



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
April 23, 2019**

PRESENT: Councillor Lorelei Nicoll, Chair
Councillor Tim Outhit, Vice Chair
Councillor Lindell Smith
Councillor Shawn Cleary
Councillor Sam Austin

REGRETS: Councillor Waye Mason

STAFF: Brad Anguish, Director, Transportation and Public Works
Sara Knight, Solicitor
Phoebe Rai, 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 1:02 p.m. and the Standing Committee adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – March 28, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Smith

THAT the minutes of March 28, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: 15.1 Presentation: Application for Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative – *Adel Zrein*

The Transportation Standing Committee agreed to consider item 15.1 Presentation: Application for Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative – *Adel Zrein* prior to item 11.

The Transportation Standing Committee requested that the following information item be brought forward for questions of clarification at the Standing Committee meeting to be held May 23, 2019:

- Information Item 3: Information report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated February 13, 2019 re: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Outhit

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. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION – NONE

7. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION – NONE

8. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received regarding item 12.1.2, and this correspondence was distributed to all members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation – None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 2018/19 Third Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report

The following was before Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 14, 2019
- A staff presentation dated April 23, 2019

Patricia Hughes, Manager of Planning and Scheduling Halifax Transit provided the staff presentation regarding the 2018/19 Third Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report.

In response to questions from Councillors regarding passenger overloads, Patricia Hughes explained that under the report these are defined as circumstances where a bus is too full to accept additional passengers. These had previously not been consistently tracked. Previous figures mainly reflect when another bus is deployed because of overloads. In addition to these, current data now also tracks incidents overload incidents themselves, but staff expects the number to increase as staff collects more data and increases its accuracy in reporting overload incidents. Staff is working on responding to passenger overloads internally and will have a new destination code message for buses to indicate "bus full".

In response to questions from Councillors regarding how ridership increases compare to other places in Canada, Patricia Hughes noted that the 2-3% increases staff is witnessing are considerably higher than other areas. Staff proposed to include a comparison chart in staff's year end report, if possible.

In response to questions from Councillors, Patricia Hughes confirmed staff is working with corporate communications to publicise Halifax Transit's success in increasing ridership through Halifax's online present and social media strategy.

Several Councillors inquired in addition to AM peak ridership data if it would be possible for staff to obtain PM peak ridership data. Patricia Hughes indicated that though this is an area staff has not previously collected much data, staff is always excited about opportunities to collect new data, and this may be a question to consider in drafting ridership surveys going forward.

MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the presentation from staff on the 2018/19 Third Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicators and forward to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 Implementation of IMP Downtown Bikeways (Regional Centre Bicycle Network Corridors on Hollis Street, Lower/Upper Water Street, George Street and Terminal Road)

The following was before Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff recommendation report dated February 8, 2019
- Correspondence from the Spring Garden Area Business Association dated March 26, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Austin

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council approve the installation of 2.8 km of bicycle facilities and related changes to the right-of-way on the following street segments as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated February 8, 2019:

- **Hollis Street from the Cogswell interchange lands to Barrington Street;**
- **Upper Water Street and Lower Water Street from the Cogswell interchange lands to Terminal Road;**
- **Terminal Road from Hollis Street to Lower Water Street; and**
- **George Street from Barrington Street to Lower Water Street.**

Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner with Transportation and Public Works, David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, and Brad Anguish, Director of Transportation and Public Works, responded to questions from Councillors.

Regarding feedback from stakeholders on potential traffic, pedestrian and loading conflict areas, staff replied that stakeholders have been quite supportive of the proposed shared cycle track bus stop design on South Park Street.

Regarding snow clearing issues, staff expressed that operations staff have proposed a P3 standard as the starting point for protected bikeways. In response to further questions, staff explained that the decision to current prioritization is based on budget considerations. Staff added that emergency vehicle access remains staff's first priority with respect to snow clearing.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE - NONE

12.3 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE – NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Presentation: Application for Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative – Adel Zrein

The following was before Transportation Standing Committee:

- A request for presentation dated April 22, 2019 from Adel Zrein
- A presentation dated April 23, 2019

Adel Zrein, the sole owner of "A to Z Complete Solutions" (a Nova Scotia Registered Limited Company), gave a presentation before the Transportation Standing Committee regarding a proposal for an Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative. Adel Zrein's presentation provided information on the Electric Vehicle and Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Deployment Initiative, a federal grants program, and project criteria for funding applications. While many of the current Nova Scotian applicants have applied to construct charging stations in rural locations, Adel Zrein outlined a proposal to install level three electric vehicle rapid charging stations in key locations on Halifax, including in park-and-ride parking lots to encourage local commuting vehicle users to consider electric vehicle use. Adel Zrein also proposed the municipality consider integrating user costs with Halifax Transit fees.

In response to questions from Councillors, Adel Zrein stated that the presenter proposes to service the stations over the course of the first five years during which the stations are under a manufacturer's warranty and collect a portion of the royalties in exchange for maintenance.

In response to questions from Councillors, the Legislative Assistant noted a staff report on the potential uses and installation of similar charging stations is currently being developed by Planning and Development staff and will be coming before the Environment and Sustainability Standing Committee soon.

In response to questions from Councillors, Adel Zrein confirmed that the program deadline for new applications is May 16, 2019. Several Councillors expressed concern that Regional Council will be unable to respond in a sufficient time for the applicant to meet the deadline. Several Councillor suggested the presenter leave contact information with transportation staff and Committee members to explore if there may be opportunities to integrate EV charging stations within projects under staff's existing mandate. Several other Councillors recommended that the applicant try to identify community organizations like churches with real estate and space that might be interested in revenue sharing.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Cleary

“TAKE NOTICE that at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee to be held on May 23, 2019, I propose to move to request a staff report on third party docked and dockless scooter shares, and the report should indicate what by-law changes may be necessary regarding issues of encroachments, etc.”

16.2 Councillor Cleary

“TAKE NOTICE that at the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee to be held on May 23, 2019, I propose to bring forward Information Item 3: Information report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated February 13, 2019 re: Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Study for discussion.”

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair called three times for speakers and there were none.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – May 23, 2019, Halifax City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax – 1:00 p.m.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:14 p.m.

Phoebe Rai
Legislative Assistant