



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
October 24, 2019**

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

**OTHERS
PRESENT:** Councillor Paul Russell

STAFF: Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit
Sara Knight, Solicitor
Judith Ng'ethe, Legislative Assistant
Liam MacSween, 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 of the Transportation Standing Committee was called to order at 1:00 p.m.
and adjourned at 2:20 p.m.*

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – September 26, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the minutes of September 26, 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 Councillor Nicoll - Pedestrian Safety

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

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 – September 26, 2019

8.1 July 25, 2019 – Information report from the Director of Halifax Transit dated June 21, 2019 re: Halifax Transit Moving Forward Together Plan (MFTP) Corridor Routes Review

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated June 21, 2019

Patricia Hughes, Manager Planning and Scheduling, Halifax Transit, responded to questions from the Committee regarding possible next steps, where the report fits into the Higher Order Transit Strategy and if there would be changes proposed to the Moving Forward Together Plan as a result of this consultant report. Hughes informed the Committee that this report will be used to inform the Higher Order Transit Strategy. Dave Reage, Manager, Halifax Transit noted that staff could be directed by the Committee to study any specific elements of the report that the Committee thought especially important.

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence

The Legislative Assistant noted that correspondence was received from by Lynn McCallum dated September 26, 2019, Bob Found dated September 26, 2019 and Nora Valentino dated September 27, 2019 and this correspondence had been distributed to all members of the Standing Committee.

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentations - None

11. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD - NONE

12. REPORTS

12.1 STAFF

12.1.1 2019/20 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator Report

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated August 6, 2019
- A staff presentation dated October 24, 2019

Hughes provided a presentation on the 2019/20 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicator (KPI) Report.

In response to questions from the Committee regarding the current wait list on the low-income pass program, Hughes noted that there is no wait list, as Council increased the cap from 1,000 to 2,000 applicants and there are currently 1,500 applicants.

In response to queries from Councillors regarding reporting of overloads and capacity, Hughes advised that there are more consistent reports on overloads. Reported overloads can be verified using passenger counters and some reported overloads have been verified to be full standing loads and not actual overloads. Hughes also noted that there is not really any capacity to add additional buses mid-year to routes with overloads, as focus over the next few years will be on completing implementation of the Moving Forward Together Plan.

Responding to a question regarding the source of passenger growth, Hughes explained that growth is largely in areas with corridor routes. More commentary on growth areas would be provided in future reports.

In response to queries from the Committee regarding fleet composition, Hughes explained that there are a finite number of articulated buses and a growing demand for them. Reage and William Cutler, Bus Maintenance Manager, informed the Committee that the approximate costs of a forty-foot bus and an articulated bus are about \$660,000 and \$940,000 respectively and that the waiting period for delivery of a bus is about a year.

Responding to a question regarding whether any feedback had been received on the recent fare increase, Hughes confirmed that there had been some feedback and questions when the fare increase occurred but that there has not been much since and that not enough time has passed to gather sufficient data from which to draw any conclusions.

In response to a query from a Councillor regarding boarding of children and staff from daycares on buses, Dave Reage, Director, Halifax Transit noted that this is accommodated where possible and when there is capacity but proved to be challenging on popular routes.

Responding to a query on Access-a-Bus cancellations, wait list, trips not provided and no shows, Lynn Barrington, Manager – Transit Operations, noted that an evaluation of data collected had identified adjustments that require to be made as a result of incorrect data entries which inflated the wait list and trips not provided results. There would accordingly be an adjustment in Quarter Two 2019/20 information released for Access-a-Bus to reflect the changes.

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive a quarterly report and presentation from staff on the 2019/20 First Quarter Halifax Transit Key Performance Indicators and forward to Halifax Regional Council as an information item.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.1.2 2020 Transportation Standing Committee Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A staff information report dated October 11, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Austin, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee approve the proposed 2020 meeting schedule as outlined in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated October 11, 2019.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.2 ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A Committee report dated October 11, 2019

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee receive the update from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee as submitted.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

12.3 MEMBERS OF THE TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE - NONE

13. MOTIONS – NONE

14. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

14.1 Approval of In Camera (In Private) Minutes – September 26, 2019

The following motion was approved in public session:

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the In Camera (In Private) minutes of September 26, 2019 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. ADDED ITEMS

15.1 Councillor Nicoll - Pedestrian Safety

The following was before the Transportation Standing Committee:

- A Councillor Request for Consideration Form from Councillor Nicoll

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff presentation update regarding current and proposed countermeasures to improve pedestrian safety.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

16. NOTICES OF MOTION

16.1 Councillor Cleary

“PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the next meeting of Transportation Standing Committee on November 28, 2019, I will move the following:

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on establishing a new procedure for the appointment of the Halifax Traffic Authority that would include the committee considering candidates and making recommendation to Council and may include the recruitment and hiring of new municipal staff for the appointment.”

16.2 Councillor Cleary

“PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that at the next meeting of Transportation Standing Committee on November 28, 2019, I will move the following:

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on developing public-facing policy on boarding of children and staff from schools, daycares, and preschools, with input from stakeholders.”

17. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Martyn Williams, Halifax, expressed his concern with pedestrian safety in the municipality. He noted that there have been eight pedestrian fatalities since January, 2018 and that there appears, to him, to be no comprehensive action or funding in place to address pedestrian safety. He stated that his research indicated that most of the pedestrian fatalities in HRM occurred on arterial roads that were built to move traffic quickly and that do not provide sufficient safety for pedestrians and cyclists. Further, that a significant percentage of incidents occur at signalized intersections. He noted that there is a lack of safety one feels as a pedestrian, especially when using crosswalks, which may limit the number of people choosing to walk. He also noted that the knock-on financial effects of pedestrian accidents and fatalities are high. He advised that a strategy and action plan be formulated with countermeasures, a timeline and funding and cited examples from other cities. He expressed his opinion that consultants should be involved in the process.

Councillor Nicoll called for further speakers. There were none present.

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – November 28, 2019 at 1:00 p.m., Council Chamber, 3rd Floor, City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax.

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 2:20 p.m.

Judith Ng'ethe
Legislative Assistant