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Item No. 1
Halifax Regional Council
January 10, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council
Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: November 16, 2011

SUBJECT: Crosswalk and Crosswalk Controls: Barrington Street at Young Street and
Devonshire Avenue at Young Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 10.2.1 raised at the August 16, 2011 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

Councillor Blumenthal submitted a petition with approximately 700 signatures requesting a new crosswalk at the corner of Young Street and Barrington Street and for a light at the corner of Veith and Young Streets.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Blumenthal advised that within this area there are three daycare centres, a school, a community recreation centre, and Mulgrave Park housing which has a lot of children, and the petitioners feel there is a need for a crosswalk and a set of lights. Councillor Blumenthal added that they are requesting a crosswalk or a set of lights be installed at the corner of Young and Barrington Streets, and lights be installed at the corner of Veith and Young Streets.

Subsequently, at the October 3, 2011 meeting of Peninsula Community Council the following motions were passed:

- That this matter be included in the review of the Cultural Plan. 9.3.2 Marked Crosswalks/Signal Lights at Barrington/Young/Devonshire - Bill Matheson (on behalf of North End Community Circle). Presentation provided on a request for two lighted crosswalks at the intersection of Young and Barrington Street and Devonshire Avenue and Young Street; and
- To refer to staff for a report back at the next Peninsula Community Council meeting; and
- "MOVED by Councillor Blumenthal, seconded by Councillor Uteck that the presentation be forwarded to staff with a request for a report back on the status of sidewalk and crosswalk requests in the Peninsula; and

Following further discussion, at Councillor Watt's request, Peninsula Community Council agreed to add to the motion, to request an update from staff on the petition submitted in August to Regional Council on this matter, and she advised that "it would be helpful if staff could include investigation of pedestrian counts and vehicle collisions." Councillor Watts also requested that the motion on the status of sidewalk and crosswalk requests in Peninsula Halifax, also look at a pending development proposed for the area in question.

DISCUSSION

Barrington Street at Young Street

Barrington Street is an arterial roadway which is three lanes wide through the Young Street intersection. There is no sidewalk along its east side due to the limited number of access points and significant grade separation between the roadway and the major industrial development located along the harbour. Therefore, except for bus stop activity, there is no reason for pedestrians to cross Barrington Street in this immediate area.

There are two crosswalks across Barrington Street north of Young Street. One is located at Richmond Street to the north of Young Street and is equipped with RA-5 controls. The second is at the traffic signals at the intersection of Devonshire Avenue.

The community has demonstrated significant passion for approval of a new crosswalk on Barrington Street at Young Street. The size of the petition, the number of subsequently received letters in support of the petition, and the number of children attending the neighbourhood daycare facilities would suggest a potential for a significant pedestrian crossing volume on Barrington at Young. However, studies completed in previous years as well as in recent weeks indicate very little crossing activity. The attached Appendix "A" summarizes the number of pedestrian crossings observed on Barrington Street at Young Street during various observation

periods. Also, the history of 'bus load count' records from Metro Transit for this particular bus stop on the east side verify that there is insufficient pedestrian volume to warrant the approval of a crosswalk at this location. Whereas, there are fewer than 20 transit patrons using this bus stop on a typical day, the crosswalk approval warrant requires a minimum of 20 crossings in an hour.

Devonshire Avenue at Veith Street/Young Street

Devonshire Avenue is a four lane divided collector roadway. A crosswalk exists across Devonshire Avenue at Young and Veith Streets. Similar to Barrington Street, there is no sidewalk along the east side of Devonshire Avenue in the area of Young Street and there is no sidewalk on either side of Young Street between Devonshire Avenue and Barrington Street.

The crosswalk on Devonshire Avenue at Young Street qualifies to have illuminated overhead crosswalk signs known as RA-5's equipped with pedestrian activated flashing amber beacons installed. This installation is approved and will be included in the proposed 2012 Capital Budget submission for Council's consideration of approval.

Status of Crosswalk Requests

Staff reviews, evaluates, and responds to each crosswalk request in a timely fashion pending the most opportune time to gather the necessary data given prevailing weather and other circumstances. As an example, a request received in midwinter may be delayed until spring to better the chances of observing typical crossing patterns and volumes, as well as to reflect the fact that the crosswalk could not be installed until the painting season had started anyway.

Collision Histories

Police indicate two reported collisions on Barrington Street at Young Street over the past five years, neither of which involved a pedestrian or pedestrian related activity. Six collisions were reported on Devonshire Avenue at Young Street over the same five year period. Again, none of the six involved a pedestrian or pedestrian related activity.

Development Applications

Development Services has reviewed the area for current development applications and reports that at this time there are no planning applications on file for proposed new or redevelopment within the Devonshire Avenue/Young Street/Barrington Street area. However, there is one as-of-right development currently underway at 3150 Barrington Street for a 37 unit residential building with one level of underground parking. The need for a crosswalk can always be reviewed at a later date, if and when new and redevelopment, indicate a change in pedestrian crossing activity.

Status of Sidewalk Requests

Each new sidewalk request that is submitted to HRM staff is rated based on a predefined set of criteria, and the rating system includes elements such as proximity to schools, daycares, parks, shopping areas, public transit routes, the classification of roads, safety concerns regarding sight distance constraints, etc. There are currently more than 270 locations on the rated list (11 in Districts 11-14), and based on current funding levels, approximately 8-10 new locations are constructed annually. When new requests are received the district Councillor is notified for their information. As a note, some new sidewalk installations are subject to local improvement charges (depending on specific conditions).

Both Barrington from Young Street to the bus stop and Young Street from Barrington to Devonshire have been added to the rated list and rate above average, but not high enough to be considered as a standalone project for 2012 construction.

The cost of installing RA-5 crosswalk controls on Devonshire Avenue at Young Street is estimated to be \$35,000. This amount will be identified in the 2012-13 budget submission for Council's consideration of approval.

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

Considerable community input supported the request for this report – namely, a petition with approximately 700 signatures, numerous letters in support of the petition, a presentation made to Community Council, and staff's contact with Wee Care Day Care staff.

ATTACHMENT

Appendix A – Pedestrian Crossing Summary

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

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APPENDIX "A"
PEDESTRIAN CROSSING SUMMARY
BARRINGTON STREET AT YOUNG STREET AND BUS STOP

DAY	DATE	TIME	CROSSINGS	NOTES
Tues.	Sept. 13/11	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	2	1 child with mother, no delay
Thur.	Sept. 15/11	7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m.	0	
Thur.	Sept. 15/11	1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m.	6	4 adults and 1 child assisted by mother (Note: 1 child = 2 pedestrians)
Fri.	Sept. 16/11	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	8	1 adult at 4:00 p.m., no delay 1 adult and 1 child at 4:07 pm, 1 minute delay (Note: 1 child = 2 pedestrians) 1 adult at 4:13 p.m., no delay 1 adult at 4:22 p.m., 2 minute delay 2 adults at 4:42 p.m., no delay
Mon.	Sept. 19/11	4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.	7	1 adult, at 4:00 p.m., 1 minute delay 1 adult and 1 child at 4:07 p.m., 1 minute delay (Note: 1 child = 2 pedestrians) 1 adult at 4:13 p.m., no delay 1 adult at 4:22 p.m., 2 minute delay 1 adult at 4:42 p.m., no delay
Wed.	Oct. 26/11	7:00 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.	1	adult, no delay
Wed.	Oct. 26/11	9:30 a.m. - 12:45 p.m.	1	adult
Wed.	Oct. 26/11	12:45 p.m. - 3:15 p.m.	1	adult
Wed.	Oct. 26/11	3:15 p.m. - 4:15 p.m.	2	2 adults, 20 second delay.

Note: during the course of the Wednesday, Oct. 26th all day survey, no children were observed crossing at the signals at Barrington at Devonshire Avenue as a result of having used an alternative bus stop to access the Wee Day Care Centre.