

Francklyn Street Meetings on the Halifax Urban Greenway

The May 4th public meeting at Saint Mary's Art Gallery resulted in a number of concerns being expressed to the area councilor regarding the nine foot width of asphalt being proposed for the Francklyn Street connector route to Point Pleasant Park. As a result, HUGA requested that HRM hold a follow-up meeting with the Francklyn Street neighbourhood.

Again at HUGA's request, flyers advertising the meeting were mailed to every household along Francklyn Street and all the streets accessing Francklyn to enter and leave the neighbourhood. The meeting was held in the Halifax Hall reception room at City Hall, at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, June 1st. About 35 residents attended.

The points made at that meeting are summarized in point form on the HUGA website at:

http://www.halifaxurbangreenway.org/reports/francklyn_street_june1.pdf

At the conclusion, of the meeting, HUGA invited neighbourhood residents to meet with the its Board of Directors to try to agree on a proposal for an alternative design for Francklyn Street.

On June 6th, HRM told HUGA by e-mail that Active Transportation staff had reviewed the status of Francklyn Street viv-a-vis suitability for bicycle traffic. Their conclusion was that Francklyn Street had a low enough traffic volume that a separate bicycle route or lanes was not needed, and bicycles could safely travel on the street. The revised proposed standard for the trail along the street was six feet width of asphalt to accommodate in-line skaters as well as walkers, joggers, strollers and wheelchairs.

The HUGA-neighbourhood residents meeting took place at 7:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 7th at the Queen Street Sobey's Community Room. Seven residents attended. A proposed alternative was agreed upon and will soon be presented to HRM for its review. An on-street discussion of the proposal with Active Transportation staff will be requested.

Mark Poirier, President, Halifax Urban Greenway Association