



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
July 15, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
George McLellan, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: July 10, 2003

SUBJECT: Capital Transportation Authority

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

A number of cities in Canada have Transportation Authorities (examples include Vancouver and Montreal). This concept is being discussed for HRM as a means of becoming more strategic in transportation planning, to enable HRM to more easily leverage funds from other levels of government, and ensure long-term traffic strategies and solutions are adequate to meet future challenges. The Transportation Authority concept supports the HRM goals of providing a Healthy, Sustainable, Vibrant Community, and taking a holistic approach to transportation issues.

BACKGROUND

Provincial and HRM staff have been meeting bi-weekly to advance the development of the Capital Transportation Authority concept, which was introduced to Council several months ago. The goal of the working group is to develop a draft mission statement, governance structure, charter outlining the roles and responsibilities of the Capital Transportation Authority, financial analysis identifying the impact of the Capital Transportation Authority, and draft legislation that could be presented at the Spring 2004 session of the Legislature. The working group will provide a package to Council early in the Fall and seek feedback on the concept before formally seeking Council approval to proceed with the necessary legislative amendments to create the Capital Transportation Authority.

DISCUSSION

The concept the group is working with is a Capital Transportation Authority, with the objective of enabling the Halifax Regional Municipality to provide the most efficient transportation network possible. A transportation network would include coordination of mass transit, ferries, major road networks, parking, and bridges (under discussion). The inclusion of walking trails and bike plans are also under discussion. The Authority will enable decision making at the appropriate jurisdiction, with suitable governance and good accountability, to plan, finance, and operate a transportation network that moves people and goods efficiently and supports the regional plan, environmental objectives, and economic development.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None at this time. However, there may be transfers in responsibilities for certain roads, and administrative or planning responsibilities to and from the Province that will impact the development of the budget for 2004/05.

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

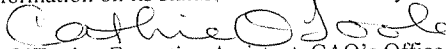
N/A

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:


Cathie O'Toole - Executive Assistant, CAO's Office