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Information Item 2
Halifax and West Community Council
February 17, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Halifax and West Community Council

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Eddie Robar, Director, Halifax Transit

DATE:

February 6, 2015

SUBJECT:

Installation of a Bus Shelter – 1746 St. Margaret’s Bay Road

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the November 25, 2014 Halifax and West Community Council meeting.

MOVED by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Walker that Halifax & West Community Council request a staff report pertaining to the installation of a bus shelter at 1749 St. Margaret’s Bay Road adjacent to Timberlea Manor Senior Citizens Facility.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, Part IV, Section 79(1)(o), Halifax Regional Council may expend money required by the municipal for public transportation services.

BACKGROUND

At the Halifax and West Community Council meeting of November 25, 2014, this motion was initially put forward for the installation of a bus shelter at civic 1749 St. Margaret’s Bay Road. It was later confirmed with Councillor Rankin that the actual location requested is at 1746 St. Margaret’s Bay Road, near the driveway to Timberlea Manor, bus stop #6182.

DISCUSSION

Halifax Transit installs bus shelters at bus stops with an average daily boarding count of approximately 100 passengers per weekday. Shelters are typically installed in Halifax Regional Municipality's Right of Way and not on private property. All shelter locations must be approved by Traffic Management. Other shelter criteria taken into consideration are:

- Snow removal requirements, will the location impede snow removal activities
- Safety concerns/issues with the road such as sight lines
- Additional infrastructure requirements
- Environmental and/or other weather conditions to be considered

The shelter request for the bus stop located at civic 1746 St. Margaret's Bay has approximately 8 passengers boarding per day and is serviced by routes 21 Lakeside/Timberlea and 23 Timberlea/Mumford. In order to determine if Halifax Transit has sufficient Right of Way for this installation, the location would need to be surveyed. Snow plowing activities would need to be considered since there is no sidewalk or curb on street. This bus stop is on an asphalt shoulder of the road, with the bus stop sign mounted to a utility pole. There is a large culvert directly behind the bus stop.

To install a bus shelter at this location it would require the installation of a concrete platform with a 4"-6" curb and ramp to street level. Due to the proximity of a large culvert, this site may require additional infrastructure improvements or modifications. The bus stop is currently 5 metres from the white line at the edge of the street and is situated between two driveways approximately 9 metres apart. The shoulder is sloped away from the street to the culvert behind the stop.

Traffic Management's analysis indicates that due to the proximity of the driveways for civic numbers 1746 and 1750 St. Margaret's Bay Road, a bus shelter could not be installed at this location without creating a visibility or access hazard. A shelter placed at this location would create a sight line impediment for vehicles turning out of the driveway for civic 1746 and impede vehicles seeking to turn in to the driveway for 1746.

Due to the safety issues that would be created by the installation of a shelter at this location, Traffic Management recommends against the installation of a shelter on the existing asphalt area between driveways for civic numbers 1746 and 1750.

Additionally Halifax Transit has a contract with Outfront Media (formerly CBS Outdoor). Outfront Media maintains all shelters including all expansion shelters; the maintenance contract allows Halifax Transit to install only a limited number of expansion shelters. Halifax Transit may install on average 3 expansion shelters per year up to a total of 45 over the life of the contract until September 2021. Due to the construction of the Bridge Terminal in 2012, and the construction of the new Lacewood Terminal in 2015, Halifax Transit is near maximum capacity for further expansion shelters. Placement of shelters at any new locations must be carefully reviewed to ensure resources are used where it will benefit many Halifax Transit customers.

Halifax Transit would not install a shelter at 1746 St. Margaret's Bay Road, this site does not meet the daily passenger boarding criteria. Additional infrastructure would be required and Traffic Management does not recommend site request.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

No Community engagement required as this report is based Halifax Transit and Traffic Management operational requirements and processes.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments for this report.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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Original Signed

Report Approved by: _____
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