



**ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
SPECIAL MEETING
DECEMBER 10, 2020**

PRESENT: Kate Sullivan, Chair
Jessie Harlow
Councillor Sam Austin
Elizabeth Pugh
Kelsey Lane
Meaghan Doucette
Allison Carlyle
Andrew Taylor

REGRETS: David Jackson
Paul Berry

STAFF: Andrea Lovasi-Wood, 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 p.m., and the Committee adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER

Jesse Harlow called the meeting to order at 4:40 p.m.

1.1 – ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

Andrea Lovasi-Wood, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

MOVED by Kate Sullivan, seconded by Andrew Taylor

THAT Kate Sullivan be nominated Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Kate Sullivan accepted the nomination.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood called three times for any further nominations. There being none, Kate Sullivan was declared Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Kate Sullivan assumed the position of Chair.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

There were no nominations put forth for Vice Chair.

Andrea Lovasi-Wood left the meeting.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 19, 2020

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Andrew Taylor

THAT the minutes of November 19, 2020 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

The Committee amended the Order of Business to consider Item 5.3 ahead of Items 5.1 and 5.2.

MOVED by Jesse Harlow, seconded by Meaghan Doucette

THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

Two-third majority vote required.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

4. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS - NONE

5. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS

5.3 Proposed 2021 Active Transportation Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

MOVED by Elizabeth Pugh, seconded by Andrew Taylor

That the Active Transportation Advisory Committee approve the proposed 2021 meeting schedule as presented with the exception of March 18, 2021.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

5.1 Roles and Responsibilities for HRM on Provincially Owned Corridors of the Active Transportation Network

Emma Martin, Active Transportation Community Programs Coordinator presented to the Committee and indicated that 63% of the active transportation network is located on provincial land and managed through letters of authority with various trail associations.

The trail associations would like to see HRM assume responsibility for the active transportation network by taking ownership or through letters of authority to ensure sustainability of the trails. Analysis regarding financial costs, risks, enforcement etc. are being completed along with stakeholder meetings, all of which aid in the preparation of a report for Council's consideration. Some of the challenges HRM faces are that HRM policies do not align with provincial policies and the lack of resources to support service delivery.

Internal stakeholders include Transportation & Public Works, Planning & Development, Parks & Recreation, Legal/Risk and Finance. Some of the external stakeholders include HRP, RCMP, the Department of Lands & Forestry, trail organizations and active transportation advisory committees.

Maintenance of the trails is expensive, time consuming and extremely difficult for the volunteer groups to sustain.

The Committee asked questions of clarification regarding letters of authority and enforcement. The Committee wondered what the role of the Province would be if HRM were to take over the letters of authority.

In response to the Committee Martin indicated that changes to letters of authority can be requested but do require public consultation and that the RCMP enforces criminal matters and the enforcement of off highway vehicles (OHV's) is mandated to the NS Department of environment. A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

5.2 Halifax's COVID-19 Mobility Response Plan

Eliza Jackson, Transportation Demand Management Coordinator presented to the Committee and is part of a special task force working on Halifax's Covid-19 Mobility Response Plan. The task force was created in late April and consists of staff from different business units within HRM and are tasked with adapting HRM's streets and sidewalks to Covid-19 public health measures. The four focus areas are space to move, space to queue, space to load and space to support business.

Some of the things put in place include expanded sidewalks on Spring Garden Road and Quinpool Road, over 16 kms of slow streets in the Regional Centre, accelerated implementation of the Lower Water Street protected bicycle lane and other measures to support walking, rolling and cycling safety.

Initially public engagement was limited as the task force had to act quickly to support businesses and mobility.

A Municipality wide online map was launched asking people to identify areas in need of supports by dropping a pin on the map, 628 pins were dropped in response. A survey was also conducted regarding work completed during the summer and received 207 responses.

Some of the lessons learned include:

- Lightweight materials do not deter people from driving or make people feel safe using active transportation;
- Lightweight materials such as barrels and pylons were easily damaged and moved; and
- There needs to be more focus on social equity and accessibility in quick-build projects.

A report to Council is being prepared focusing on this year's lessons and actions.

The Committee asked what tools were used to evaluate successes and suggested maybe a reduction in red tape could help implement things faster in the future. The Committee was happy to see the implementation of 15 minutes of free parking in the downtown core. The importance active transportation facilities was noted, especially given the Covid-19 pandemic.

In response to the Committee, Jackson stated that successes were being evaluated from more of a program perspective as the resources for data collection were limited, however, feedback that was received from the public contributed to the evaluation as well. A copy of the staff presentation is on file.

6. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS - NONE

6.1 Correspondence

Correspondence was received from Christine Eisan and circulated to the Committee.

6.2 Petitions - None

6.3 Presentation – None

6. REPORTS - NONE

7. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – January 21, 2021

8. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Alicia Wall
Legislative Support