

**VILLAGE OF NEW MINAS**  
**TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**REGULAR MEETING**  
**NOV 3, 2010**

The regular monthly meeting of the New Minas Transportation Advisory Committee was held on November 3, 2010 in the Civic Center, downstairs, on November 3, 2010 at 7:00 p.m..

**In Attendance:** Chair Dean Hatt  
Vice-Chair Gordon Silver  
Commission Chair Dave Chaulk  
Citizen Member Gavin Paterson  
Assistant Supt of Public Works Gerard Hamilton  
Clerk Treasurer Terry Silver

**Also in Attendance:** Ms. Heather MacKinley, Concerned citizen  
Mr. Neil Balcom, GameTronics, concerned Businessman  
Mr. Joe Rafih, Property/Business owner and concerned Businessman

**Absent:** Commissioner James Redmond

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Hatt called the meeting to order and welcomed all those in attendance.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA – Regular TAC meeting – November 3, 2010**

It was moved by G. Silver, seconded by D. Chaulk that the Agenda be approved with the following additions: Under “NEW BUSINESS” add (b) Request for Crosswalk upgrade – J. Sutcliffe, and add “PUBLIC PARTICIPATION”. MOTION CARRIED

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Regular Monthly TAC meeting held May 5, 2010**

It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by G. Paterson that the minutes of the regular TAC meeting held on May 5, 2010 be approved as presented. MOTION CARRIED

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

a) NSDOTIR Projects Update – Fred Whynot

Chair Hatt spoke on the items in the report from Mr. Fred Whynot NSDOTIR, who was unable to attend the meeting. He then asked T. Silver to read the report for the benefit of the public attendees.

D. Chaulk mentioned Fred Whynot had not attended the last meeting of the TAC, and asked if he was planning on attending the meetings. T. Silver explained Fred had to be away this evening, and stated he had advised her that he does plan on coming to the TAC meetings when possible.

Chair Hatt stated that it is very beneficial for Fred to be so helpful with transportation issues, and appreciates his submission of a report when he cannot attend, and is also hopeful Fred will be able to attend the TAC meetings.

Fred Whynot, in his report, requested a wish list of roads/streets in New Minas in need of paving. The Committee members will submit same to T. Silver, and the list will be forwarded to Fred for consideration.

b) Sidewalk Construction - Update

Chair Hatt read the report on the current sidewalk construction project and asked if any of the Committee members had any questions.

**NEW BUSINESS**

a) Request for Crosswalk, 9128 Commercial Street

Chair Hatt read a letter from Mr. Joe Rafih, in which he requested the TAC to consider constructing a crosswalk at or near the Scotiabank/WalMart entrance (copy of letter attached to original minutes). He stated there is a lot of pedestrian traffic crossing the very busy Commercial Street where there is no crosswalk, making it very hazardous for vehicular drivers and extremely dangerous for the pedestrians. He commended the Village on the construction of the sidewalks on the south side of Commercial Street, and emphasized this will create more jay-walking.

Chair Hatt advised that the NSDOT makes the final decision on crosswalks in New Minas. T. Silver explained the process for the Village to have a crosswalk installed. G. Silver stated that it really doesn't matter why people jay-walk, the point is they do. Gerard Hamilton advised that he had measured the areas Mr. Rafih had noted in his letter, and there is a distance of 695 feet to the Jones Road crosswalk (going east from the point of interest), and 497 feet going west to the Prospect Road crosswalk.

D. Chaulk stated he felt he cannot make a decision on whether this would be a suitable location until he knows the provincial guidelines. The Committee agreed and requested T. Silver to contact Fred Whynot at NSDOTIR for these distances and report to the December meeting.

b) Request for Crosswalk upgrade – J. Sutcliffe

Chair Hatt read a letter from Mr. John Sutcliffe, who expressed concern about pedestrian safety at an existing crosswalk at Perrier and Prospect Road (copy of letter attached to original minutes). G. Paterson suggested a temporary fix could be suggested to NSDOTIR by marking the crosswalk more clearly, such as using vibrant yellow paint instead of the normal white. This crosswalk is on a curve on a very busy street and drivers are not always aware there's a crosswalk there. G. Silver suggested a light or other indicator should also be visible to drivers coming off Perrier onto Prospect.

**It was moved by D. Chaulk, seconded by G. Paterson that it be recommended to the Commission to budget for the installation of a crosswalk overhead light at the current Perrier/Prospect Road crosswalk location. MOTION CARRIED**

G. Silver stated he has a problem with the Committee dealing with one request for a crosswalk and not the other; however, he would not vote against it for that reason, because he feels they are both important. D. Chaulk reminded everyone that not dealing with Mr. Rafih's request at this meeting will not delay the process at all because nothing can be done until next year's budget.

**PUBLIC DISCUSSION PERIOD**

Ms. Heather MacKinley – Ms. MacKinley stated she is here to support Mr. Rafih's request for a crosswalk on Commercial Street. She stated her son volunteers at Pets Unlimited, and, although she warns him against jay-walking, she knows he cuts time from his journey across Commercial Street and crosses by the Scotiabank driveway. She stated there is a constant flow of pedestrians she witnesses doing the same, and is concerned someone may be injured.

Mr. Neil Balcom – Introduced himself as the owner of GameTronics, which business has just recently moved from further west on Commercial Street to 9218 Commercial Street, and he supports Mr. Rafih's request for a crosswalk. He stated that besides providing a safe crossing for pedestrians, it would also facilitate the access and egress of vehicles on Commercial Street. He, too fears that sooner or later, someone will be injured jay-walking at that location, and feels this would be an ideal spot for a crosswalk if DOTIR would permit it. He expressed disappointment that no one at the meeting is not aware of the provincial regs by now, given the number of sidewalks in New Minas. He stated he appreciates the Committee's desire to know the rules prior to recommending it to the Commission, but it is his understanding that, if the Committee thinks this is an appropriate request, they could submit the request to the Commission now, and follow the process as outlined earlier; thereby moving it along by a month. D. Chaulk stated he certainly feels it is a valid request, but again feels he cannot make

an informed decision unless he is aware of all the facts, and the month will not make any difference in the project completion date.

Mr. Rafih suggested if this goes forward, it would also be beneficial to ask DOT to install traffic lights at the same intersection. He stated the Commercial Street traffic has always been excessive, and is getting more so with all the new development. D. Chaulk stated that DOT have recently been going away from traffic lights and installing roundabouts, so it would seem unlikely they would consider it. T. Silver reiterated Fred Whynot's comments that once the roundabout is completed and operating for awhile, DOTIR may consider doing another traffic study for Commercial Street, and consequently may make improvements in that area.

Mr. Rafih, Ms. MacKinley and Mr. Balcom all congratulated the Village on their movement towards making the Village safer for pedestrians by upgrading and building new sidewalks.

Chair Hatt thanked them for their attendance, their submissions and their comments.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**On motion of D. Chaulk, the meeting adjourned.**

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**DEAN HATT, CHAIR**

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**TERRY SILVER, CLERK TEASURER/RECORDER**