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**Item No. 7**

**Halifax Regional Council  
March 23, 2010**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ken Reashor".

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Ken Reashor, P.Eng., A/Director Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** February 18, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Gateway & Border Crossing Fund

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Transportation infrastructure projects being considered by the Gateway & Border Crossing Fund (GBCF).

#### BACKGROUND

The GBCF has \$300 - \$400 million, at this time, to be allocated amongst projects in the Atlantic and Continental Gateways. Additional funding is expected to be provided over the next few years. The fund is owned by Transport Canada and projects within the Atlantic Gateway are now being evaluated by an Analytical Working Group consisting of representatives of Transport Canada, ACOA, and the four Atlantic Provinces.

**DISCUSSION**

HRM staff were contacted by NSTIR on January 14, 2010 and advised of three projects within HRM's jurisdiction that were selected for a "verification stage" as part of the Gateway & Border Crossing Fund (GBCF). These three projects are amongst 50 across the Atlantic Region that have been short-listed from 260 projects put forward by a consultant retained by the Fund. The three projects are:

1. Traffic flow changes on Downtown Halifax streets (\$1.0 million)
2. Signals and turning lane on Pleasant Street at Imperial Oil driveway (\$400 k)
3. Geometric changes at CN intermodal/Seaview Park access to Barrington Street (\$325 k)

HRM staff was asked to provide a quick turnaround response providing an indication of our interest and acceptance of these projects. HRM staff indicated that project #1 is currently in the planning and public consultation phases and has approved budget for basic elements of the project. Staff further indicated that projects #2 and #3 have little or no apparent benefit to our roadway network and that while we would be supportive of their implementation (pending design approval) we would not be willing to provide funding.

The next step in the process will be for HRM to submit a business case for the Downtown Streets Traffic Flow Changes Project to qualify for additional funding. This is expected to occur in March 2010.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications with this report. Capital project CTX01113 - Downtown Street Network Changes has approved capital budget of \$500,000. This project is currently being redefined to match the more comprehensive scope of the \$1,000,000 budget proposed by the GBCF program. There is no indication at this time of the expected funding contribution from HRM.

**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**

Regional Council may choose to move forward on traffic flow changes to downtown Halifax streets without the participation of the GBCF. This is not recommended, as funding assistance will allow a more comprehensive scope to be considered for this project.

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.

Report Prepared & Approved by:



David McCusker, Manager Strategic Transportation 490-6696