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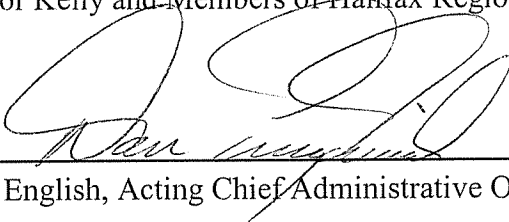


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**Halifax Regional Council
December 9, 2003**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Dan English, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: November 29, 2003

SUBJECT: Proposed Advanced Funding Approval for the 2004/05 Capital Budget

ORIGIN

This report originates from staff.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council provide advanced funding approval of the proposed 2004/05 Capital Roads & Sidewalk Budget for Public Works and Transportation Services (PWT), the Capital Sewer Budget for Environmental Management Services (EMS), and the Transit Fleet Bus Replacement for Real Property and Asset Management (RPAM), in the amounts of \$7,254,000, \$2,640,000, and \$7,225,000 respectively as outlined within the attached Schedule "A" and as per the Discussion and Budget Implications sections of this report.

BACKGROUND

Early approval of the proposed Capital Budget has always been a desirable goal of staff that would ensure an earlier start on project implementation as it relates to design, land acquisitions where required, and utility and regulatory approvals - all of which translates into a more timely tendering of projects. Thus, the purpose of this report to Council.

DISCUSSION

The present timing of the approval of HRM's Capital Budget - generally March/April, becomes a hindrance in staff's ability to take advantage of early year tendering of projects which is significant for two reasons:

1. not being able to take advantage of lower tendered prices from contractors which historically is the case with those projects tendered in the early period of the year.
2. not being able to take full advantage of the peak summer construction period of the year to implement projects which are sensitive to time and weather such as those of an environmental nature requiring the dry summer season of the year or those within school zone areas where implementation and completion become desirable during the summer school break.

Achieving advanced approval of a portion of the proposed Capital Budget would address those issues and improve significantly staff's ability to get a much earlier jump on project design, tendering, contract awards and start of construction. Staff's proposal for advanced funding approval of a portion of the proposed 2004/05 Capital Budget would be similar to the same practice that is in place with the Provincial level of government.

Projects to be considered for this advanced approval would be those of a regular repair or rehabilitation nature. The projects listed on the attached Schedule "A" fall into this category. They include those that are:

- approved untendered Paving Renewal and Resurfacing projects carried over from the 2003/04 Capital Budget that require additional funding;
- are of a high priority nature based on existing infrastructure conditions;
- are critical due to the timing and coordination with other capital projects; and,
- are of a seasonal nature making early construction advantageous.

All projects listed on the attached Schedule "A" are presently included in the proposed 2004/05 Capital Budget. The normal public tendering process followed with Council's approval of the contract award would still apply.

On the matter of the Transit Bus Replacement, Transit Fleet has been experiencing problems in meeting daily bus quota owing to the significant rust-out condition of portions of the fleet. Currently 20 buses are out of service because they no longer meet URB safety standards. There are a number of units approaching the same condition. If a purchase order is issued before the end of December 03, we can expect to receive the buses late June 04, because the buses can be put into production sooner. This will significantly improve Transit Fleet's ability to meet quota for Transit Operations.

Advanced Funding Approval Amount Requested:

PWT staff is requesting advanced funding approval in the amount of \$7,254,000 which is approximately 50% of the funding for Roads & Sidewalks in the 2004/05 Capital Plan. EMS is requesting advanced funding in the amount of \$2,640,000 which is within 50% of the approved funding in the 2004/05 Capital Plan. RPAM staff is requesting advanced funding in the amount \$ 7,225,000 which is all of the planned bus replacement funding for 04/05, but leaves the \$ 4,400,000 for 04/05 for the Bus Rapid Transit (Showcase) program.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The requested advanced funding amounts of \$7,254,000, \$2,640,000, \$ 7,225,000 would be the first charges against the upcoming 2004/05 Capital Budget.

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.

ALTERNATIVE

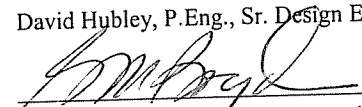
Delay this recommendation and defer to the approval of the entire Capital Budget to February/March of 2004. The consequences of this deferral would place HRM in the same position as in previous years in regards to the lateness of implementing the approved Capital Budget.


ATTACHMENTS

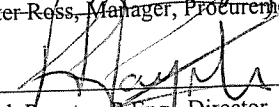
Advanced Capital Project Listing Schedule "A."

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.

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Report Approved by: 
Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works and Transportation

Advanced Capital Budget Listing 2004/05

The following project listing is taken from the Proposed 2004/05 Capital Budget for Public Works & Transportation, Environmental Management Services, and Real Property & Asset Management.

Paving inside the Core area

*Bolton Dr (Winley Dr to turning circle)	District 2	\$ 90,000
*Victory Lane (Old Sackville Rd to end)	District 19	\$ 55,000
*Stonemount Dr (Exist pavement to Lakeview)	District 20	\$ 250,000
*Stone Crest Ct. (Stonemount to end)	District 20	\$ 65,000
Cumberland Way (BB/Windsor Junction to end)	District 2	\$ 80,000
Carriage Rd (Cumberland to Chartwell)	District 2	\$ 50,000
Chartwell Rd (Carriage to Charleswood)	District 2	\$ 180,000
Subtotal		\$ 770,000

Paving Renewal Program

*Circassion Dr (Poplar to Kirkland)	District 4	\$ 254,000
*Lockview Rd (Existing to Lockview Ct)	District 2	\$ 480,000
*Hillside Ave (Cobequid to Hillcrest)	District 20	\$ 270,000
Erskine St (Summit St to Hawthorne St)	District 10	\$ 290,000
Guysborough Ave (Civic 20 to Main)	District 7	\$ 180,000
Dorothy Drive (Douglas to Lois)	District 19	\$ 265,000
Norwood St (Preston to Oxford)	District 13	\$ 288,000
Dumbarton Ave (Inverary to Kincardine)	District 6	\$ 294,000
Subtotal		\$2,321,000

Resurfacing Program

*Kenwood Ave/Belmont (Uplands Park-Hammonds Plains)	District 22	\$ 355,000
Eastern Passage Rd (Norah to Memorial)	District 5	\$ 330,000
Lacewood Dr (Bayview to Cedarbrae)	District 15	\$ 174,000
Crichton Ave (Crichton Park to Oak)	District 10	\$ 324,000
Rutledge (Frederick to Emmerson)	District 21	\$ 288,000
Leeds St (Memorial to Robie)	District 11	\$ 210,000
Symonds (Slayter to Pinehill)	District 9	\$ 305,000
Wedgewood Ave (Broadholme to Edward Laurie)	District 16	\$ 108,000
Rodney Rd (Dustan to Fenwick)	District 8	\$ 120,000
*James/Roland (Truck 3 to School)	District 22	\$ 230,000
Philip St (Chebucto to Churchill)	District 14	\$ 370,000
Subtotal		\$2,814,000

* - Denotes a Carryover Project from 2003/04 Capital Budget

Sidewalk Renewal Program

*Windsor St (Edinburgh to London)	District 11	\$ 35,000
*Almon St (Connolly to Connaught)	District 14	\$ 78,000
*Agricola St (Duffus to Sebastian)	District 11	\$ 54,000
*Robie St (Merkel to Cabot)	District 11	\$ 33,000
*Brunswick (Uniacke to Gerrish)	District 12	\$ 36,000
*Isleville (Stanley to Columbus)	District 11	\$ 26,000
Binney St (Henry to Edward)	District 13	\$ 33,000
Charles St (Gottingen to Creighton)	District 12	\$ 40,000
Leeds St (Rosemeade to Robie)	District 11	\$ 33,000
High St (Normandy to Lady Hammond)	District 11	\$ 80,000
Beaufort Ave (Inglis to Ritchie)	District 13	\$ 76,000
Symonds St (Slayter to Sheridan)	District 9	\$ 120,000
Subtotal		\$ 644,000

New Sidewalks

*St Margaret's Bay Rd ((Fairmount to Balcome)	District 17	\$ 135,000
*James/Roland (Trunk 3 to School)	District 22	\$ 255,000
Smallwood Ave (Gander to Serpentine)	District 4	\$ 75,000
Dumbarton Ave (Kincardine to Inverary)	District 6	\$ 80,000
Rutledge St (Emmerson to Frederick)	District 21	\$ 160,000
Subtotal		\$ 705,000

Total Advanced Budget Requirement for PWT **\$7,254,000**

Sewers

Crichton Ave, Dartmouth, Replace Sewer	District 10	\$ 65,000
Uplands Park-Hammonds Plains-San and Storm Sewers	District 22	\$ 370,000
Dartmouth Rd@Brentwood, Bedford-Storm Drainage	District 21	\$ 120,000
Coleridge Ct, Cole Harb.-Ditch and Drainage ROW Upgrade	District 4	\$ 50,000
Salter St Halifax - Outfall Replacement	District 12	\$ 500,000
Akerley & Windmill PS, Dartmouth	District 9	\$ 50,000
Plymouth Road PS, Dartmouth	District 6	\$ 50,000
Crescent Ave and Balcome Dr PS's, Halifax	District 17	\$ 530,000
O'Dell Dr. and Main St. PS's, Dartmouth	Districts 4,6	\$ 80,000
Riverwood Dr. PS, Timerblea	District 22	\$ 50,000
Whimsical Lake PS, Halifax	District 17	\$ 50,000
Morris Lake PS, Dartmouth	District 8	\$ 420,000
Herring Cove Rd (617), Halifax-Culvert replacement	District 18	\$ 150,000
Leeds St, North End Halifax, Sewer Replacement	District 11	\$ 55,000
Fenerty Rd/Springfield Lake Rd, Sack.-Drainage Improve.	District 19	\$ 100,000

Total Advanced Budget Requirement for EMS **\$2,640,000**

Replacement Buses

18 Low Floor Transit Buses \$7,225,000

Total Advanced Budget Requirement for RPAM **\$7,225,000**

* - Denotes a Carryover Project from 2003/04 Capital Budget that requires additional funding.