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**Chebucto Community Council**  
**December 12, 2005**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Chebucto Community Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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

Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, TPW

**DATE:** November 30, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Petition - Kearney Lake Road

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Item 9.2 raised at the October 3, 2005 meeting of Chebucto Community Council.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Councillor Wile submitted a petition on behalf of 69 residents of the Kearney Lake Rd. area with regard to traffic concerns. The area in question ranges along Kearney Lake Rd. from Highway 102 to the Bedford Hwy. Residents claim their quality of life is being compromised by the volume and speed of traffic, hazardous crossing conditions for pedestrians, and noise from truck traffic, especially during evening hours. The petition suggests that a number of traffic control measures be undertaken including: reduced speed limits, additional marked crosswalks with more positive controls, all-way stops, additional traffic signals, speed humps, and increased police surveillance.

**DISCUSSION**

**Traffic Volumes** - Kearney Lake Rd. is four lanes wide between the Highway 102 and Dunbrack St. and is classified as an arterial roadway. Its traffic volume was counted at 16,000 vehicles per average weekday in 2002. This is an increase of 5500 vehicles per day since 1994, for an average annual increase of approximately 6.5%. The section of Kearney Lake Rd. between Dunbrack St. and the Bedford Hwy. is three lanes wide and is also classified as an arterial roadway. Its volume has increased at the lessor rate of 2.7% per year from 10,100 in 1995 to 13,200 in 2005. Neither these total volumes nor their annual increase are unexpected for an arterial roadway.

**Speed Limit** - The posted maximum speed limit is 50 km/h. Council is already aware that this is the lowest maximum speed limit permitted to be posted on any public highway in this Province; and that, recent tests of a posted lower maximum limit, namely 40 km/h, proved unsuccessful in changing driver habits and attitudes. The existing posted maximum speed limit of 50 km/h is appropriate for this roadway and cannot legally be lowered.

**Truck Route** - Kearney Lake Rd. between Highway 102 and the Bedford Highway has been designated as a daylight only truck route (in effect between 7:00 a.m. and 9:00 p.m.), ever since the inception of the original Truck Route Bylaw back in 1979. This roadway, along with Lacewood Dr. and Hammonds Plains Rd. form the only three legal connecting links in Mainland North for truck traffic travelling between the Bedford Highway and the Highway 102. These connections are essential to meet the trucking industry's needs as well as to discourage the infiltration of truck traffic on roadways with lower classifications and which are not geometrically conducive to supporting truck traffic.

**Engine Braking** - Section 181A(1) of the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act provides that:  
"No Person shall use a diesel engine enhanced braking system while operating a vehicle on a highway for which the speed limit is fifty kilometres per hour or less unless the use of the braking system is required for an emergency."

Therefore, the use of engine enhanced braking systems on Kearney Lake Rd. is illegal except in an emergency. The "No Engine Braking" sign which was approved by the Province in conjunction with this legislation is not regulatory, has no legal implications, and is not required for enforcement purposes. Staff has been reluctant to install such signs except at the request of Police to supplement their regular enforcement activity.

Two "No Engine Braking" signs exist on Kearney Lake Rd. One is appropriately located adjacent to the Lake where the speed limit for inbound traffic reduces from 70km/h to 50 km/h. A second supplementary sign was recently installed at the request of police on the south side of the roadway just east of Dunbrack St.

**Existing Traffic Control and Crosswalks** - Aside from the four major signalized intersections, (Bedford Highway, Dunbrack St., Parkland Dr., and Highway 102 ramp) there are two pedestrian crosswalks, each of which is located within a designated school zone. The crosswalk at the

intersection of Castlehill Dr. and Broadholme Ln. is equipped with a pedestrian activated half signal. The crosswalk located at the intersection of Grosvenor Rd. and Wedgewood Ave. is equipped with a pedestrian activated RA-5 system. Crossing guards are also employed at these two crosswalks during critical school crossing hours.

Staff subscribes to the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Canada. Its recommended guidelines and criteria for approving traffic controls are applied to any requests we receive. There are no additional intersections along Kearney Lake Rd. between the Bedford Hwy. and Highway 102 where traffic signals or all-way stop controls would be warranted. Previous studies did not reveal locations where crosswalks should be approved; and this roadway, due to its designation as an arterial, also does not qualify for traffic calming measures.

There is a limit to the extent to which traffic control devices can regulate traffic. Staff is confident that appropriate traffic control measures are in place along this section of the Kearney Lake Rd. The success of these devices depends largely upon their consistent application, combined with the willful compliance by the public as reinforced with enforcement by Police.

**Police Enforcement** - The stretch of Kearney Lake Road between Highway 102 overpass and the Bedford Highway is 1.5 kilometres long. It accommodates both business and residential structures. Since 2004, several traffic initiatives have targeted this area regarding motor vehicle infractions. These initiatives were to provide high profile and visibility of Police in the community, with a prime focus on child/adult pedestrian safety at crosswalks as well as vehicle speeds through the area. Halifax Regional Police continue to monitor this area for motor vehicle infractions; and, the following is an overview of those defined policing initiatives as well as other policing efforts on this section of roadway.

Operation "Slowdown 2004" - Was a very successful week-long region wide speeding initiative. Kearney Lake Road was a targeted area. It was also designated as the location for a media opportunity and noted in a news article by Dan Arsenault, (The Chronicle Herald).

Canada Road Safe Driving Week May 16 -21 - There were two road side checks done on Kearney Lake Road during this traffic initiative.

May 18, 2005 - 7 speeding violations

May 20, 2005 - 6 speeding - 1 failed to yield to pedestrian

Operation "School Zone" - Was a three-day initiative from September 7-9, 2005. Again, this area was chosen as the media and photo opportunity location to kick off the campaign. The media coverage was excellent and the project was a success. Again, the aim was to reduce speeding and crosswalk violations in the vicinity of schools. This initiative was in response to concerns raised by citizens at the 2004 Town Hall Meeting; and, it had both a proactive and reactive component. Police members were requested to interact with parents, students, teachers, crosswalk guards and, of course, motorists. Police members handed out several hundred traffic safety pamphlets during this initiative. The primary goal of this project was achieved as no students were injured in motor vehicle accidents during the opening week of school.

Halifax Regional Police and Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations - September 28, 2005  
HRP's Traffic Unit and the Vehicle Compliance Branch of Service Nova Scotia conducted a safety check point at Kearney Lake Road and Silverwood Terrace. This check point was highly visible as there were 6 HRP members and 5 compliance officers assigned to this location for the entire day. Approximately 2200 vehicles were stopped and checked. Thirty-five (35) violations were issued including, one for use of engine enhanced braking system, nine for motor vehicle safety inspection failure, and three vehicles were towed.

Operation "Impact" - Was an initiative from October 7-10, 2005. This was a province-wide campaign utilizing increased visibility through check points and radar enforcement with the desired result being a fatality free Thanksgiving weekend. Five officers were assigned to the intersection of Bedford Highway and Kearney Lake Road. During the campaign 10 violations were issued under the Motor Vehicle Act.

Other - Halifax Regional Police, in an effort to address both the truck route bylaw and the engine enhanced brake legislation, has formed a partnership with the Compliance Branch of the Registry of Motor Vehicles. The partnership has enhanced the sharing of information, provided the opportunity for joint patrols and regular roadside safety check points. To date, sixteen check points have been conducted region wide, with over 30,000 motor vehicles having been checked, resulting in 392 infractions. This partnership has provided officers in West Division the expertise needed to prosecute engine enhanced brake system violations before the courts. Both police and compliance officers have targeted the Kearney Lake Road area and violations have been issued. This is an ongoing initiative.

Both the West Division Community Response Officers and the Compliance Branch Officers have worked numerous morning and evening hours in an attempt to ticket violators of the truck route bylaw. To date, these collective efforts have resulted in the issuance of seven engine braking violations and twelve truck route violations.

The school liaison officer has also been active in addressing the Kearney Lake Area residents concerns. Radar enforcement conducted in the area of the marked school crosswalks, has resulted in ten violations being issued. To enhance this effort there has been a special check in the area by patrol officers. This special check has generated ten violations for speeding and one warning regarding truck route violation. These initiatives will be ongoing.

The Halifax Regional Police and the HRM Traffic Authority have formed a partnership and meet monthly regarding traffic issues. This partnership promotes open dialogue; and as a result of discussions, additional signage has been added to the Kearney Lake Road area. These discussions will be ongoing.

West Division Community Response Officers (CRO's) have also utilized the radar trailer in a proactive approach to remind and warn drivers about their speeds. This equipment will continue to be utilized in this area and results shared with HRM Traffic Authority.

From January 1, 2004 - December 4, 2004, Halifax Regional Police officers collectively issued 90 violations in total. From January 1, 2005 to November 30, 2005 Halifax Regional Police officers have collectively issued 249 violations in total.

On October 10, 2005, the Halifax Regional Police Traffic Division became operational. To date this section has done an outstanding job in hard targeting those areas of the municipality that are deemed chronic. This target specific strategy has proven very effective in the Kearney Lake Road area. Between October 11, 2005 - November 23, 2005 the traffic unit had issued ninety-three (93) violations, mostly speeding.

The Kearney Lake Road area has been an historical, chronic traffic problem area and has been identified by the Halifax Regional Police Traffic Section as requiring regular enforcement. Continued dedicated enforcement by the Halifax Regional Police Traffic Section will have a positive impact on the Kearney Lake Road complaint.

Halifax Regional Police are committed to working with their community to provide safe neighbourhoods and quality of life.

**Conclusion:** - It is not anticipated by staff that traffic characteristics in this area will alter to the degree that additional traffic control measures will be required at other intersections. Staff will assess the feasibility for additional traffic controls should conditions warrant. Staff supports the continuing efforts of the Police Traffic Division in addressing traffic violations.

### **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.

### **ALTERNATIVES**


There are no alternatives.

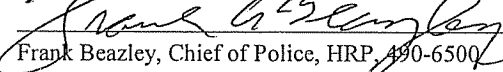
### **ATTACHMENTS**

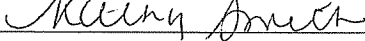
None.

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

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