

**Audit & Finance Standing Committee  
October 16, 2013**

**TO:** Chair and Members of the Audit & Finance Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Signed by

Peter Stickings, Acting Director, Planning & Infrastructure

Signed by

David Reage, MCIP, LPP, A/Director, Metro Transit

**DATE:** August 12, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Funding Award – 2013 NS Moves

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**ORIGIN**

On June 11, 2013, Regional Council (item 10.2.1) approved a recommendation from the Transportation Standing Committee to submit an application to the NS Moves Program for the funding of seven sustainable transportation projects.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

HRM Charter section 74 (1) states: “The Municipality may agree with one or more municipalities, villages, service commissions, the Government of the Province or of Canada or a department or agency of either of them or a band council pursuant to the Indian Act (Canada) to provide or administer municipal or village services.”

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Audit & Finance Standing Committee recommend to Halifax Regional Council to:

- (1) Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with the Province of Nova Scotia for \$105,000 in funding as indicated in this report;
- (2) Authorize the Mayor and Clerk to enter into an agreement with Halifax Harbour Bridges for \$10,000 in funding as indicated in this report;
- (3) Increase the Project Budget for Project No CTR00908 - Transportation Demand Management Program, by \$40,000 to include external funding from the Province of Nova Scotia;
- (4) Increase the Project Budget for Project No. CMU00975 - Transit Corridor, by \$30,000 to include external funding from the Province of Nova Scotia;

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- (5) Increase the Project Budget for Project No. CMU01095 - Transit Strategy, by \$25,000 to include external funding from the Province of Nova Scotia;
- (6) Increase the Project Budget for Project No. CTU00420 - Active Transportation Plan, by \$10,000 to include external funding from the Province of Nova Scotia; and
- (7) Increase the Project Budget for Project No. CTU00420 - Active Transportation Plan, by \$10,000 to include external funding from Halifax Harbour Bridges.

**BACKGROUND**

This is the second year that the Province has solicited applications for projects and programs that promote sustainable transportation for funding through the NS Moves Program. Based on the motion of Regional Council, funding applications were submitted to NS Moves on June 22, 2013, for seven HRM projects. On August 12, 2013, HRM staff was advised that four of those projects were to receive some or all of the funding requested.

**DISCUSSION**

Projects granted funding through the NS Moves program are:

<b>PROJECT</b>	<b>NS MOVES GRANT</b>	<b>HRM BUDGET SOURCE Project Numbers</b>
Active Transportation Connections to Highfield Park Transit Terminal	\$40,000*	Transportation Demand Mgmt. (CTR00908)
Transit Priority Measures Study	\$30,000	Transit Corridor (CMU00975)
Transit Plan Public Engagement	\$25,000	Transit Strategy (CMU01095)
Bicycle Accommodation at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal	\$10,000	Active Transportation (CTU00420)
<b><i>Sub Total for NS Moves Grants</i></b>	<b><i>\$105,000</i></b>	
Halifax Harbour Bridges	\$10,000**	Active Transportation (CTU00420)
<b>TOTAL PROJECT FUNDING</b>	<b>\$115,000</b>	

**Notes:** \* the application requested \$75,000 in funding but only \$40,000 was granted  
\*\* Halifax Harbour Bridges will contribute an additional \$10,000 as project partners

The granting of additional funding for the Transit Plan Public Engagement will ensure a professionally designed, high quality, public consultation process. The Active Transportation and Transit Priority budgets are bundled accounts that include a number of component projects. Increased funding allows for more scope flexibility in the projects receiving funding as well as other approved projects within that account.

Projects that funding was applied for but not granted were:

1. Transit Map
2. Highfield Transit Terminal Passenger Amenities
3. Long Lake Trail Alignment Plan

HRM funding to fully undertake the Transit Map and Highfield Terminal construction has already been approved, so these projects will not be affected by not receiving external funding. The Long Lake Trail Alignment Plan will be deferred to a future budget year.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The additional \$115,000 in funding, to be cost shared with Halifax Harbour Bridges and NS Moves Program, will add capacity to the approved 2013-14 project budgets so that additional priority projects may be undertaken earlier than originally planned. Funding availability has been confirmed by Finance.

Budget Summary: **Project No. CTR00908 Transportation Demand Management**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$833,793.30
Plus: NS Moves Funding	<b><u>\$ 40,000.00</u></b>
Balance	\$873,793.30

#### **Project No. CMU00975 Transit Corridor**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$608,702.00
Plus: NS Moves Funding	<b><u>\$ 30,000.00</u></b>
Balance	\$638,702.00

#### **Project No. CMU01095 Transit Strategy**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$ 74,398.72
Plus: NS Moves Funding	<b><u>\$ 25,000.00</u></b>
Balance	\$ 99,398.72

#### **Project No. CTU00420 Active Transportation**

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$1,328,297.30
Plus: NS Moves Funding	<b><u>\$ 10,000.00</u></b>
Plus: Halifax Harbour Bridges Funding	<b><u>\$ 10,000.00</u></b>
Balance	\$1,348,297.30

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

- Community engagement will be undertaken as part of the Highfield Park Transit Connections;
- The Transit Plan project is community engagement;
- The Transit Priority Measures project is a technical exercise that will not involve community engagement, but projects recommended for implementation may involve public engagement at a later date; and
- Public engagement has already been taken on needs related to bicycle commuting needs across the harbor; no further engagement is planned.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Each of the projects won funding based on their contribution to environmental sustainability in the transportation sector. Minimization of environmental impacts will be part of the design process for both the Transit Terminal Connection and Transit Priority Measures projects.

**ALTERNATIVES**

The Standing Committee may choose to not recommend acceptance of funding from the NS Moves Program, while still proceeding with the projects. This is not recommended by staff.

**ATTACHMENTS**

NSDOE and HRM Contribution Agreement.

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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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