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Halifax Regional Council
March 4, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

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

Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation

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

Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., A/Manager, Traffic & Transportation Services

DATE: February 18, 2003

SUBJECT: Realignment of Ross Road at Highway 7

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Regional Council meeting of December 10, 2002, item 10.2.1. It was moved by Councillor Colwell, seconded by Councillor Streach, that Council request staff to examine the possibility of realigning Ross Road with the #7 Highway at the traffic lights on the #7 Highway.

BACKGROUND

During the December 10, 2002 meeting of Regional Council, under item 10.2.1 a report from Councillor Keith Colwell, Chair, Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council, regarding the above, was before Council for its consideration. Councillor Colwell noted there is a difficulty with the alignment of the Ross Road, Lake Major Road and the #7 Highway. He noted there is a set of traffic lights on the Lake Major Road and #7 Highway. Just below on the opposite side is the Ross Road. The Councillor stated the request was for staff to examine the possibility of realigning Ross Road to make a proper intersection for better traffic control. He also requested staff examine the whole corridor to see if there is some way in which the traffic flow can be improved in the morning and evening during rush hour.

Councillor Cooper requested staff consider the Old Miller Road for use as a limited access route in order to divert some of the traffic out of Cole Harbour to the intersection. He further noted staff be requested to examine the moving of the lights at the Lake Major Road intersection to the Ross Road intersection and restoring the stop sign at the Lake Major Road. Councillor Cooper requested any report to Council be copied to both the Harbour East and Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council.

DISCUSSION

This report will focus on possible solutions for operational problems at the intersection of Ross Road with #7 Highway near the intersection of Lake Major Road. A separate report will be submitted concerning the request to examine the whole corridor for ways to improve traffic flow.

HRM staff has examined two options for increasing the ability of drivers to turn onto #7 Highway from Ross Road.

One option is to realign Ross Road so that it intersects #7 Highway opposite the existing location of Lake Major Road. A sketch of the concept is attached as Attachment One. This concept has an estimated cost of \$515,000 not including taxes and contingencies, and also not including property acquisition. Approximately 68,000 square feet of property would be required. The concept as shown would have a grade of 9 percent, which exceeds the HRM standard maximum for this type of road which is 8 percent. To reduce the grade would dramatically increase the earthwork quantities and costs.

The other option is to add a traffic signal to the intersection of Ross Road and #7 Highway. This new signal would be interconnected and timed with the existing traffic signal at Lake Major Road. For this to operate successfully some turning lanes would need to be added to #7 Highway and some other widening would need to be done at Ross Road. A sketch of this concept is attached as Attachment Two. This concept has an estimated cost of \$480,000 not including taxes and contingencies, and also not including property acquisition. Approximately 25,000 square feet of property would be required.

HRM staff prefers the signalization option to the realignment option.

Councillor Cooper also suggested staff consider using Old Miller Road as a limited access route to relieve traffic on Cole Harbour Road. The idea of constructing a new roadway using the existing disused right-of-way of Old Miller Road has been suggested before. HRM staff is aware of the potential for this to reduce traffic on Cole Harbour Road and has been pursuing construction through the subdivision process. Some preliminary work regarding environmental screening has already been done. The existing disused Old Miller Road alignment intersects with #7 Highway at the existing intersection of Cherry Brook Road. There is potential for a re-use of Old Miller Road to reduce traffic on Ross Road but this would be a longer term project. Signalization or other realignment of Ross Road at #7 Highway could be done more quickly.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time. Further review and consideration of these options will be brought forward as part of future Capital Budget deliberations.

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. Should Council wish to proceed with any reconstruction or re-configuration of the intersection of Ross Road and #7 Highway capital funding will need to be arranged.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment One - Sketch of possible Ross Road realignment at #7 Highway

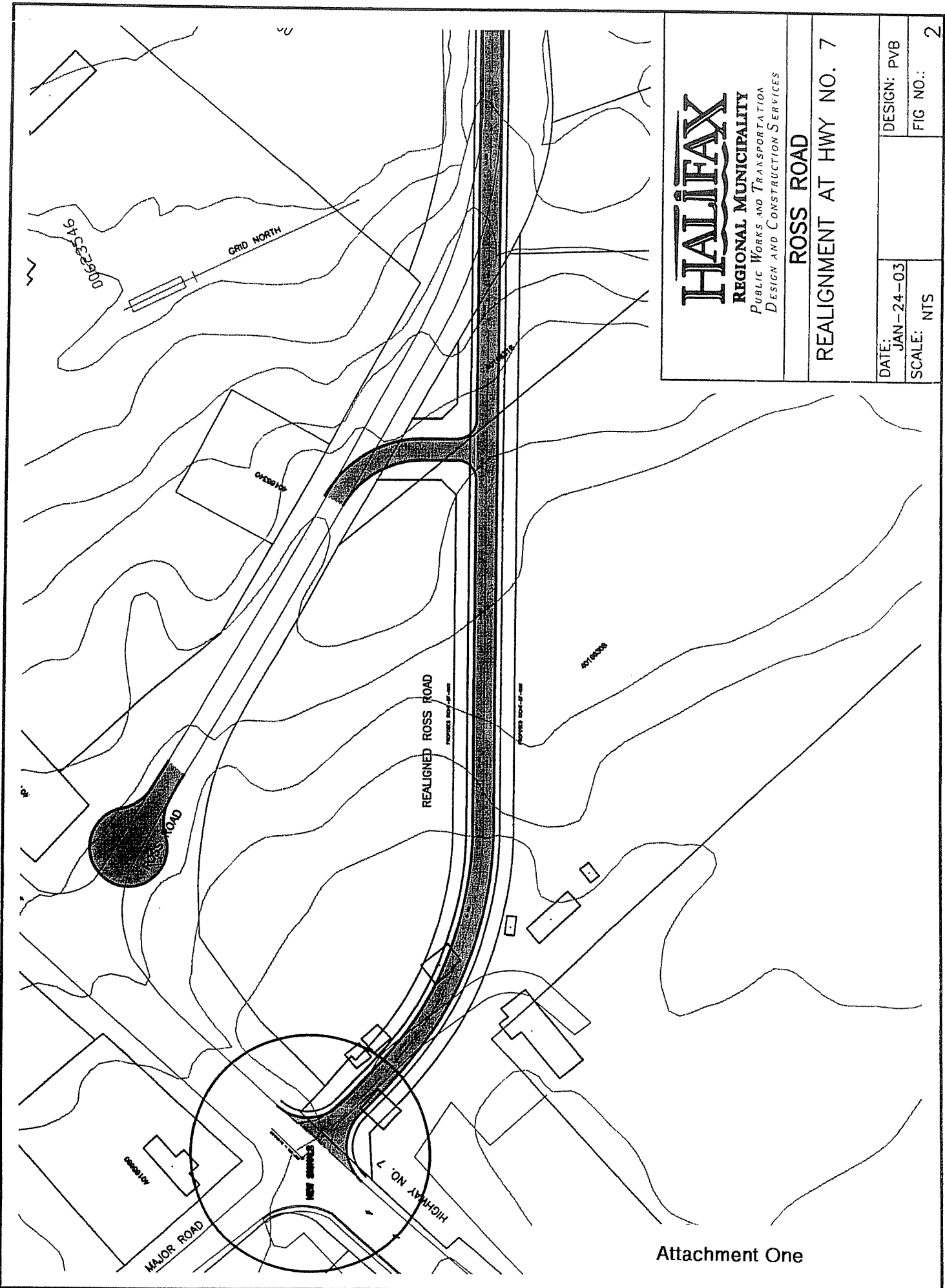
Attachment Two - Sketch of possible intersection changes at #7 Highway and Ross Road and Lake Major Road

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: Alan Taylor, P.Eng., Transportation Planner, 490-6680.



AT/bmh



HALIFAX
 REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
 PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

ROSS ROAD

REALIGNMENT AT HWY NO. 7

DATE: JAN-24-03

DESIGN: PVB

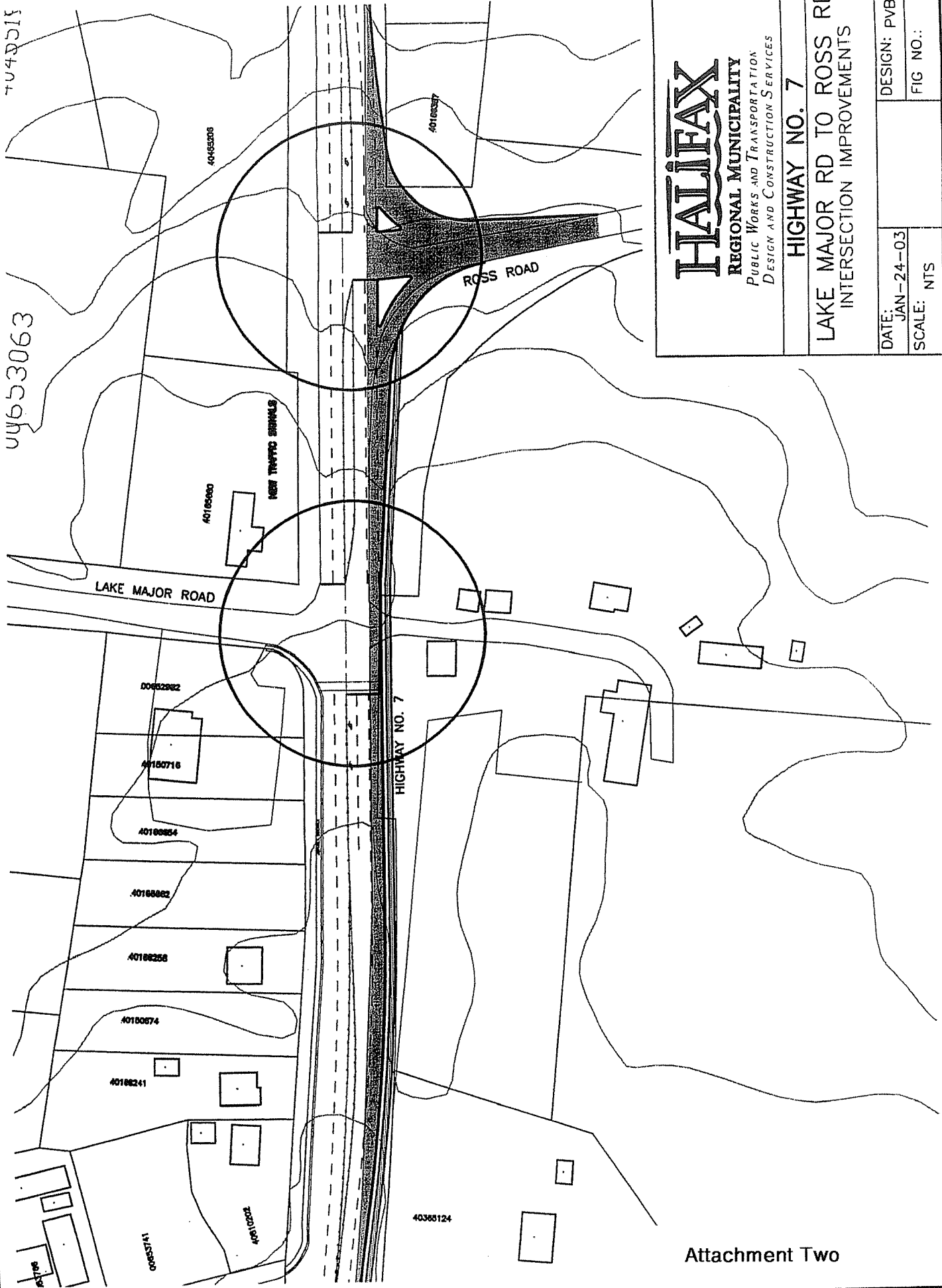
SCALE: NTS

FIG NO.: 2

Attachment One

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HALIFAX
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 PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION
 DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES

HIGHWAY NO. 7

**LAKE MAJOR RD TO ROSS RD
 INTERSECTION IMPROVEMENTS**

DATE: JAN-24-03
 SCALE: NTS

DESIGN: PVB

FIG NO.: 1