

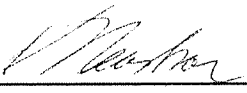


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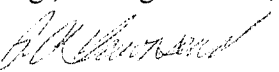
North West Community Council
August 19, 2010

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Acting Director, Transportation & Public Works



Phil Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: August 10, 2010

SUBJECT: **Sagewood Seniors Complex - 345 Cobequid Road - Request for
Marked Crosswalk, Sidewalk, and Bus Shelter**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 9.1.1 raised at the July 8, 2010 meeting of North West Community Council.

BACKGROUND

9.1.1 - Letter from Maureen Scott, Community Employment Counsellor, and Marilyn Forrest, Executive Director, Anchor Industries Society, dated June 22, 2010, re: sidewalk & crosswalk request for Cobequid Road (attached).

Motion passed that North West Community Council:

1. Forward a letter with a copy of Ms. Scott's correspondence dated June 22, 2010, to Traffic Services requesting an installation of a crosswalk;
2. Forward a letter with a copy of Ms. Scott's correspondence dated June 22, 2010, to Construction Design requesting an installation of a sidewalk; and
3. Forward a letter, with a copy of Ms. Scott's correspondence dated June 22, 2010, to Metro Transit requesting an installation of a bus shelter, and copy the North West Transit Advisory Committee for their review.

DISCUSSION

1. Because of the numerous requests for the marking of crosswalks, it has been necessary to establish criteria which provide an objective basis for evaluation as to where marked crosswalks are installed on HRM roadways. Given that it is not practical to mark crosswalks at every intersection and bus stops, most jurisdictions use some form of evaluation criteria to determine if a crosswalks needs to be marked.

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines for marked crosswalk installation, which have been adopted for use in HRM, require that the volume of traffic results in fewer than 120 crossing opportunities per hour and that there be a minimum of 20 pedestrians per hour crossing.

During a one hour pedestrian count conducted on July 27, 2010, from 7:30 a.m. - 8:30 a.m., no pedestrians were observed crossing Cobequid Road in the area of Civic # 345. Only one pedestrian was observed crossing from 4:30 p.m.- 5:30 p.m. on July 26, 2010. Although the minimum traffic volume warrant on Cobequid Road is met, the minimum pedestrian crossing criteria is not met and therefore a marked crosswalk would not be approved.

2. A new sidewalk has been requested on the southeast side of Cobequid Road between Nelson Dr. and Judy Anne Ct. in Sackville. Prior to amalgamation, installation of new sidewalks was not a requirement for development in several areas of HRM, including parts of Sackville, Dartmouth and Halifax. Since then, new developments have been installing sidewalks based on HRM Municipal Service Systems (Red Book) standards. Areas without sidewalks are rated to determine the potential for pedestrian needs and safety concerns. Sidewalks are recommended for installation based on this rating system and the opportunity to integrate with other infrastructure components (i.e., paving). The rating system takes into account the potential for pedestrian usage based on proximity to schools, daycares, parks, shopping, and public transit. The classification of the street, presence of an existing sidewalk on the opposite side of the street, shoulder width, safety issues and connections to existing sidewalks are also factors which are used in rating requests for a new sidewalk.

There are currently more than 225 locations that are being considered for sidewalk installation and, based on budget availability, approximately 8 - 10 new locations are constructed each year. Currently, HRM's new sidewalk program applies only to locations within the urban area and on an HRM owned and maintained road. It is typically a cost sharing program where the municipality covers 50% of the construction costs and residents pay the remaining portion through a local improvement charge.

Cobequid Road from Nelson Dr. to Judy Anne Ct., has been rated for a new sidewalk and, relatively speaking, it rates slightly above average. Based on the priority rating system and

budget availability, it is not anticipated that a new sidewalk will be constructed on Cobequid Road for some time. It will remain on the list, and be reviewed for consideration as part of HRM's future Project Budget process.

3. The outbound bus stop location on the southeast side of Cobequid Road, just west of Judy Ann Court, had a ridership count of approximately 6 passengers per day in 2009. This count is too low to warrant a bus shelter through existing installation criteria. Although the site does not meet present service standards for bus shelter placement, it will be placed on a list for future consideration should ridership grow with further development.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no immediate budget implications resulting from this report.

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 responses to the three requests are based on existing operational criteria and will be conveyed to the community by this report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Letter from Maureen Scott, Community Employment Counsellor, and Marilyn Forrest, Executive Director, Anchor Industries Society

**Sagewood Seniors Complex - 345 Cobequid Road - Request for Crosswalk,
Sidewalk, and Bus Shelter
Community Council Report**

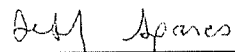
August 19, 2010

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.

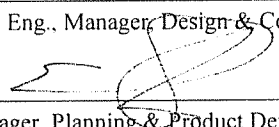
Report Prepared by : Vaughn Perrin, Traffic Analyst, Traffic & Right of Way, 490-4822
Anne Sherwood, P. Eng., Design Engineer, Design & Construction 490-6872
Tiffany Garbett, Transit Technician, Metro Transit, 490-6678



Report Approved by: Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., Acting Manager, Traffic & Right of Way, 490-4816

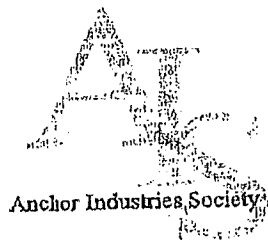


For Dave Hubley, P. Eng., Manager, Design & Construction, 490-4845

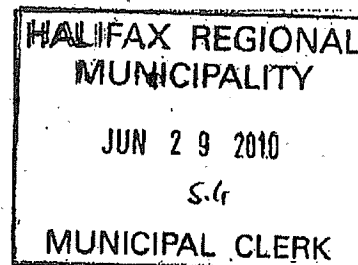


Edward Robar, Manager, Planning & Product Development, Metro Transit, 490-6720

Attachment 1



Employment. Community Options.
One Person at a time.



District 20 Lower Sackville
272 Hallmark Avenue
Lower Sackville, NS
B4C 3R1

June 22, 2010

Councillor Robert Harvey,

The purpose of this letter is to identify a serious safety concern that affects the Lower Sackville Community near the newly opened Sagewood Seniors Complex located at 345 Cobequid Road. This impressive new facility is home to 50 residents. Unfortunately, there is no sidewalk located on its side of Cobequid Road, nor is there a flashing pedestrian crossing light and crosswalk that allows residents, families, staff, and visitors to safely cross the road in order to reach the sidewalk or parks and numerous businesses and services located on the opposite side of Cobequid Road. It is almost impossible to cross this street due to the high volume of traffic on this major thoroughfare. This problem will undoubtedly have a major impact on the residents of The Sagewood and this community.

I am a home owner in Lower Sackville and a Community Employment Counsellor with Anchor Industries Society (AIS) at 61 Glendale Ave. On behalf of AIS, I recently made successful inroads with The Sagewood in that AIS will be placing clients in work experience placements at this seniors' residence. This offers AIS clients the opportunity to work with the community and gain valuable work and social skills that would aid them in many other areas of their lives. Moreover, this will add a completely new dimension to the value of the care Sagewood staff can offer its residents. The lack of a sidewalk on the Sagewood side of Cobequid as well as the lack of a safe crosswalk will directly have an impact on the AIS' clients' ability to travel to Sagewood by foot.

I am requesting your help in bringing this very important matter to council or to the appropriate group who has the ability to rectify this situation. The preferred request is to have a sidewalk constructed on the Sagewood side of Cobequid Road and extended to Glendale Ave. In the interim, it is requested that a flashing pedestrian crossing light and crosswalk be installed close to the Sagewood complex. This would be of great benefit to the 50 residents currently living at Sagewood, their families, many clients at Anchor Industries Society, and the local community. Furthermore, in the immediate future, Sagewood plans to construct another building adjacent to the first, which will house 75 beds, and all of these residents and their families will stand to benefit from this sidewalk as well.

Many thanks in advance for reviewing this issue and addressing it. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any concerns. I can be reached at _____ or by email at _____

Sincerely,

Maureen Scott

Maureen Scott
Community Employment Counsellor
Anchor Industries Society

Marilyn Forrest

Marilyn Forrest
Executive Director
AIS

c.file