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Info #1

Harbour East Community Council
December 3, 2009

TO: Chair and Members of Harbour East Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor".

Ken Reashor, P. Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: November 18, 2009

SUBJECT: Request Information Report - Investigate Move of Crosswalk

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.1 that was raised at the November 12, 2009 meeting of Harbour East Community Council

BACKGROUND

Harbour East Community Council passed a motion by Councillor Karsten requesting an information report requesting the Traffic Authority investigate the possibility of moving the signalized crosswalk from Portland Street & Bel Ayr Avenue intersection to the existing traffic lights at Portland Street at the entrance of the Metro Transit Terminal.

DISCUSSION

The marked crosswalk on Portland Street at Bel Ayr Avenue, presently equipped with RA-5 overhead crosswalk signs and amber flashers, was installed prior to the establishment of a Traffic Operations Division in Dartmouth and consequently there are no records of when it was originally installed. However, the number of reported pedestrian collisions at this crosswalk is low (5 since 1997). There is no guarantee that pedestrian signals at the Portland Hills Metrolink Terminal would reduce the number of pedestrian injury collisions at Portland Street and Bel Ayr Avenue (which is not particularly high relative to the volume of traffic).

Pedestrians would still have the legal right to cross at the intersection even if the marked crosswalk was removed, and some undoubtedly would still prefer to cross at Bel Ayr Avenue rather than walk to use the signals at the MetroLink Terminal and back.

Because there is no significant volume of pedestrian activity being generated between Portland Hills/Regal Road and Bel Ayr Avenue that can't be accommodated by the existing signals at Portland Hills/Regal Road or the marked crosswalk at Bel Ayr Avenue, there is no present requirement for pedestrian signals at the Portland Hills MetroLink Terminal.

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, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

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, 490-4822

Financial Approval by: _____
Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-1562