


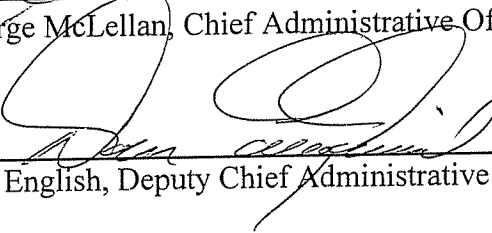
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PO Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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Halifax Regional Council  
June 29, 2004  
*July 6, 2004*

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:**   
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer  
  
Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** June 16, 2004

**SUBJECT:** By-Law Number S-414 , Respecting Charges for Street Improvements

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**ORIGIN**

This report originates from staff.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Regional Council:

1. approve the new Local Improvement standard costs as per the attached Schedule "A",
2. approve in principle the adoption of By-Law Number S-414, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements, attached, and also give notice of motion to begin the formal adoption process,
3. apply the new standard cost applicable to all 2004/05 capital projects where such apply.

## **BACKGROUND**

By-Law Number S-400 deals with the recovery of costs where Council undertakes a project to install new street paving, new sidewalks, and new concrete curb and gutter. This By-Law provides the authority to impose a charge on persons owning property that abuts either side of the street as described in By-Law S-400.

## **DISCUSSION**

The approved Council policy for LIC rates for new sidewalk, new concrete curb and gutter, and paving projects is based on the average cost of two consecutive years on an ongoing basis. Based on this policy, staff reviewed construction costs of various sidewalk, concrete curb and gutter, and paving projects in Capital Budget years 2002/03 and 2003/04 and recommends that the standard costs be changed as per the policy. The attached Schedule "A" shows the actual construction costs and average costs for 2002 and 2003, and the recommended standard costs for 2004/05.

The rate for the replacement of asphalt sidewalk with concrete is based on a 1/3 credit using the same criteria as previous years, and the proposed 2004/05 unit costs are based on the average of the 2002 and 2003 actual construction unit costs as per Council's policy. As a note, LIC rates no longer apply to the replacement of asphalt curb and gutter with concrete curb and gutter.

The proposed By-Law Number S-414, Respecting Charges for Street Improvements, is an amendment of By-Law Number S-400, The Street Improvement By-Law, and will enable HRM to charge Local Improvement Charges for new street improvements. The rates to be applied are shown on the attached By-Law Number S-414.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Upon Council's approved updated standard costs, Local Improvement Charges for 2004/05 capital projects will be levied using these standard costs and the amount will be collected as operating revenue as approved by Regional Council.

## **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.

The installation of new sidewalk, and curb and gutter will provide better pedestrian safety. As the infrastructure ages, capital funds will be required for replacement.

**ALTERNATIVES**

Council could choose not to increase the cost for 2004/2005 capital projects , however staff does recommend this alternative.

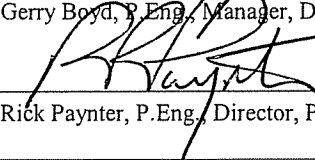
**ATTACHMENTS**

- Schedule "A" - Proposed Standard Costs for 2004/05 Capital Projects
- By-Law Number S-414, Respecting Changes to Street Improvements

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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BC/bhs

**SCHEDULE "A"**

**PROPOSED STANDARD COST FOR 2004/05 CAPITAL PROJECTS**

Description of Project	Cost Per Foot to Each Side of Street				
	Actual Cost, 2002	Actual Cost, 2003	Average Cost (2002, 2003)	Current standard cost for 2003/04 as per By-Law S412	Proposed standard cost for 2004-05 capital projects
* New concrete sidewalk on one or both sides	\$14.37	\$22.61	\$18.49	\$14.97	\$18.49
Replacement of asphalt sidewalk with concrete on one or both sides	\$9.58	\$15.08	\$12.33	\$9.98	\$12.33
New concrete curb and gutter on one side	\$15.29	\$14.71	\$15.00	\$14.24	\$15.00
New concrete curb and gutter on both sides	\$30.58	\$29.42	\$30.00	\$28.48	\$30.00
New Paving	\$16.60	\$23.96	\$20.28	\$14.73	\$20.28

\* There is no cost to property owners for second sidewalk on same street

