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Item No. 12.2.1
Transportation Standing Committee
June 23, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Pat Gates, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: June 3, 2016

SUBJECT: Accessibility Advisory Committee Reporting Structure

ORIGIN

Motion passed at the May 16, 2016 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 13.2 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, 'The Chairperson of the Committee, or a designate, may make reports to the Transportation Standing Committee and/or Regional Council on the activities of the Committee as necessary, or as requested, together with such other presentations that the Committee may deem advisable.'

Section 14.1 of the Accessibility Advisory Committee Terms of Reference, 'The Committee may from time to time recommend to the Transportation Standing Committee the amendment of these Terms of Reference following an appropriately voted resolution.'

RECOMMENDATION

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee requests that Regional Council direct the Office of the Municipal Clerk to propose changes to the reporting structure of the Accessibility Advisory Committee with consideration of the Committee's discussion at their May 16, 2016 meeting.

BACKGROUND

On May 9, 2016 the Accessibility Advisory Committee engaged in a facilitated work plan session. It was indicated during this session that the reporting structure for the Accessibility Advisory Committee does not accurately reflect the wide range of matters considered by the Committee. The Vice Chair noted during this discussion that the reporting structure of the Committee has been a matter of concern since a previous work plan held on March 18, 2013, but that a resolution has not yet been achieved.

DISCUSSION

On May 16, 2016 the Committee dedicated their regular meeting to reviewing the terms of reference and the reporting structure of the Committee as an extension of the discussion held during the May 9, 2016 work plan session.

Committee members indicated that, while many of the matters addressed by the Committee are related to transit, the scope of the Accessibility Advisory Committee's mandate does not align with that of the Transportation Standing Committee, which limits the ability of the Accessibility Advisory Committee to provide recommendations on the wide variety of issues, plans and programs that impact persons with different abilities in HRM.

The Committee agreed that accessibility concerns are varied and affect the work of all business units within the Municipality. Considering the far-reaching scope of accessibility concerns, the Committee suggested that a pan-reporting structure would be appropriate in which the Accessibility Advisory Committee is able to report to the Standing Committee that best aligns with the focus of a given recommendation. It was also noted that there may be the occasion for which it is appropriate for the Committee to report directly to Regional Council, and that this could be a provision within the reporting structure of the Committee.

Considering that a pan-reporting structure may be not possible within the administrative policies of HRM, the Committee reviewed the mandates of each Standing Committee of Council. Committee members suggested that the Executive Standing Committee may be the most appropriate Standing Committee for the Accessibility Advisory Committee to report to, given that Accessibility Coordination is an element of the Healthy Communities Council Priority and the Executive Standing Committee's mandate includes overseeing Council's priority areas.

The Committee also considered that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee may be an appropriate Standing Committee for the Accessibility Advisory Committee to report to; however, concern was expressed that, similar to the current reporting structure, the mandate of the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee may not be broad enough to align fully with the work of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this Report. The risks considered rate Low.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is comprised of eight volunteer citizen members and two members of Regional Council, plus staff liaison members from a number of HRM business units.

Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Minutes, agendas, reports and other information on the AAC are posted on the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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