Infrastructure Committee Meeting
Town Council Chambers
Date: June 10, 2025. Time: 6:00 p.m.

Present
Councilor J. Sullivan, Chair
Councilor, L. MacLellan, Chair
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Mayor S. Cameron

R. Boucher, Resident of Antigonish
M. Grant, Resident of Antigonish
K. Meisner, Director of Infrastructure & Engineering
D. Halfpenny, Infrastructure & Engineering Administrative Assistant

Call to Order
The Chair, Councilor J. Sullivan, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Additions to the Agenda
Items added to the agenda:
1. Road Standards.
2. Flood Protection
3. Scheduling of Tour of Facilities.

Approval of Agenda
A motion was made by Councilor L. MacLellan and seconded by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts to approve June 10, 2025, agenda with additions. Motion Carried.

Business Arising from the Minutes

1. **Budget Approval.**

K. Meisner reported that with the recent town budget approval staff are working on hiring additional staff, purchasing equipment, and lining up capital projects. He informed the Committee that there are tenders being prepared and requests for proposals that are expected to be posted within the next couple of weeks.

Councillor L. Maclellan commented that there are many acronyms used for the various funding and asked if K. Meisner could clarify,

ICIP is Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program
GRID is Grant/Research Infrastructure Development
ATF is an Active Transportation Fund
MCGP is Municipal Capitol Growth Program and is specific to Towns.
PCAP is Provincial Capital projects.

2. **Bay Street Project Update**

K. Meisner noted that he will be meeting with the designer of the Bay Street project June 11 and that the tender will be sent out ASAP. He commented that the railway will be contacted to get

the permits in place for the first portion of the work. Another key part will be the communications roll out. He advised that he will be meeting with the communications department to draft a plan to keep the stakeholders informed of the work schedule. He stressed that there will be delays and the goal it to minimize effects to the hospital and keep traffic flow with minimal disruptions.

He advised that moving all the piping to the hospital side of the street will prevent having to dig pipes in the middle of the street.

Discussion followed.

R. Boucher asked if there was consideration for an additional route to the hospital.

It was explained that over the years there were discussions on having a second route to the hospital.

Deputy Mayor D. Roberts advised that the infrastructure needs to be upgraded and that the Northern Collector Project is focusing on developing a plan for the second route and enhancing the town.

K. Meisner advised that in upcoming meetings the Northern Collector proposed Alternate route could be added to the agenda.

L MacLellan comment that as a Regional Hospital it is a major concern that there is only one route, and the current Council and Staff have been looking at options to create an alternative route as it is much needed for safety reasons. He noted that the Bay Street Project must be done and that it will be painful to the hospital and residents.

The Chair, Councillor J. Sullivan stressed that replacing the aging infrastructure and paving Bay Street is necessary and there is no effortless way to get it completed. However, he commented that once the work is completed the Hospital and residents will be able have upgraded services to meet their needs. He reiterated that communication will be key and to let the hospital know what is going on as early as possible and to do the best we can to keep traffic flowing.

3. **West Street Project Update**

K. Meisner reported that a CHIF application has been drafted and sent for review to the province. He explained that the applications site is not open yet, but the province has advised that it will be active in the next two weeks and that the Town of Antigonish will be first in the queue as they have a shovel ready proposal. A resolution will be sent to council on Monday.

A tender will be prepared and as soon as funding is approved. It will be sent out.

K. Meisner will update the committee when funding is approved.

4. **College Street Bridge Update**

Councillor J. Sullivan advised that the snow fence had been removed, and the Beautification Committee will be working on a project to enhance the look of the bridge.

The Chair commented that with the bridge projected to last another four years there will be ongoing work to determine a plan for replacement in the future.

5. Active Transportation

K. Meisner advised that there is no update for tonight's and that he will be attending a meeting tomorrow to discuss design,

Deputy Mayor inquired as to whether the Columbus Field portion of the has been approved by the Knights of Columbus.

Mayor S. Cameron stated that the Knights of Columbus are not the owners of Columbus Field that it is Columbus Club of Council 1105 that is the legal entity that owns the Columbus Field.

K. Meisner explained that routes are being reviewed and that he will update the committee at the next meeting.

6. Potholes

K. Meisner reported that the Asphalt plants are now up and running. Infrastructure crew have been filling potholes and preparing for the upcoming Asphalt Patching Tender. Data collection is underway, and he commented that Infrastructure Committee members may notice markings place on the street. He explained the marks are to determine which areas are to be milled and patched with fresh asphalt. Work is ongoing and the tender will be prepared and released as soon as the data has been completed. He noted that the budget will not cover all the areas identified and that he will be collaborating with the Manager of Infrastructure to determine what areas will be addressed this year.

7. Developing an Educational Program on What Items Not to Flush

K. Meisner noted that proper oxygenation is key to the functioning of the Sewer Treatment Facility and when items are placed in the sewer that aren't meant to be flushed it causes major problems.

Discussion followed on the regularly posted what not to flush information and actively doing a campaign that would coincide with the return of the SfFX students.

The Chair noted that Town Councillors pair up with StFX staff to do a yearly welcome to Antigonish and provide them with information. He noted that a poster supplied to them and a copy provided to the landlords would be a good way to launch the campaign.

8. Snow Removal Policy

K. Meisner had a copy of the Town of New Glasgow snow removal policy circulated to committee members for review. He asked that Committee members take some time to review the policy and make recommendations as to what the Town of Antigonish Snow Removal Policy should look like.

Discussion followed on the importance of getting the opinions of merchants in the downtown area.

The Chair noted that he will touch base with downtown merchants get their thoughts.

L. MacLellan noted that it is important to make sure that the snow is removed around store fronts when it is 2 or 3 inches as it can develop into ice, which is dangerous for those with mobility issues.

M Grant commented that in areas like Halifax restrictions are placed on areas for a specific timeframe when street cleaning is going to take place.

The Chair asked that committee members take some time to review the New Glasgow policy and to come back with some ideas to the next meeting.

New Business

1. **Sidewalk Damage on St Andrews Street**

R. Boucher submitted a photo of damage to a sidewalk panel on St Andrews Street.

He advised that he had witnessed a person on a motorized accessible scooter driving over the grass to avoid the broken panel.

K. Meisner will have Infrastructure staff check it out.

2. **Line Painting**

K. Meisner advised that since the budget approval one new line painting student has been hired and two others are scheduled for an interview on Thursday. He noted that due to the late start Infrastructure staff may be assisting in getting the line painting project underway. He stated that the machines and paint are now in place to do the work. Once staff are hired and trained it will be a focus to get the line painting work completed.

Discussion followed:

M Grant commented that he had checked the width of the parking spaces in the St Mary's Parking lot and that they varied from seven and half feet to eight and a half feet. He commented that there is no parking permitted in the parking lots overnight.

Councillor L. MacLellan and Deputy Mayor D. Roberts questioned whether the Town should allow for overnight parking in town parking lots during the summer.

K. Meisner brought up a concern that the downtown businesses owners had mentioned during other discussions about parking spaces being restricted due to people leaving their vehicles parked for prolonged periods of time or that staff take up the parking spots. It was also noted that there is currently no policy to allow for overnight parking and that parking is in the domain of Bylaw Enforcement and therefore should be with the Police and Licensing Committee.

A motion was made by Deputy Mayor D. Roberts and seconded by Councillor L. Maclellan, that the Infrastructure Committee recommend to Council that they consider relaxing the overnight parking ban in the downtown core parking lots to allow for overnight parking for July and August.
Motion Carried.

3. Road Standards

Councillor L. MacLellan asked about road standards and questioned whether Hawthorne Street needs to be as wide as it currently is**.**

K. Meisner noted that there is a hierarchy of streets, and he would have to review what section of town and what the current standards are applicable to each area. He advised some requirements will be changing as accessibility requirements are put in place for sidewalks.

The topic will be added to the next agenda for further discussion.

4. Flood Protection

Flood Protection

Councillor L. MacLellan commented that flood protection is an important consideration. He asked if there was a map of all Town owned properties.

K. Meisner stated that the is currently several maps that have various town properties but there is not a map that has all the properties on it. He explained that the Town has many different areas some of which are in the County of Antigonish such as the James River Dam area.

There is a flood plan map located on the Eastern District Planning Commission website.
K. Meisner noted that WSP is the Engineering Consultant for the Bay Street project, factored in flood protection when working with the town for the street upgrade. He noted that he had been in discussions with the landowner of the new East Main Street development concerning flood mitigation.

Flood Protection discussion will be deferred to the next meeting.

5. Tour of Facilities for Councillors and Committee Members

The Chair checked with Committee members to see what date and time would work best for Committee members. It was agreed that during regular business hours it would be best to allow the Manager of Facilities to be on hand take the group through the tour.

The Chair advised that it may be an idea to have Antigonish Transit hired to have everyone in one vehicle and perhaps have a snack break included in the plans.

Discussion followed on whether it should be morning or afternoon. Committee members agreed

that a morning would be the best option, and a date of July 8th would work best.

K. Meisner advised he will speak to his manager about the tour and investigate hiring the Antigonish Transit bus for July 8th from 9 a.m. until approximately 1 p.m.

A calendar notice will be sent out when the details are in place.

Meeting Date and Time

The Chair advised that he will be out of town on a family vacation in early July and has several other commitments for July. It was noted that committee meetings are usually suspended during the summer months due to vacations and the difficulty in reaching quorum.

The Chair thanked all committee members for attending and acknowledged that there is a lot of work to be done. He noted that he would check the schedule and advise when the next meeting will take place.

He commented that the much-needed Town Infrastructure Projects are expensive but with the recent tax increase, the Town Council has made a commitment to upgrade the infrastructure. He noted that there would be more discussion on the Northern Collector plans in future meetings.

Councillor L. MacLellan called for adjournment. Motion carried.

Motion to adjourn K. Meisner.
Meeting Adjourned 8:11.

Next meeting TBD