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Halifax Regional Council
August 9, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

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

Peter Stickings, Acting Director Real Property & Asset Management

DATE: August 1, 2005

SUBJECT: Dartmouth Pedestrian Bridge

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN:

Harbour East Community Council Minutes, July 7th, 2005:

9.2.1 Moved by Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Younger that:

This presentation be referred to staff for a report and that the report come back to Regional Council at the August 2, 2005, meeting.

Motion put and passed:

BACKGROUND:

Alan Billard, on behalf of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission and Canoe to the Sea Society, made a presentation to the Harbour East Community Council on the subject of the Trans Canada Trail Bridge over Lake Banook. This pedestrian/bikeway bridge is a critical component of a phased recreation and active transportation (AT) corridor through Dartmouth linking Halifax Harbour with Portobello and ultimately Waverly. It is one of the Regions most extensively developed, heavily used, and connective AT corridors to date within the Region's urban/suburban commutershed.

The bridge is one of the last phases of the Dartmouth Multi-use Trail Project. This project was initiated by the City of Dartmouth prior to amalgamation which developed a multi-use trail from

Sullivans Pond, along the shores of Lake Banook to Grahams Grove. For a variety of reasons the actual bridge section has yet to be completed. The bridge abutments and the rough trail approaches have been constructed.

Currently, a narrow sidewalk allows pedestrians to walk across the 111 Highway vehicular bridge which crosses the connection between Lakes Banook and Mic Mac. However, this sidewalk barely accommodates pedestrians and does not allow cyclists using the trail to properly cross. The Highway 111 Bridge is an unpleasant experience because of its restrictive nature and proximity to high volumes of traffic.

Over the past two years under the Regional Trails Program, Real Property and Asset Management, with the approval of Council, has earmarked \$200,000 dollars for the construction of the bridge. This has been under the guidance of the Halifax Regional Trails Advisory Team and in partnership with Canoe-to-the-Sea Society and the Shubenacadie Canal Commission. Project estimates suggest there are sufficient funds to tender the bridge as currently designed and complete the approach trails.

DISCUSSION:

During the presentation to Community Council Mr. Allan Billard , on behalf of the Shubenacadie Canal Commission, essentially made two requests; 1) delay the time frame for the construction of the pedestrian bridge in order to give HRM's trail partners, the Shubie Canal Commission and Canoe to the Sea, time to secure additional funds to build a signature bridge which reflects the history and importance of the Canal Lakes System (see attachments A & B) and 2) support the expenditure of twenty thousand dollars (\$20,000) from core trails funding to prepare detailed tender drawings. Please see attached minutes of Mr. Billard's Community Council presentation.

Because of the demonstrated commitment of these two community organizations to the overall Shubenacadie corridor and the merits of the project, staff support both requests. It should be noted that funds for the basic bridge have been approved by Council, are situated in the RPAM capital budget and are eligible to be spent for design and construction. The status of the monies will not be affected by any reasonable delay, staff suggest that a six month window to secure additional funds should be adequate.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS:

\$20,000 is available and will be allocated from the HRM Regional Trails Capital Fund to prepare detailed tender drawings.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

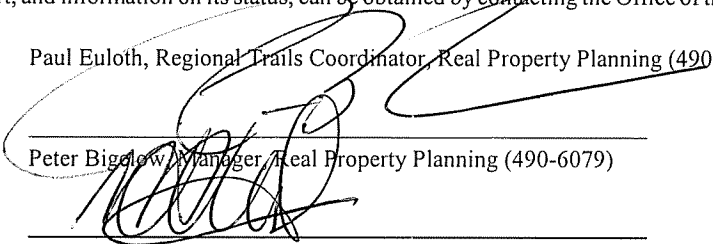

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

None

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment A - Lake Banook Bridge Drawing
Attachment B - Photo of Proposed Bridge

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.	
Report Prepared by:	Paul Euloth, Regional Trails Coordinator, Real Property Planning (490-4415)
Report Approved by:	 Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning (490-6079)
Financial Review by:	 RPAM Acting, Financial Consultant, Financial Services (490-6832)

