the current year to enhance safety for pedestrians and transit users in the area.

Andrew Murphy, provided commentary with respect to the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street advising that increasing the frequency of busses on the street would be an inefficient use of resources.

Anne Marie Curtis, of Spryfield provided commentary with respect to the Herring Cove Road Sidewalk request noting that the Transportation Standing Committee should consider an interim solution to address current pedestrian safety concerns prior to completing the project in future budget years.

Matt Spurway of Dartmouth provided commentary with respect to the importance of crosswalk safety flags to enhance pedestrian safety in HRM.

A resident, provided commentary with respect to the Herring Cove Sidewalk request advising that a solution should be considered as a priority by the municipality due to a recent fatality in the area.

Victor Syperek, provided commentary with respect to the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street noting his opposition for the project. Syperek reiterated the comments of previous speakers noting that Barrington Street would likely be a more suitable location for the corridor.

Ben Wedge, of It's More than Busses, provided commentary on the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street, noting support for the project and suggesting changes to determine a more holistic approach to the plan. Wedge noted support for the proposed ongoing public engagement model for Halifax Transit.

Kelsey Lane, of the Halifax Cycling Coalition expressed support for the South Park Bicycle Lane Extension Project.

Juanita Spencer, of the Spring Garden Area Business Association, expressed concern with respect to the South Park Bicycle Lane Extension project noting that the loss of on street parking will be detrimental to businesses operating in the area.

Jason Joseph of Falkland Street, provided commentary with respect to the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street. Joseph noted that on street parking is a necessity for business owners in the area and that the proposal as it is currently presented will be detrimental to the neighbourhood. Jason further noted that parking enforcement should be increased in the area.

Frédéric Tandy of Gottingen Street, expressed concern with respect to the proposed priority transit corridor for Gottingen Street noting that the proposal as currently presented will be detrimental to business owners and residents living in the area.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – March 22, 2018

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 4:34 p.m.

Liam MacSween
Legislative Assistant