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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 9, 2005**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer



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

**DATE:** July 27, 2005

**SUBJECT:** Capital Budget Increase - WTCC Expansion and MCII Feasibility Study

**ORIGIN**

April 5, 2005 Regional Council approval to support 1/3 funding, up to \$80,000, towards a feasibility study to expand the World Trade and Convention Centre and replace the Halifax Metro Centre.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that Regional Council approve an increase in the 2005/06 Gross Capital Budget, and creation of a Capital Account, World Trade and Convention Centre Expansion and Metro Centre II Feasibility Study in the amount of \$255,000 with funding from HRM of \$85,000 and \$170,000 to reflect cost sharing from ACOA and the Province of Nova Scotia, as per the Budget Implications section of this report.

**BACKGROUND**

In an April 5, 2005 Information Report to Council staff outlined the strategy to release a Request for Proposals for a feasibility study for the expansion of the World Trade and Convention Centre and replacement of Halifax Metro Centre. Council approved HRM's participation at 1/3 to a maximum of \$80,000.

**DISCUSSION**

In conjunction with the Province of Nova Scotia and ACOA, on June 22, 2005 HRM issued a request for proposals, RFP 05-150 WTCC Expansion and Metro Centre II - Feasibility Study. The RFP closed on July 27, 2005 and an evaluation team is currently reviewing the submissions. An award is anticipated towards the end of August. This report is submitted to consolidate the funds from the HRM's cost sharing partners, ACOA and the Province of Nova Scotia into the HRM capital budget.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

On April 5, 2005 Regional Council approved the following motion:

“that Regional Council support one-third funding up to \$80,000 towards a feasibility study to expand the World Trade and Convention Centre and replace the Halifax Metro Centre, subject to the participation by the Atlantic Canada Opportunities Agency and the Province of Nova Scotia at the same level.”

The purpose of this report is two-fold.

- 1) to formally create the capital account representing the total estimated cost of the project including the 2/3 cost-sharing by ACOA and the Province of Nova Scotia.
- 2) to increase HRM's total funding from \$80K to \$85 to reflect 1/3 of the estimated total cost. HRM's funding source for this project is the \$500K which was approved in the 2005/06 budget to support the need and development of public facilities. The \$80K already approved by Council on April 5 came from the \$500K amount and the balance (\$420K) was transferred to the Major Events Facilities Reserve on June 28, 2005 by motion of Council. Therefore, the \$5,000 increase in HRM's cost will be withdrawn from this reserve (Major Events Facilities Reserve Q319).

Funding Contribution Summary	
Funding Partner	Amount
HRM	\$85,000
Province of Nova Scotia	\$85,000
ACOA	\$85,000
Total Funding	\$255,000

### **FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN**

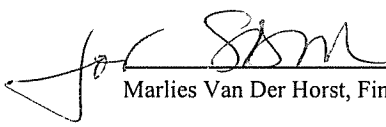
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating Reserves, as well as any relevant legislation. If approved, this will increase the 2005/06 Capital Budget as well as the Reserve withdrawals.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

There are no reasonable alternatives to this recommendation.

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 by: Phillip Townsend, Manager Capital Projects, RPAM 490-7166

Financial Review:  Marlies Van Der Horst, Financial Consultant, 490-4446

Financial Approval:  Peter Ross, Manager Procurement 490-6499

Report Approved by:  S. Dale MacLennan, Director, Financial Services 490-6308