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IP #1

Harbour East Community Council
September 16, 2010

TO: Chair and Members of Harbour East Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor", written over a horizontal line.

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: August 10, 2010

SUBJECT: Request for Overhead RA-5 Crosswalk Signs with Flashing Lights on
Boland Avenue at Cairn Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.3 raised at the August 5, 2010 meeting of Harbour East Community Council.

BACKGROUND

12.3 Overhead RA Crosswalk Lighting - Boland Avenue/Cairn Street - Councillor Smith
MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Councillor Karsten that Harbour East Community
Council request staff to provide a report regarding the installation of overhead RA-5 crosswalk
lighting at the intersection of Boland Avenue and Cairn Street. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

DISCUSSION

The existing marked crosswalk on Boland Avenue at Cairn Street is presently equipped with the basic marked crosswalk installation (which consists of two painted white lines across the roadway and four ground-mounted pedestrian crosswalk signs - two signs for each direction of travel). Pedestrian-actuated flashing amber lights are intended for use on multi-lane roadways and are not considered necessary at this two-lane crosswalk location.

Pedestrian actuated flashing amber lights are not legally required at any marked crosswalk. They are basically a supplementary traffic control device designed for more complex locations where a driver's attention may be difficult to obtain with a simple marked crosswalk. On wide, multi-lane streets it is often more difficult for a pedestrian to make eye contact or to signal his/her intention to cross by raising a hand. Flashers are less useful on a narrower two-lane roadway and can have a negative effect of increasing rear-end vehicle collisions if pedestrians activate the flashers and immediately step into the travelway without first waiting for traffic to slow to a stop.

In the case of the marked crosswalk on Boland Avenue at Cairn Street, there is no particular difficulty in conveying a pedestrian's crossing intention to a driver. Some drivers may choose deliberately not to stop and others may be inattentive and fail to stop, but that is not something that flashing lights can overcome.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The community engagement process was not considered necessary because the response to the request is based on existing operational criteria.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by : Vaughn Perrin, Traffic Analyst, Traffic & Right of Way, 490-4822