



**TRANSPORTATION STANDING COMMITTEE
MINUTES
November 23, 2023**

PRESENT: Councillor Pam Lovelace, Chair
Councillor Trish Purdy, Vice Chair
Councillor Wayne Mason
Councillor Tim Outhit
Councillor Shawn Cleary

REGRETS: Councillor Patty Cuttell

OTHERS PRESENT: Councillor Iona Stoddard

STAFF: Dave Reage, Executive Director, Halifax Transit
Colin Taylor, Solicitor
Elizabeth Macdonald, 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 was called to order at 1:05 p.m. The Standing Committee adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:05 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting took place in the traditional and ancestral territory of the Mi'kmaq people, and that we are all treaty people.

1.1 Annual Election of Chair

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Councillor Lovelace be nominated Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Lovelace

THAT Councillor Mason be nominated Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee

A vote was taken by secret ballot to elect one member for the position of Chair. Councillor Lovelace was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Councillor Lovelace be appointed Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lovelace assumed the Chair.

1.2 Election of Vice Chair

Councillor Lovelace called for nominations for the position of Vice Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT Councillor Purdy be nominated Vice Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee

Councillor Purdy was declared the successful nominee.

MOVED by Councillor Cleary, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Councillor Purdy be appointed Vice Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Purdy was declared the Vice Chair of the Transportation Standing Committee.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – October 26, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the minutes of October 26, 2023 be approved as circulated.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

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

Additions: None

Deletions: None

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, Councillor Mason

THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

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 – NONE

9. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS – NONE

10. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

10.1 Correspondence - None

10.2 Petitions – None

10.3 Presentation

10.3.1 Bayrides: Delivery Challenges in Rural Transportation Services – *Meghan Maher*

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Handout dated November 23, 2023

Meghan Maher, Chair, Bayrides and Megan Harris, Board Director, Bayrides spoke to the services provided by the organization and operational challenges including inadequate funds, rising costs and increased demand for services. Maher and Harris responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Dave Reage, Executive Director, Halifax Transit responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Joe Gnemmi, It's More Than Buses spoke to concerns regarding overcrowding on buses and inefficient service allocation. Gnemmi encouraged the Standing Committee to pass a motion directing Halifax Transit to add further departures for routes that routinely experience overcrowding and devise a short-term plan to combat overcrowding on HRM buses. Gnemmi responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

12. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD – NONE

13. REPORTS

13.1 STAFF

13.1.1 Active School Travel Plan

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated November 6, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate an HRM-led program to facilitate active and safer transportation for school-based trips that includes:

- 1. Assessment of all schools in HRM by an external consultant to establish a list of schools sorted by priority where active school travel is most feasible and beneficial and that recommends safer school travel routes and priority infrastructure improvements,**
- 2. Establishing a collaborative program between the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, and sector stakeholders/service providers to develop and deliver an Active School Travel education and promotion program, and,**
- 3. Funding to be considered as part of the 2025/26 budget process.**

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Cleary

THAT the motion be amended to include Conseil scolaire acadien provincial.

MOTION TO AMEND PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

The motion as amended now read:

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to initiate an HRM-led program to facilitate active and safer transportation for school-based trips that includes:

- 1. Assessment of all schools in HRM by an external consultant to establish a list of schools sorted by priority where active school travel is most feasible and beneficial and that recommends safer school travel routes and priority infrastructure improvements,**
- 2. Establishing a collaborative program between the Halifax Regional Municipality, the Halifax Regional Centre for Education, Conseil scolaire acadien provincial and sector stakeholders/service providers to develop and deliver an Active School Travel education and promotion program, and,**
- 3. Funding to be considered as part of the 2025/26 budget process.**

Lucas Pitts, Director of Traffic Management responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION AS AMENDED PUT AND PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

13.1.2 Halifax Transit Safety Program

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated October 3, 2023
- Staff presentation dated November 23, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to draft a plan for a Halifax Transit Safety Program for further consideration.

Philip Herritt, Director, Transit Operations gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Dave Reage, Executive Director, Halifax Transit provided clarification regarding the long term goals of the proposed program responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.3 Student Transit Pass Program

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff report dated November 4, 2023
- Staff presentation dated November 23, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve the extension of Phase 2 of the Student Transit Pass Pilot Program, which includes four high schools and six junior high schools, to the end of the current school year (June 2024);**
- 2. Accept a contribution of \$185,000 from the Halifax Regional Centre for Education (HRCE) towards the extension of Phase 2 of the program, and authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute a contribution agreement;**
- 3. Approve the scope of the full implementation of the Student Pass Pilot Program as further detailed in the staff report dated November 4, 2023, with such implementation including 10 additional high schools and 27 junior high schools, pending funding approval; and**
- 4. Direct the CAO to continue to pursue funding opportunities for the full expansion of the program, including Options F, G, and H in Table 1 of the staff report with such expansion being conditional on the Municipality receiving financial contributions from third parties, including other levels of government, which, at least reasonably offset the anticipated shortfall in HRM Transit Revenue associated with such expansion and authorize the CAO to negotiate and execute agreements or arrangements that may be necessary to receive such funding and fully expand the Student Transit Pass Program.**

Patricia Hughes, Director, Planning & Customer Engagement gave a presentation and responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

Dave Reage, Executive Director, Halifax Transit responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

As set out in section 34 of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, a motion was required to extend the time of the meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Outhit, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee extend the time of the meeting past 3:00 p.m.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

13.1.4 Proposed 2024 Meeting Schedule

The following was before the Standing Committee:

- Staff memorandum dated November 23, 2023

MOVED by Councillor Purdy, seconded by Councillor Mason

THAT Transportation Standing Committee approve the proposed 2024 Transportation Standing Committee meeting schedule as outlined in the staff memorandum.

Elizabeth Macdonald, Legislative Assistant responded to questions of clarification from the Standing Committee.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Councillor Lovelace stepped down from the Chair and Councillor Purdy assumed the Chair.

14. MOTIONS

14.1 Councillor Lovelace

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report recommending the removal of Hammonds Plains Road from By-law S-900, *Respecting the Establishment of Controlled Access Streets for Streets within the Halifax Regional Municipality.*

Councillor Mason proposed replacing 'recommending' with 'to consider'. As provided for in section 53 (2) of Administrative Order One, *Respecting the Procedures of the Council*, the amendment was accepted as friendly.

The motion now read:

MOVED by Councillor Lovelace, seconded by Councillor Outhit

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report to consider the removal of Hammonds Plains Road from By-law S-900, *Respecting the Establishment of Controlled Access Streets for Streets within the Halifax Regional Municipality.*

MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

15. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) – NONE

16. ADDED ITEMS – NONE

17. NOTICES OF MOTION – NONE

18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING – December 13, 2023

19. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:09 p.m.

Elizabeth Macdonald
Legislative Assistant