

North West Community Council
May 24, 2012

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: May 8, 2012

SUBJECT: Crosswalk Request – Sackville Drive at Beaconsfield Way

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 10.2.1 raised at the March 29, 2012 meeting of North West Community Council.

BACKGROUND

Motion passed that North West Community Council request a report outlining the feasibility of the installation of a crosswalk on Sackville Drive at the intersection of Sunset Ridge and Twin Brooks.

DISCUSSION

All crosswalk requests made to Traffic and Right of Way Services are assessed by analysing the conflicting traffic and pedestrian volumes. Marked crosswalks are only approved for installation where the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) warrants are met. These warrants require a high traffic volume combined with a high pedestrian volume such that there is an insufficient number of crossing gaps to accommodate the pedestrians. Studies conducted on the relative safety of crosswalks show that marked crosswalks can provide a false sense of security for pedestrians and therefore, Traffic and Right of Way Services is reluctant to recommend the installation of unwarranted, marked crosswalks. As this location is at an intersection, a legal crosswalk exists under the Motor Vehicle Act whether or not it is marked as such.

HRM staff conducted a turning movement count at the intersection of Sackville Drive and Margeson Drive between 7-9 am and 4-6 pm on October 18, 2011. Based on this count, the hourly volumes on Sackville Drive between Margeson Drive and Beaconsfield Way were found to be 565, 487, 823, and 382 for the hours 7-8 a.m., 8-9 a.m., 4-5 p.m. and 5-6 p.m. respectively. Additionally, HRM staff conducted a pedestrian count at the intersection of Sackville Drive and Beaconsfield Way between 7:30 and 8:30 am on May 1, 2012 and 4:30 and 5:30 pm on April 26, 2012. During these periods, there were 2 and 0 pedestrians, respectively crossing Sackville Drive and 761 and 856 vehicles, respectively on Sackville Drive. Therefore, due to low pedestrian volumes, a marked crosswalk is not warranted.

Traffic Services recognizes that there is development ongoing north of Sackville Drive. As the development progresses, continued assessment will be undertaken.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

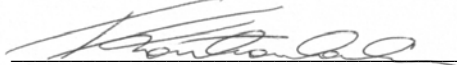
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because decisions were based on operational procedures.

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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