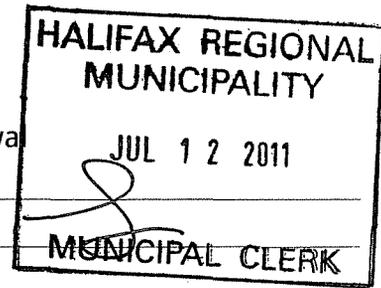




Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal  
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2



July 5, 2011

Councillor Bob Harvey, Chair  
North West Community Council  
Halifax Regional Municipality  
PO Box 1749  
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Councillor <sup>Bob</sup> Harvey:

Thank you for your June 6, 2011, letter regarding the Yield to Transit Bus law and speed zones along Hammonds Plains Road.

The upper speed limit to which the new law applies was set at 60 km/h because at higher speeds it is safer for bus drivers to wait for a break in traffic before merging back in. With this limit, it is thought that improvements in transit efficiency can be achieved for a large percentage of urban transit traffic without adversely affecting traffic safety. I understand that there will be times on busier sections of higher speed roads where drivers must wait to reenter traffic. However, the potential delay they may experience does not offset the safety concerns with the proposal to have the law apply on higher speed roads.

The section of the Hammonds Plains Road referenced in your letter belongs to the HRM. As owner, the HRM is the sole authority with respect to speed limits in this area.

I hope this information is of some use.

Sincerely,

Bill Estabrooks, M.B.  
Minister

- c: Taso Koutroulakis, Acting Manager, HRM Traffic and Right-of-Way Services  
North West Community Council Members  
Nick Antoff, Chair, Waterstone Neighbourhood Association