

Request for Standing Committee Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agenda Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Meeting: January 8, 2015

Subject: Switch Open Streets

Motion for Standing Committee to consider:

That the Standing Committee on Community Planning and Economic Development request a staff report to:

- 1) In support of the Healthy Communities Core Priority Area, investigate new support models for Switch Open Streets, including through a program modeled on Neighbourhood Placemaking, which is to promote healthy communities, active transportation, local business and neighbourhood pride in communities throughout the municipality, through open streets programming.
- 2) Conduct a jurisdictional scan on municipal support models for open streets programming.

Reason:

Since its inception, Switch Open Streets has been organized by the non-profit Planning & Design Centre (PDC), funded through in-kind donations, grants, and sponsors and implemented by volunteers. The Municipality manages all requests for special event street closures and parades through the Special Events Task Force (SETF). As with all events that have temporary street closures, Switch submits an application to the SETF, and a civic event staff member is assigned to provide a single point of contact for event organizers. The committee is comprised of staff representatives from Traffic and Right of Way Services, Halifax Regional Police Service, RCMP, Halifax Transit and Fire & Emergency Services. Based on the application and scope of the event, the SETF determines the final delivery plan, the municipal services that are required and the benefit to the public, all which factor into the final decision of the Right of Way Engineer.

Final approval for the temporary street closures for events is provided by the Right of Way Engineer. The Municipality recovers all costs associated with both internally and externally delivered events, even when the event is an operational program such as Natal Day or Canada Day.

Given that the municipality shares Switch's goals of promoting healthy communities, active transportation, local business and neighbourhood pride, a different support model appears to be worthy of exploration.

The municipality's Neighbourhood Placemaking program provides guidance and support to community members interested in hosting a project in their neighbourhood, and appears to be a promising model that could lead to greater support to ensure Switch's objectives are successfully met. Moreover, Neighbourhood Placemaking's model allows neighbourhoods across the municipality to apply for various projects.

Outcome Sought:

A support model for Switch Open Streets that allows diverse neighbourhoods throughout the municipality to promote healthy communities, active transportation, local business and neighbourhood pride through open streets programming.

<i>Councillor Jennifer Watts</i>	
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