



# October 30th Meeting



# Meeting Summary

The general purpose of this meeting was to get the HCC membership together to determine in which direction the Education and Advocacy and Infrastructure committee's should proceed over the winter months. Also, this was a chance for our membership to meet the Executives behind each of these committee's and offer ideas they have for projects that they'd like to see the HCC carry forward.

Additionally, each committee was hoping to enlist interested member to more fully engage in current and potential projects that the HCC is working on. Whereas many ideas were offered through this meeting, the Education and Infrastructure committee is still looking for help to carry forward it Social Marketing and Awareness Campaign as well as the parking advisory report the HCC has begun in relation to the Spring Garden Area Business Association. Furthermore the Infrastructure committee is still looking for more volunteers to aid in it's various campaigns.

A lot of the ideas gathered tonight revolved around getting to know the behavior of cyclists in Halifax (ie, what routes they take, how many participate in Critical Mass, and the general size of the cyclist population in Halifax over the winter months). Any more information on this meeting can be found below.



# Meeting Minutes

**Date: October 30th, 2008**

**Title of Meeting: Joint Committee meeting**

**Location: Architecture and Planning Building, Spring Garden Road, Halifax NS**

**Attendees: Steve Bedard, Andrew Hayes, Alice Morgan, Alex Dumaresque, Douglas Denny, Derek Neil, Scott Macphee, Laura Masching, Jason Melanson, Rob Elford, Ewan MacKenzie.**

## Introductions

1. Andrew Hayes is the executive in charge of the Infrastructure committee. This committee is basically looking to improve existing infrastructure (bike racks, modes of parking, bike lanes, etc.). Currently this committee is trying to encourage local grocery stores to update and improve their current bicycle parking infrastructure.
2. Steve Bedard is the executive of Education and Advocacy. This committee has developed a social marketing plan to try to change motorists' attitudes and behaviors regarding cycling --we want to make cycling look appealing. Furthermore, the Spring Garden Area Business Association has expressed interest in proper places to install bicycle parking facilities (ie, racks and parking stations) within the Spring Garden area.
3. The need for a website manager was expressed through the meeting, as our website is temporarily out of service.

## Ideas from the membership

Infrastructure End

1. See if HRM can take low traffic volume streets, switch them to one way streets and build bike lanes on these streets. With strategic placement of these streets, we could essentially connect a safe corridor for bikers to take in order to get from the suburbs to downtown Halifax.
2. Get the HRM to actually spend money from the Active Transportation budget instead of relying on developers to voluntarily install cycling infrastructure as they do work around the city.

If anyone is interested in these projects, or would like to contribute to their own infrastructure ideas, please contact Andrew Hayes at: [andrewpeterhayes@gmail.com](mailto:andrewpeterhayes@gmail.com).



#### Education and Advocacy End

1. Get CAN-Bike back into school. The EAC is already developing a pilot program in an attempt to get this done. Steve has already approached the EAC about possibly helping with this project.
2. Dedicated bicycle bulletin boards around the city that would be owned and maintained by the HCC. Anyone interested in contributing to this project, please contact [stevebedard@eastlink.ca](mailto:stevebedard@eastlink.ca)
3. Advocate for the retroactive installation of bike racks on all Metro Transit busses. Steve is interested in developing a letter writing campaign to address this issue. Anyone interested in this, please contact [stevebedard@eastlink.ca](mailto:stevebedard@eastlink.ca).

#### General

1. One suggestion is to determine what routes bike commuters typically take in order to get to work and run errands.

To do so, it is suggested that a volunteer group be formed to determine popular routes that cyclists typically take daily. These volunteers would count the amount of cyclists traveling by the following locations: the Halifax end of the Macdonald Bridge, the Rotary, Bell rd, where Oxford intersects with Quinpool, Scotia Square.

We should also investigate how we can cooperate with the bridge commission to get *real* numbers of how many cycling span the bridge in a day based on video footage from the bridge. Furthermore, we should start a partnership with Metro transit to count how many cyclists use the ferry.

From all this information, the HCC can produce a report about current road usage by cyclists, and indicate to HRM council the best areas to place future cycling infrastructure.

[Alex Dumaresque indicated that he would be interested in leading a volunteer group to identify popular cycling routes. If interested in this project please contact Alex at \[awdumare@gmail.com\]\(mailto:awdumare@gmail.com\)](#)

2. Get cyclist information on radio traffic reports.

Alex recently called CBC to report a problem, and they put it to air along with the regular traffic report. Additionally Alex put a series of radio-station phone numbers on a piece of paper for us all to use to notify radio-stations of areas of concern when it came to bike commuters.

[Steve will temporarily handle this issue. If you have any questions, concerns or areas/road that need reporting please contact \[stevebedard@eastlink.ca\]\(mailto:stevebedard@eastlink.ca\).](#)

3. Get better media contacts, and media talking points. It's in our best interests as an advocacy group to better develop media relations and utilize them in order to maintain cycling's status as a major issue within the HRM.



4. Giving something back like bike parking. The HCC should approach this city in an attempt to establish "bike parking services" for any future concerts on the commons, or offer voluntary services for any other big events in the future.
5. Develop an event in order to keep other cycling organizations up to date and on track with what they are doing. Possibly creating of an annual HCC event that allows these organizations to come together and reach cyclists about what they've been doing over the year.

## Current Concerns

### **Clerks Office and collecting information about Active Transportation Committee plans.**

Contact the clerks office in order to get the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee in order to see what plans from the city are forthcoming, and what issues the city would like to address.

### **HCC supports chamber of commerce press release that Mayor PK should get his act together and start spending on transportation solutions.**

Recently, the Halifax Chamber of Commerce launched a press released indicating that Mayor Peter Kelly has to step up and show some leadership in his third term as mayor. They specifically site urban transportation as one of the issues that Mayor Kelly should definitely address during this term as mayor. The actual press release can be found on the following website:

<http://www.halifaxchamber.com/default.asp?mn=1.10.29.671>

It was decided that the HCC publish a press release supporting the Chamber of Commerce.

Scott MacPhee Volunteered to write something about this with Steve.

### **Bike Week Volunteer Committee**

Alex Dumaresque volunteered to head an Ad Hoc committee who's mandate will be to establish plans and events to be held during Bike Week 2009, and establish media relations in order to get more publicity aimed towards the cause of biking.

Please contact Alex if you would like to be a part of this Ad Hoc committee at [awdumare@gmail.com](mailto:awdumare@gmail.com)

## Miscellaneous Items

Doug Denny, volunteered to make a proper report of the results from our Visioning seminar held on October 18th.

Derek Neil will talk to BNS in order to get cyclists into schools to talk about why children should choose to cycle. If anyone has any questions or comments about this project, please contact Derek at [krazyderek@gmail.com](mailto:krazyderek@gmail.com)