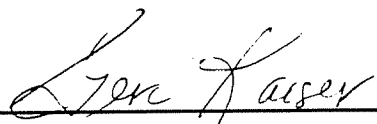


Halifax Regional Council
February 12, 2002

February 19, 2002
February 26, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Geri Kaiser, Director - Shared Services

DATE: February 5, 2002

SUBJECT: MAC PASS Usage - HRM Fleet

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN - At the January 15, 2002 meeting of Council, Councillor McInroy asked for a staff report on the use of MACPASS for HRM Fleet Vehicles.

BACKGROUND - In 1998 the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission introduced an electronic toll system. By the end of 2001, MACPASS users accounted for almost 40% of the 30.5 million total annual crossings. Councillor McInroy indicated that the use of the MACPASS is growing and 68% of the daily commercial traffic uses the MACPASS.

Councillor McInroy outlined the benefits of the MACPASS and inquired about the extent to which HRM Fleet Vehicles used the MACPASS.

DISCUSSION - HRM has approximately 457 light trucks, utility vehicles, cars and 209 transit units in its Fleet system broken down as follows:

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF UNITS	NUMBER USING MACPASS
Transit Services	209	204
Police Services	196	196
Fire Services	56	52
General Fleet	205	30

In the Transit, Police and Fire Services areas, all units which routinely travel the bridge are equipped with a MACPASS. In the General Fleet area the use of MACPASS is very limited.

Annually HRM budgets \$273,000 for Bridge Tolls. SAP reports indicate that 90% of the cost of these crossings are paid through the electronic toll system. The balance is through cash or token payments.

The use of the MACPASS has many benefits over the coin or token system:

- The cost of crossings for passenger vehicles is reduced from \$.75 per crossing to \$.60 per crossing.
- Vehicles can use any lane for the crossing cutting wait time, travel time and avoiding line-ups.
- Reduced congestion at tolls and the harmful auto emissions that result.
- Automatic account billing for clients on a monthly basis.
- Reduced staff time in managing cash and tokens.
- An effective tool to audit the travel patterns of HRM vehicles.

In the past, General Fleet vehicles have been assigned annually to the East, West or Central Divisions of the Municipalities. HRM is now moving to more general purpose vehicles which promotes the sharing of these resources among the various Business Units.

Given the benefits of using the MACPASS and the potential to reduce the costs associated with bridge crossings, Shared Services will work with the Business Units to encourage and promote the use of the MACPASS and have them adapt appropriate, applicable operational policies.

ATTACHMENTS

NONE

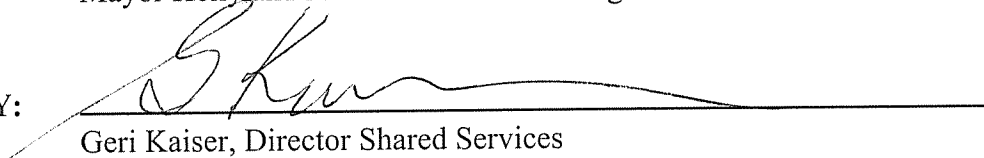
Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Geri Kaiser, Director Shared Services, 490-4630

8.11

Halifax Regional Council
February 26, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Geri Kaiser, Director Shared Services

DATE: February 26, 2002

SUBJECT: MacPass Usage - HRM Fleet

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN - On February 25, 2002, Councillor McInroy asked staff for supplementary information to accompany the Information Report MacPass Usage Agenda Item 8.11.

BACKGROUND - In the original Information Report dated February 12, 2002, staff indicated that they would be working with Business Units who use Fleet vehicles to encourage and promote the use of MacPass.

DISCUSSION - Since the original report was tabled, staff of Fleet Services have identified approximately 250 vehicles, including cars, light duty trucks, 3 ton and 5 ton vehicles in the General Fleet system that they are recommending be equipped with the MacPass transponders.

The larger Business Units, (Public Works & Transportation, Parks & Recreation Services and Real Property Services), which account for approximately 200 vehicles, have been advised that this transition will start in March, 2002. The balance of the vehicles will be completed in April, 2002.

Fleet Services and the Business Units see the obvious benefits associated with the use of the MacPass and are confident this system will be efficient, effective and tamper proof.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS - The costs associated with the investment in the transponder will be recovered through savings in bridge fares and other efficiencies.

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: Geri Kaiser, Director Shared Services