

**North West Community Council
October 7, 2013**

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: August 22, 2013

SUBJECT: **September 2013 Update: Waverley Ratepayers Association Traffic Study and Transportation Study–Fall River, Waverley and Wellington Area**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 7.1 of the March 25, 2013 meeting of the Marine Drive, Valley and Canal Community Council:

MOVED by Councillor Dalrymple, seconded by Councillor Craig that North West Community Council request staff to provide oral or written updates on transportation issues in the Fall River, Waverley and Wellington Area every six months instead of every three months, as previously requested.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Part 1, Section 25, (e), (i) “Powers and Duties of Community Council” of HRM Charter.

BACKGROUND

In June of 2011, Traffic Services was presented with a report prepared by the Waverley Ratepayers Association Traffic Calming Committee. The report was entitled “Traffic Calming Issues in Greater Waverley” and outlined eight (8) items which were put forward to be considered for implementation, those being:

1. Shoulder widening – Waverley Road, Cobequid Road and No. 2 Highway.
2. Installation of stop signs at certain key intersections and rumble strips before sharp turns.
3. Construction of two turning circles (i.e. “roundabouts”), one at the intersection of the Cobequid Road and Rocky Lake Drive and the other at the intersection of Rocky Lake Drive with the Waverley Road and No. 2 Highway.
4. Installation of photo radar units at three dangerous Waverley Road locations along with appropriate warning signs, i.e., segments where traffic tends to accelerate to speeds that are well above the posted 50 km per hour limit.
5. Defining bicycle lanes on both sides of the Waverley Road to heighten driver awareness.
6. Begin the installation of lighting poles in the village core that will also support signs identifying features of historical significance. Expand the lighting/historical sign program to other parts of the Waverley area (i.e., No.2 Highway and Rocky Lake Drive).
7. Increase active radar surveillance during rush hour times at problematic locations along the Waverley Road and reduce the speed limit on No. 2 Highway to 50 km/hr between the Highway No. 102 intersection and Waverley.
8. Establish uniform regulations for recreational cyclists and cyclists training for competitive events.

Prior to the above, a study entitled “Transportation Study – Fall River / Waverley / Wellington Areas” was carried out by CBCL Ltd. in support of the Fall River Community Visioning project conducted by HRM Regional Planning. The study, completed in 2009, was jointly funded by HRM and the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. The main goal of the study was to assess potential future conditions in order to identify long-term requirements and opportunities to accommodate future development and modifications related to a proposed village commercial centre concept. In addition to this, the study was also intended to assess three locations that were indicated by the community as problematic in order to identify potential upgrades to address current issues. The locations were identified as:

1. Highway 102 / Highway 118 interchange area
2. Highway 2 / Fall River Road intersection
3. Fall River Road / Lockview Road / MacPherson Road area

DISCUSSION

Waverley Ratepayers Association – Report on Traffic Calming Issues in Greater Waverley

Upon receipt of the report from the Waverley Ratepayers Association, Traffic & Right of Way Services staff reviewed the information provided and determined that items 2, 3, 7 and 8 related to Traffic Services. These items were addressed in a memo dated August 23, 2011 to Councillor Dalrymple and would require no further action / update (see Attachment 1).

As for the remaining items (1, 4, 5 and 6), that were discussed in the original Information Report (see Attachment 2), the following points will provide an update on information received and status for these remaining issues:

Item 1 – Shoulder Widening (Waverley Road / Cobequid Road / No. 2 Highway)

As indicated in the original information report, shoulder widening on these roadways could only be accomplished as part of an extensive roadway reconstruction project. At this time, no such project has been identified or budgeted for. There is no update beyond what was provided in the February 25, 2013 Information Report.

Item 4 – Installation of Photo Radar Units at Three Waverley Road Locations

No legislative changes have been made to allow the use of photo radar in Nova Scotia at this time. There is no update beyond what was provided in the February 25, 2013 Information Report.

Item 5 – Defining Bicycle Lanes on Both Sides of Waverley Road

HRM staff continues to investigate opportunities to extend the existing bicycle lanes along Waverley Road as capital roadway projects are identified. There is no update beyond what was provided in the February 25, 2013 Information Report.

Item 6 – Begin the Installation of Lighting Poles in the Village Core

The project to determine transfer of ownership of street light infrastructure and assess light level requirements for the conversion to LED street lights is still underway. Once this project / study has been completed, opportunities to provide decorative light poles can be assessed.

Transportation Study – Fall River / Waverley / Wellington Areas

For the areas identified by the community, the short-term assessment included in the transportation study provided seven recommendations (see Attachment 3).

Recommendation 1 – Fall River Road and Trunk 2

This recommendation identified four separate items:

1. Channelized Right-Turn Lane

As outlined in the original Information Report, addition of this channelized right-turn lane would require widening of the bridge on Fall River Road. HRM is currently assessing the condition of several bridges, including the one on Fall River Road, in order to determine condition and need for replacement. If /when it is determined that this bridge needs to be replaced, consideration for extending the existing right-turn lane will be incorporated into the bridge replacement project.

2. Eliminate Left Turns from Fall River Road to Wilson's Gas Station

This item could potentially be revisited when the Fall River Road bridge is being replaced and other modifications to the roadway are being done. As indicated in item 1 above, consideration for this modification would be incorporated into the bridge replacement project.

3. Improve Pedestrian Facilities at Fall River Road and Trunk 2

The requested crosswalk was added, with the remaining issue being investigated. Because of property constraints, drainage requirements and existing infrastructure on private property (asphalt curbing, large pylon sign, etc.), modification to the corner at the Wilson's property would be difficult. Staff is currently looking into potential solutions.

4. Add Northbound Left-Turn Advanced Green

This item has been addressed. The advanced left-turn phase has been added to the signal phasing.

Recommendation 2 – Improve Drop-Off Area at Ash Lee Jefferson School

The original Information Report outlined the options put forward for this item and indicated that the most effective and appropriate approach was to use the neighbouring church parking lot, coupled with a trail connecting the lot to the school property. This would be a matter to be resolved between the school and adjacent property owner.

Recommendation 3 – Highway 118 NB Ramp and Perrin Drive Intersection

As outlined in the original Information Report, this item has been addressed.

Recommendation 4 – Trunk 2 and Highway 102 NB Ramps

HRM continues to work with the Province on issues surrounding the interchange area in Fall River through on-going project identification and coordination. At this time, NSTIR staff is starting design work for a project to improve the intersection at the Trunk 2 / Highway 102 Northbound Ramps, and are also seeking funding approval to have it included on the Capital Program in the next couple of years.

Recommendation 5 – Improve Primary Connector Trail

The Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental Protection Society (SWEPS) applied to the Halifax Regional Trails Program for the 2013/14 season. The application was successful and they have been awarded funding. A consultant was hired and planning/design is currently underway.

Recommendation 6 – Implement Secondary Multi-Use Trail Along Trunk 2

As indicated in the original Information Report, there are difficulties in constructing this trail because of geography and available property. There were no plans or budget identified for this project at the time of this report. This item will be assessed for coordination opportunities as capital roadway projects come up in this area.

Recommendation 7 – Park and Ride Location

This item has been addressed.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not required as this item originated from a report submitted by a community group.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Memorandum from Patrick Hatton, Traffic Analyst, dated August 23, 2011 re: Traffic Operations Concerns, Waverley Ratepayers Association
2. February 25, 2013 Information Report to North West Community Council
3. Transportation Study – Fall River/Waverley/Wellington Areas, Chapter 4 – Recommendations

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/cc.html> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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