



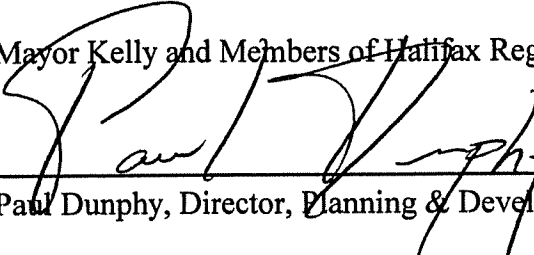
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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 13, 2006**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Paul Dunphy, Director, Planning & Development Services

**DATE:** May 9, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Funding Application: Infrastructure Canada's KOA Program

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

Staff.

### **BACKGROUND**

HRM's Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (Draft 3: Section 4.3.4.3) describes the preparation of a Transportation Demand Management Functional Plan which will, among other things, consider "investigating funding opportunities for transportation demand management measures and programs". In discussing opportunities to improve the efficiency of the transportation system the Strategy notes that "... pricing incentives which include tolls, parking rates, and public transit rates are designed to encourage commuters to use alternative modes of transportation to the single occupant vehicle...".

Moving forward with this objective ties in well to the Knowledge-building, Outreach, and Awareness (KOA) program of Infrastructure Canada. Accordingly, staff has proposed a project and made application under this program.

## **DISCUSSION**

Infrastructure Canada has established the Knowledge-building, Outreach and Awareness program (KOA) to provide contributions-based funding for research, knowledge and outreach activities and products aimed at improving understanding of public infrastructure and community issues in Canada. The KOA program is targeted at the wide variety of organizations and individuals — including university-based researchers, infrastructure practitioners, not-for-profit organizations and provincial, territorial and municipal governments — that have critical roles to play in improving understanding of Canada's infrastructure and community challenges and opportunities. Funding decisions are made by Infrastructure Canada on the basis of merit, using a competitive process.

One of the six funding priorities for the program is: Financing mechanisms for infrastructure and communities. Aligning with this program priority was the basis for HRM's application for a project titled: Blueprint for Financing Halifax's Regional Transportation Plan. The scope of the proposed project focuses primarily on parking management and road tolls. The work will involve a comprehensive inventory of existing parking stock and utilization and, using best practices research, consider opportunities to manage parking in a way that influences trip-making decisions and generates revenue to support sustainable transportation infrastructure investment. A second key task is to examine the fairness in tolling only the harbour bridges and consider the value of tolling other roadways, both existing and proposed. The work plan recognizes the potential equity issues inherent in transportation and parking pricing and identifies the Chamber of Commerce and Capital District Task Force as key partners in the project.

HRM's project application, consistent with the regional planning objectives, was submitted on the closing deadline of May 1, 2006. The full application is available on the Regional Planning web page ([www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning](http://www.halifax.ca/regionalplanning)) under Documents. The proposal suggested a project budget of \$250,000 with the costs split evenly between Infrastructure Canada and HRM. We have been advised that decisions on the competition winners will not be made for several months.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no immediate budget implications to submitting an application under the KOA program.

The draft 2006-07 Capital Budget contains funds to develop a Functional Parking Management Plan as part of the Regional Planning Program (CDE00105). If the KOA funding application is unsuccessful, staff will proceed with this project as planned with an estimated budget of \$150,000. If the KOA funding application is successful, this money will be used to fund HRM's portion of a much-expanded strategy.

**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**

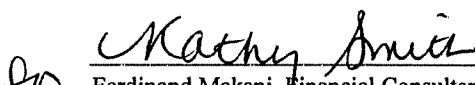
There are no recommended alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments.

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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