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> Halifax Regional Council February 20, 2007

TO:

Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE:

February 9, 2007

SUBJECT:

Petition for New Sidewalk, Beaver Bank Road - Central Region

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of December 5, 2006, Item 8.2 - Petition requesting the extension of new sidewalk on Beaver Bank Road.

BACKGROUND

At the December 5, 2006 Halifax Regional Council meeting, Councillor Snow served a petition from residents requesting the construction of new sidewalks on the Beaver Bank Road to extend the sidewalk up the Beaver Bank Road to Kinsac Road.

DISCUSSION

Beaver Bank Road is characterized as an arterial road in Beaver Bank that generally runs north/south beginning at Sackville Drive and extending into the County of East Hants. In discussions with Councillor Snow, this petition refers to the section of Beaver Bank Road between Danny Drive and Kinsac Road (located within the urban core area) which is a distance of approximately 2.9 kilometres. The estimated cost for new sidewalk over these limits is \$3 million.

A request for the extension of sidewalks on Beaver Bank Road is currently identified on the tentative capital program list for new sidewalks. Generally speaking the work would consist of the installation of concrete curb & gutter, concrete sidewalk, some storm sewer to control drainage, possible adjustments to driveways, and reinstatement of disturbed areas. Given the significant distance from Danny Drive to Kinsac Road, the project work would be constructed in phases. As an example a section of sidewalk may commence from Kinsac Road to Rosley Road. However, due to costs the project may be broken down into two phases: Phase 1 - Kinsac Road to Civic 1502; Phase 2 - Civic 1502 to Rosley Road. The estimated cost for each phase is \$265,000 and \$235,000, respectively. It should be expected that this cost will increase over time as construction costs rise incrementally each year.

As per the new sidewalk rating system, locations that have been identified on the capital program list have been rated based on specific criteria. All sections of proposed new sidewalk along this portion of Beaverbank Road will remain on the capital program list and be referred for consideration as part of HRM's normal Capital Budget process.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

New concrete sidewalk and new concrete curb & gutter require the recovery of Local Improvement Charges (LIC's). On April 25, 2006, Halifax Regional Council approved a blended actual costs approach in determining the rate of LIC's. The rate will be set once all the tenders have been completed and the final costs determined for the particular year. As these rates have not yet been set, the required LIC recovery cannot be accurately determined. The general concept is to recover half the cost of the sidewalk and curb & gutter through LIC's. Based on the estimated cost for each phase of the example project identified above, the LIC recovery can be estimated at \$132,500 and \$117,500, respectively. As the estimated project cost is expected to increase over time, so too will the LIC's.

We note that the residents of Beaver Bank Road have not been surveyed to determine their acceptance of this frontage charge. Alternatively, the LIC's may be recovered over a mapped area rate within the district.

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 recommended alternatives.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.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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GR/pm