

Road Safety Steering Committee

December 06, 2023

MS Teams

ATTENDANCE: Sam Trask, HRM Sarah Rodger, HRM
 Roddy MacIntyre, HRM Julia Mills, HRM
 Anne Sherwood, HRM Mike Connors, HRM
 Kavita Khanna, HRCE Brian Palmeter, HRP alternate
 Matt Hamer, HRM Michael Croft, NSPW
 Nora Dickson, NSHA Joy Emmanuel-Omoba (Recorder)
 Jill Morrison, HRM

REGRETS: Brad Anguish, HRM Lucas Pitts, HRM
 David MacIsaac, HRM Liam Mather, HRM
 Kevin Dean, HRFE Erin Allison, HRM
 Addie MacCallum, RCMP Michaelyn Thompson, HRM

No.	Item	Discussion
1.	Approval of Minutes of the RSCC of September 20, 2022	The minutes were approved at the start of the meeting.
2.	Road Safety Statistics Update Review of Top 10 Priority Intersections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Road Safety regular updates from Jan 1st to Nov 30th, 2023, started with fatal and injury collisions combined data as of Dec 5th to be down from the baseline, given the population growth. Fatal collisions are down with only 5 known collisions as of yesterday. We remain cautiously optimistic as this time of the year is when we see increase in collisions from more dark hours and winter weather conditions. • Road safety reiterated it’s top 10 priority intersections and will be completing in-service road safety reviews for them. Currently working on pulling collision data and will be doing site visits and video conflict analysis. They have reached out to internal departments about potential integration at some of the locations. For instance, Mumford Road at the Halifax Shopping Center that correlates with the Mumford transit terminal project. Discussions and collaborations are ongoing. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anne noted that there are many of these intersections that are parallel to their ongoing work plan currently some of which are near design completion and construction, e.g., Dutch Village Road will be constructed next year which means we have missed the opportunity to integrate and do any intersection work as funding and properties are already locked down. <i>She advises we need to be prepared for questions and ways to manage the</i>

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		<p><i>message on the fact that they are not included in the Dutch Village work even though we are yet to ascertain what kind of changes or interventions there will be.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Road safety already had a preliminary look at this project and had sent recommendations to the project manager and the consultant, but they couldn't incorporate their suggestion and will be leaving the intersection out of the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Another crossover was for Bayers Rd – Connaught Ave. It was designed and partly built earlier on, second half of the project was pending property acquisition but the time to make substantive changes to it is passed unless the interventions can be advanced quickly to see what enhancement, either positive or negative impact will do to the project. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sam noted they have been in touch with someone from Mike's team (Anne noted the contact person is Ahmed). - Nora asked if there has been a review of the statistics for the work done at Bayers – Connaught location to know "if there has been increased collision, or has it calmed down since the work was completed? Sam responded not yet <i>due to delay in procuring the video analytics software needed to collect some data for this analysis. Julia added another delay is from waiting on IT to update the collision database functions to enable them to export collision files together.</i> ○ Anne also noted the potential work that Mike Connors team is currently doing at Burnside Dr – Wright Ave and Burnside Dr – Commodore – Ronald Smith Ave multi-use trail AT project, functional and preliminary work been done at the Bedford Highway – Hammonds Plain Rd, and Portland St – Spring Ave – Portland Estates Blvd tied to the functional plan work led by Transportation Planning. ○ No current plan for Chebucto rd. – Connaught Ave. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sam confirmed they are cognizant of all the ongoing projects and clarified their recommendations for the intersections may not have significant impacts on the ongoing projects.</i> ○ Nora asked what the methodology of analysis is and if there's an accessibility lens put within the analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Sam responded that they are currently revising a checklist for site visit reviews. They would begin with an inventory for</i>

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	<p>Update on progress of new Road Safety Strategy (2024)</p>	<p><i>existing infrastructure by looking at different safety aspects and yes accessibility is one of them.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Nora also asked if road safety includes wayfinding like the actual signage in the analysis. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - <i>Julia responded that the checklist has a section on signage which discusses the ability to navigate and a section for signage clutter.</i> - Layering on the methodology question was how did the intersection list get developed? <i>Sam responded that the list is developed based on their internal collision data from 2018 to 2022, and it's the highest frequency of fatal and injury collisions.</i> ● Kavita asked if she could get a contact at Halifax Water and a list of the projects Anne talked about to be used for their internal evaluation on how it will impact schools (<i>Anne responded that PW and school board work together whenever any project would affect them</i>). Kavita noted she would like to review that the right people are contacted which would be HRCE operations and offered to send an updated Org. chart if need be. ● Nora asked that when looking at the analysis for different intersections and coming up with countermeasures, is there a list of countermeasures for certain patterns and from a behavioural perspective. <i>Sam responded everything is context sensitive depending on the location, to some form everything is standardized, but a little bit different depending on the location.</i> <p>The Road Safety group is currently working on the first draft of the new Road Safety Strategy. Some specific sections of the content are under review by communications, HRP and RCMP, Office of Diversity and Inclusion and NSHA for the Equity piece. Expectation to share draft with all RSSC Members for review in January 2024. Aim is to give Corporate Communications a finished draft to prepare for Council in Spring 2024.</p> <p>A refined list of proposed Key Performance Indicators to be included within the new Strategy was shared for comments. The road safety team asked if anyone could help identify resources for emergency response times, contacts were suggested:</p>



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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Anne offered she can point them in the direction to get the outstanding data. At a variance committee meeting attended by Fire Chief, she recalled hearing that they track the response time of fire services for service standard needs. Advised road safety team to <i>Contact the Police if they have similar data. Also, Fire department tracks this missing data and maybe paramedic service.</i> - Matt highlighted <i>that Dispatch (911) may have this information for all three departments since all three (Fire, Police and Emergency) use dispatch to confirm when they are on scene.</i> - Sarah noted that we would only need data for vehicle collisions, not all emergency events. - Brian added that police keep track of when an officer arrives on scene. Will need to confirm how to pull this information but likely feasible. <p>Sam clarified that the new KPI's are an evolution from the previous set of regular stats and will be included in the annual reports moving forward. Also, an annual public survey will be conducted to gain info on resident perspective of safety overall in HRM and within individual districts.</p>
<p>Action:</p> <p>Sam to share link of road safety annual report to enable access to the top 10 intersection list with Anne & Mike. Road Safety team should reach out to the TIM group to make sure that the intersection list is flagged for potential significant changes. Also suggested to update TP, P&D, Design, HW, etc.</p> <p>Anne & Kavita to connect regarding updated contact lists.</p>		
4.	Stakeholders Update	<p>Anne gave a general update on budget. Budget sent to council had an initial approximately 10% tax rate increase request which is already challenging for everyone. Noted inflation. The alternative is to cut down on things like projects and services.</p> <p>Another thing that is different in the last year or two is the need for HRM to have cash in. Previously if you were building something that took multiple years to deliver you had to have all the money for that upfront. Now, money is only required in the year that you're going to spend it. This has helped spread out the cash needs over time and can take pressure off the tax rate.</p>



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		<p>Advance budget preliminary approval is on December 12th and overall final approval will be in April. This impacts projects that have road safety component along side others.</p> <p>Anne also highlighted December 6th is an important day for women in engineering, it's the anniversary of The Montreal Massacre for women enrolled in engineering who were killed.</p> <p>Mike had a community safety update. Council requested they proceed with planning and design for an emergency egress to the Westwood Hills subdivision which was impacted by fires last Spring. This would be their next year project region wide. Many regions have access challenges, and they would be coming up with a plan to remediate some of the challenging access situations.</p> <p>Julia spoke a bit about the approval to initiate the safe school street pilot program from Council. The program will have two schools eligible to have the road accessing it blocked off for student arrival and departure. They are in the initial stages developing how schools would apply for the program. <i>Kavita requested an email about this to further discuss how best they can support the program and ensure they have all the right support they would need.</i> Julia will reach out with more information.</p>
5.	Next Meeting	Date for next meeting in March 2024 will be sent out.