



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
MINUTES
January 16, 2020**

PRESENT: David Jackson, Chair
Paul Berry
Ella Dodson
Jessie Harlow
Kelsey Lane
Meaghan Doucette
Elizabeth Pugh
Councillor Sam Austin

REGRETS: Ben Buckwold
Emily Miller
Peter Fritz
Jillian Banfield, Vice-Chair

STAFF: Patricia Hughes, Halifax Transit
Lynn Llewellyn, Halifax Transit
Mark Nener, AT Planner
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
Alicia Wall, Legislative Support

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.

The meeting was called to order at 4:40, the Committee adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m., at Halifax Hall, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax NS.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 21, 2019

MOVED by Kelsey Lane, seconded by Councillor Sam Austin

THAT the minutes of November 21, 2019 be approved as presented.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Addition:

Information Item No. 1 - Police HRM Vehicle/Pedestrian Collisions Report dated December 2019

MOVED by Councillor Sam Austin, seconded by Ella Dodson

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. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS – NONE

7. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS – NONE

7.1 Correspondence

7.2 Petitions

7.3 Presentation - None

8. REPORTS/ DISCUSSION/ UPDATES

8.1 Staff

8.1.1 Staff Presentation on Priorities for Determining Free Ferry and Transit Service

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff presentation dated January 16, 2020

The Chair invited Patricia Hughes, Manager, Planning & Scheduling, Halifax Transit to take the floor.

Hughes informed that Transit fares are enabled through the by-law. They stated children under 5 can ride for free and currently there is a pilot project allowing children under 12 to ride for free. The pilot project started on September 30, 2019 and runs until April 1, 2020. Some other examples of free service are Transit employees, persons with a CNIB ID Card and refugees during their first year of residence. The by-law allows Council or the CAO, by resolution, to waive Transit fares in certain instances for example providing free ferry service on Natal Day or Canada Day, providing free service/extended service after 6:00 p.m. on New Year's Eve or due to weather events.

HRM supports community groups by providing free service with the Bluenose Marathon participants being an example, who can ride for free with their Bluenose Marathon ID. HRM has also supported community

events by providing free service to participants. HRM has supported over 187 not-for profit organizations by providing free bus tickets.

Transit also offers reduced fares for the Department of Community Services by way of annual passes at a reduced rate, there is a low-income Transit pass program, seniors and youth can ride at a discounted rate, students receive a UPASS with their tuition at a reduced rate and certain employers can offer an EPASS to their employees at a reduced rate.

Hughes stated that offering free transit for one typical weekday would cost approximately \$55,000.

Members responded to the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Members asked if HRM could sell bus tickets to not-for-profits at a reduced rate rather than providing a limited number of tickets for free
- The Committee questioned when Transit was last free due to weather and if Transit will be free during the Cogswell project
- Inquiries were made as to what Transit spends on tickets
- The Committee questioned what funding was available to rural areas outside of the service boundary

Hughes could not speak to what Transit spends on tickets as Finance would have that information. They indicated there is a program to help fund Transit in rural areas, they believe Transit was free for a small period in 2015 due to weather and they have not had discussions with respect to what will take place during the Cogswell project.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

8.1.2 Staff Presentation on the Shared Micromobility Readiness Study

The following was before the Active Transportation Advisory Committee:

- A staff presentation dated January 16, 2020
- Draft Vision, Principles and Goals of the Shared Micromobility Readiness Study

The Chair invited Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner to take the floor.

Mark Nener advised the project was initiated in October of 2019 and that ALTA is leading the study. The request originated from the May 29, 2019 Motion from the Transportation Standing Committee asking staff to prepare a report regarding shared micromobility.

The Integrated Mobility Plan gives direction to complete a feasibility study. There has been public engagement by way of a 3-week online survey of which 1152 surveys were completed, and results indicated that 90% of people agree with the draft vision statement.

Stakeholder engagement has been taking place since November and December of 2019. Major points of interest include safety, accessibility, affordability and public realm.

Legislation and regulations are being reviewed as well as looking into other cities that already have these systems.

A draft vision statement has been provided and the Project will be transitioning to Phase 2. Next steps include completing a market analysis, financial analysis, identifying barriers, risks and opportunities, finalizing the Background Report and preparing a recommendation memo.

Members responded to the presentation, the following points were noted:

- Members questioned the types of micromobility to be adopted by Halifax
- Inquires were made as to why places are getting away from a City operated system versus a privately operated system
- The Committee asked if the ALTA Background Report will be made public
- Concerns were expressed around enforcement and ensuring the private operator is operating in accordance with HRM legislation
- Members questioned whether or not the system will run year-round
- The importance of winter maintenance on city owned trails was expressed by the Committee

Nener advised that e-bikes are becoming more and more common with bike share systems although some of the big operators are getting out of bike shares and are just using scooters. They confirmed that the ALTA Background Report should be available publicly in a couple of weeks. Nener also indicated that operators have expressed interest in operating in Halifax and that they are unsure whether or not the system would be able to operate year-round as there would be some challenges.

A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

8.1.3 Active Transportation Group Update

The Chair invited Mark Nener, Active Transportation Planner to take the floor.

Nener provided the following updates:

- On the Peninsula South Complete Streets project, the draft report is being reviewed and comments will be provided to the Consultant while a review is also underway on the evaluation of the East and West cycling route connection options. The next steps are to identify preferred cycling routes, develop the functional plan, review the draft District identify and undertaken the second phase of public engagement
- The recommendation report on the Almon Street bikeway from Windsor Street to Gottingen Street is being finalized
- Staff is supporting the design engineer in design of phase 2 of the South Park Street protected bicycle lanes up to and including the South Park/Sackville/Bell Road intersection
- The Bedford-Sackville Greenway Corridor project is in the evaluation stage for the greenway extension options for both the Bedford and Sackville ends of the facility
- On the Highway 111 active transportation crossing at Braemar Drive and Prince Albert Road, a new project timeline and scope of work is being undertaken in order to explore more options and treatments
- On the Dartmouth North Complete Streets project, staff is reaching out to community stakeholders to initiate a community stakeholder group that will provide insight and assist with community engagement for the project
- A meeting was held on January 9, 2020 to discuss broader transportation issues in the Africville area and how the AT Department may work with other transportation groups to engage the community more strategically moving forward
- A project charter is being developed on the Spring Garden Road Bicycle Lane Economic Development Plan which will be shared with the Spring Garden Area Business Association for input
- Feedback from the public from pop-up sessions held in October and November 2019 on North End and West End “AAA” Bikeways is being processed and designs refined. The North End Bikeway from Almon Street to Cogswell Street has been segmented off into its own project and process
- Work continues on the Midtown “AAA” Bikeway Connections project on refining of designs and selecting preferred designs
- On the Bayers Road Transit Priority and AT Improvements project, staff hosted an open house session in December, 2019 with Westmount community members who are not supportive of the proposed change prohibiting right hand turns onto Bayers Road due to the approved multi-use pathway on Bayers Road terminating on George Dauphinee Road with a connection to the West End

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Bikeway. The main project engagement session to review detailed designs of the Bayers-Young corridor will be held on January 29, 2019

- On the Penhorn active transportation connection, detailed design is underway. The project will involve landowner consultation of the Penhorn site development plans and will be undertaken in conjunction with the Penhorn Lake Area Trail Association
- The North Preston Active Transportation functional planning and design was awarded to Upland Planning and Design Studio and community consultation will commence in late 2020
- Phase 1 of the Forest Hills Parkway multi-use pathway has been completed
- The Gaetz Brook connector rail trail construction has been completed though amenities, including a parking lot, benches and a trail head kiosk, will be constructed next year

The Committee provided feedback noting that winter maintenance on city-maintained trails is a concern.

9. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

10. DATE OF NEXT MEETING - February 20, 2020

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support