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Halifax Regional Council
May 27, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Russell Walker".

Councillor Russell Walker
District 15, Fairview-Clayton Park
FCM Representative

DATE: May 12, 2003

SUBJECT: FCM National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure

ORIGIN

FCM Board of Directors' Meeting of March 2003.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Council adopt the following resolution:

WHEREAS the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY spends \$13,150,196.10 annually on the maintenance, rehabilitation and reconstruction of its water, storm, wastewater and road system infrastructure

AND WHEREAS the FCM National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure (the Guide) gathers and documents best practices that reflect proven approaches to build sustainable infrastructure to Canadians in those areas

AND WHEREAS the Federation of Canadian Municipalities has partnered with the National Research Council of Canada to develop the Guide with support from Government of Canada

AND WHEREAS application of such best practices will save all infrastructure providers money while delivering infrastructure in a manner that respects the social, economic and environmental well being of our communities

AND WHEREAS the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY strives to be a leader in ensuring the quality of life of its citizens through appropriate short-and long-term sustainable infrastructure investment decisions

THEREFORE be it resolved that the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY is committed to the adoption and use of the appropriate best practices developed by the Guide

AND THEREFORE be it further resolved that the HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities share this resolution with their members and the Federal and Provincial Governments to encourage ongoing commitment and support for the Guide.

BACKGROUND

The FCM National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure gathers, documents and creates best practices that support and encourage Canadian municipalities to use proven approaches to deliver sustainable infrastructure to their communities. The Guide covers both the decision-making and investment planning area as well as technical solutions to infrastructure construction, operation and maintenance. Initial scope includes the areas of environmental protocols, potable water, storm and wastewater and municipal roads.

Leadership and direction is provided by a Steering Committee composed of 22 members representing a broad regional mix and a combination of affiliation and expertise. Steering Committee members include academics, consulting engineers, members of associations, local politicians, contractors, municipal staff and the general public. The Federation of Canadian Municipalities has appointed Councillor Mike Badham as the current chair of the Project Steering Committee. Councillor Badham is the current president of the Saskatchewan Urban Municipalities Association.

Five technical committees have been established to develop best practices: Municipal Roads, Potable Water, Storm and Wastewater, Decision Making and Investment Planning and Environmental Protocols. Best practice topics and priorities have been identified through extensive stakeholder discussions followed by national scans to identify current practices. National working groups with expertise in the subject areas develop each specific best practice document under the technical committees' direction. Currently over 125 volunteers are actively involved in the development of best practices through the working groups and technical committees. These volunteers include an impressive collection of technical expertise representing all regions and a range of community sizes across Canada. HRM Solid Waste staff is represented on these committees.

A national peer/stakeholder review period is included in the development of each best practice prior to final publication.

The Federation of Canadian Municipalities is leading this unique project in partnership with the National Research Council. By March 2005, at the completion of Phase I and II of this project, total expenditures are expected to near 25 million dollars with 12.5 million provided through Infrastructure Canada program funding and the remainder through NRC and in-kind contributions.

Currently eight best practices are published and available for free distribution to Canadian Municipalities. Many other topics are currently at various stages of development (See Appendix A).

DISCUSSION

The Halifax Regional Municipality currently owns and operates extensive civil infrastructure currently included in the scope of the Guide. The Guide is a unique opportunity for all infrastructure providers to share information on a national basis that enables infrastructure to be delivered more cost effectively while respecting the social and environmental needs of the community.

Broad support for this initiative has been demonstrated across Canada through the extensive volunteer involvement of national associations, academics, contractors, consultants and practitioners.

As a leader in seeking out and applying a philosophy of continuous improvement to daily infrastructure delivery, the Halifax Regional Municipality has contributed both its knowledge and resources to the development of best practice documents. The Municipality currently has representatives actively involved in leading and developing best practices.

FCM Board of Directors' staff believes that the National Guide process provides a unique opportunity for the Halifax Regional Municipality to continue to learn from and share with other Canadian communities. Formal adoption and application of National Best Practices by the Halifax Regional Municipality will provide a nationally endorsed framework within which local infrastructure decisions can be made that will support long-term sustainable civil infrastructure for the Halifax Regional Municipality.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The adoption of nationally recognized best practices supports cost effective decision making that respects the social, economic and environmental constraints and needs of the Municipality.

COMMUNICATION PLAN

As an early adopter of Guide Best Practices, the Halifax Regional Municipality is demonstrating leadership in quality service delivery.

It is proposed that the motion be circulated widely and that other municipalities be encouraged to follow suit.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

By definition, sustainable includes the consideration of environmental consequences of decisions. Part of the mandate of the Guide's Environmental Protocols committee is to ensure that other best practices consider and specifically address environmental consequences.

CONCLUSION

The adoption of the National Guide to Sustainable Municipal Infrastructure by the Halifax Regional Municipality demonstrates leadership and significant potential to improve the financial bottom line.

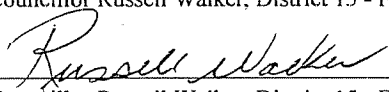
ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A - Best Practices (BP)

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: Councillor Russell Walker, District 15 - FCM Representative

Report Approved by:


Councillor Russell Walker, District 15 - FCM Representative

Appendix A – Best Practices (BP)

The following is a listing of the 30 BP titles, which are at various stages of development. The “Best Practices Published” are available electronically or in hard copy in their final form. The “Best Practices Stakeholder Review Complete” are still at the draft stage but have progressed to the point of review and comment from peers and the infrastructure practitioners. The “Best Practices Under Development” are at earlier stages of development where the working groups, assisted by consultants, are preparing the documents.

Best Practices Published:

- Deterioration and Inspection of Water Distribution Systems
- Timely Preventive Maintenance of Municipal Roads
- The Construction of Utility Boxes in Pavements
- The Restoration and Repair of Utility Boxes in Pavements
- Planning and Defining Municipal Infrastructure Needs
- Alternate Funding Mechanisms
- Developing Levels of Service
- Developing Indicators and benchmarks

Best Practices Stakeholder Review Complete:

- Water Use and Loss in the Water Distribution System
- Selection of Technologies for the Rehabilitation or Replacement of a Water Distribution Systems
- Guidelines for Sealing and Filling Cracks in Asphalt Concrete Pavements
- Selection of Technologies for Sewer Rehabilitation and Replacement
- Inflow / Infiltration Control/Reduction for Wastewater Collection Systems
- Wastewater Source Control
- Source and On-Site Control for Municipal Drainage Systems
- Best Practice for Utility Based Data

Best Practices Under Development:

- Water Quality in the Distribution System
- Establishing a Metering Plan to Account for Water Use and Loss
- Developing a Water Distribution Renewal Plan
- Rut Mitigation Techniques at Intersections
- Decision Making Criteria for Repair and Rehab on Pavements
- Maintenance Procedures for Road Drainage
- Optimization of Wastewater Treatment Plants
- Bio-solids Management
- Corporate Environmental Commitment and Policy
- Environmental Impact Assessment – Carrying Capamunicipality
- Environmental Cost benefits
- Integration of Renewal Activities
- Application of Investment Parameters in Support of Municipal Infrastructure Reinvestments
- Inspection, Condition Assessment and Evaluation of the Water Distribution, Sewer Collection and Road Networks

**RESOLUTION RESPECTING
NATIONAL GUIDE TO SUSTAINABLE MUNICIPAL INFRASTRUCTURE**

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THEREFORE be it resolved that the **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** is committed to the adoption and use of the appropriate best practices developed by the Guide

AND NOW THEREFORE be it further resolved that the **HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY** requests that the Federation of Canadian Municipalities share this motion with their members and the Federal and Provincial Governments to encourage ongoing commitment and support for the Guide.