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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**February 7, 2006**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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

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

**DATE:** January 24, 2006

**SUBJECT:** Petition - Traffic Calming Measures on Willow Street

## INFORMATION REPORT

### ORIGIN

Item 8.2.1 raised at the December 13, 2005 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

### BACKGROUND

Under the HRM Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy a short-cutting study may be requested by individual citizens. The requestor(s) determine the level of agreement among residents that there is a problem they want addressed by circulating a petition approved by the Traffic and Right of Way Services Section. A petition with signatures representing 22 different addresses has been received.

## **DISCUSSION**

The petition as presented included signatures representing 22 different addresses on Willow Street between Robie Street and Windsor Street. There are at least 72 distinct addresses in those three blocks, so a petition should have at least 36 different addresses represented. This could be a reason to reject the request at this time, but because residents may be able to get additional signatures the question will be examined further so the residents do not waste effort for a request that might be rejected for other reasons.

There were earlier requests received in 2005 about the traffic on Willow Street so Traffic and Right of Way Services did some traffic counts. The results show that two-way traffic on Willow Street between Robie Street and Clifton Street (where the volumes are the largest) was only 1,700 vehicles per day. The Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy says that up to 3,000 vehicles per day may be carried on local residential streets, thus the traffic counted is less than the limit established in the Policy. Even if there were more signatures the request would still be turned down.

Part of the reason, or perhaps the main reason, residents are unhappy about traffic on Willow Street is that it serves some drivers as a route to access Robie Street from North Street. Westbound Traffic on North Street is not permitted to turn left onto Robie Street. Some drivers who wish to make this movement continue west to Clifton Street and turn left there, then down Willow to Robie. This is not considered short-cutting however the left turn prohibition has been in place for many years because of the very narrow pavement available at the Robie Street/North Street intersection and the prohibition cannot easily be removed. The Short-Cutting Policy recognizes this sort of thing in Principle 4 of Section 4, which says: "*Potential project streets which through time have evolved into an important link in the area's roadway network, such that redistribution of traffic cannot reasonably be absorbed by the area's major roadway network, are not eligible for application of this Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy.*" This is another reason to turn down the request for a short-cutting study.

Some residents have said that speeding is a problem, particularly at night. Therefore, the petition will be forwarded to Halifax Regional Police for any enforcement efforts they deem needed.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

None.

## **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.

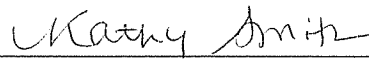
**ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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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Financial Review:



Kathy Smith, Financial Consultant, 490-6153