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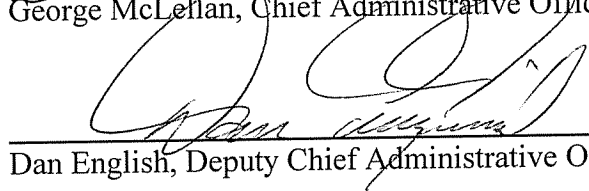
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Halifax Regional Council
February 8, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer


Dan English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: February 2, 2005

SUBJECT: Capacity Study: Halifax-Dartmouth Bridges

ORIGIN

This report was prepared by Traffic & Transportation Services.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council approve an increase in the Gross Budget of Capital Account No. CTR00529 - Various Traffic Related Studies, by \$31,432 to cover the cost sharing of Capacity Study: Halifax-Dartmouth Bridges from the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission, as outlined in the Budget Implications section of this report.

BACKGROUND

The communities of Halifax and Dartmouth are connected across Halifax Harbour by the A. Murray MacKay Bridge and the Angus L. Macdonald Bridge. These two toll bridges handle a combined traffic volume of nearly 100,000 vehicles per day.

Bridge flow across the harbour is dictated by three bridge system elements: lane capacity on the bridges, roadway capacity on either end of each bridge, and capacity of the toll collection system. Halifax Regional Municipality and the Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission wish to undertake a joint assessment of issues related to existing and future expandability of capacity of bridge system and approach capacity.

DISCUSSION

The 1991 Bridge Capacity Study studied the implications and cost of both small-scale and large-scale physical improvements allowing increases to capacities of the bridge system elements. The current study will update the 1991 study and will involve the development of capacity-increase alternatives to ensure optimization of any infrastructure or operational investment. The study will consider several traffic loading increase scenarios to identify when bridge and approach road capacity improvements will be warranted and when the cross-harbour traffic demand will reach the practical capacity of the bridge system.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

In December 2004, the Chief Administrative Officer approved the award of RFP #04-136 for the Capacity Study: Halifax Dartmouth Bridges, for a price of \$60,780.00, plus net HST, for a total amount of \$62,864.15 to the highest ranking proponent, MRC Delphi, from Capital Acct. No. CTR00529 -Various Traffic Related Studies.

The Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission has agreed to fund half the cost of the study, reducing the impact on HRM's budget to \$30,390 plus net HST for a total of \$31,432.07. The capital budget for Various Traffic Related Studies is intended to fund studies, like this one, that identify and explore roadway projects which provide value in effective traffic management. Any projects identified through this study will be budgeted for through the normal capital budgeting process. The availability has been confirmed by Financial Services.

Budget Summary: Capital Account CTR0052-Various Traffic Related Studies

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$33,429.59
Plus: Cost Sharing from HDBC	<u>\$31,432.07</u>
Available	\$64,861.66

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. If approved, this will increase the 2004/05 Capital budget.

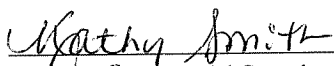
ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

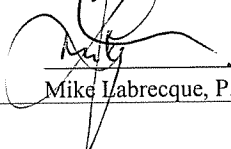
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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