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Halifax Regional Council
February 22, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

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

Mike Labrecque, P. Eng., A/Director, Public Works & Transportation

DATE: February 14, 2005

SUBJECT: Transit Service - Pearl Drive

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of December 7, 2004, item 9.2.4.

BACKGROUND

Councillor McInroy submitted a petition on behalf of the residents of Pearl Drive in support of removing Metro Transit Route 65 service from Pearl Drive. This report is in response to that request.

DISCUSSION

Metro Transit extended Route 65 Astral via Pearl Drive (prior to most dwellings being built on the street) to the Atholea Drive Subdivision in February 2004, in response to longstanding requests from neighborhood area residents. Prior to the completion of Pearl Drive, Metro Transit did not service this area because there was no street network available to loop the bus in and out of the subdivision.

Months after the route was changed, a group of Pearl Drive residents expressed concern with the impact the bus had on their street. In particular, residents were concerned with the affect that the bus might have on neighborhood noise, pedestrian safety, on-street activities and traffic volumes.

Staff met with a group of residents in the fall of 2004 to discuss their concerns. As a result of this meeting, staff reviewed the routing to determine if it could be changed to remove service from Pearl Drive while still serving the neighboring residents. There are three possible street connections between Astral Drive area and Atholea Drive – Pearl Drive, Amethyst Drive, and operating two directions on Caldwell Road. Amethyst Drive was dismissed because its design makes it less suitable for bus operation than Pearl Drive. Caldwell Road was not a viable option, because it would add to the route travel time/cost and would require the construction of a suitable turning area elsewhere in the subdivision.

A longer term option may arise when future planned road connections between Astral Drive and the Atholea Subdivision are constructed. Staff would propose to review the routing as new streets are constructed in the area.

As a result of the discussion in the community generated by the petition, Metro Transit has received several calls from residents living on Pearl Drive and in the surrounding area supporting the new routing. Considering this positive support and that the current routing is the preferred service/route option, as well as the past requests to extend transit service to Atholea Drive, Metro Transit does not plan to remove the route 65 Astral service from Pearl Drive and the surrounding area.

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

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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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