



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
May 27, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

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

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

DATE: May 20, 2003

SUBJECT: Public Transit - Lawrencetown

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At their April 1, 2003 meeting, Halifax Regional Municipality Council requested a staff report in response to a petition submitted requesting transit service to Lawrencetown.

BACKGROUND

Metro Transit presently operates fixed route transit service to Cole Harbour and provides Community Transit Service via Highway Trunk 7 to the Porters Lake area. Lawrencetown residents wishing to use public transit would currently have to drive or share a ride to one of these locations.

DISCUSSION

HRM residents are expressing a growing desire to have access to alternate modes of travel. Some of the reasons for this growing public transportation support include the potential it has to strengthen local communities, address environmental concerns, the impact it can have to reduce traffic congestion and associated local traffic issues, and the mobility it provides individuals who do not have access to their own vehicle.

Metro Transit's Strategic Transit Study identified the need for a terminal with Park & Ride facilities for Cole Harbour. HRM has acquired land at the corner of Portland Street and Portland Hills Boulevard for this terminal and has included funding for its construction in the 2003/04 Capital Budget. This terminal will enhance the opportunity for Lawrencetown residents to park and complete their trip by public transit.

Metro Transit 2003/04 Operating and Capital Budgets does not include funding for the extension of public transit service to Lawrencetown. This service will require both funding to operate the route and rolling stock to provide peak service.

As well as requests for service to suburban/rural areas like Sambro, Lawrencetown, and Prospect, there has also been public discussions regarding higher order public transit like commuter trains and high speed ferries. Staff would plan to consider these type of requests, including Lawrencetown, as part of Metro Transit's 2004/05 Business Planning process. Addressing the various transit service requests in next year's Business Planning cycle would also provide an opportunity to consider any preliminary transportation issues arising from the Regional Planning process.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

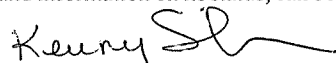
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

N/A

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:



Kenny Silver, P. Eng., Acting General Manager, Metro Transit 490-6688