



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Info Item 2**  
**Transportation Standing Committee**  
**October 1, 2014**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee  
Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, P.Eng., A/Director, Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** September 11, 2014

**SUBJECT:** Street Cleaning in the Downtown (DH1) Zone

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Item 8.2 raised at the December 4, 2013, meeting of Transportation Standing Committee:

*Moved by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Watts, that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the possible restriction of on-street parking on low volume nights to facilitate street cleaning in the downtown (DH1) zone.*

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Part 1, Section 25, (a), (c), (e) and (i) "Powers and Duties of Community Council" of HRM Charter.

**BACKGROUND**

A concern was raised by the local Councillor that some streets aren't swept as well as others due to the inability to gain access to the curbs for proper cleaning. The Downtown Business Commissions and business owners have indicated that they would like to see program changes to better service all streets within the zone. An option to improve street cleaning is to prohibit parking overnight but this has disadvantages because of the high demand for parking for both residents and businesses.

**DISCUSSION**

Since the time of this Motion, the downtown areas of Halifax and Dartmouth have been identified by staff as Enhanced Maintenance Areas (EMA) and staff have introduced new services to better assist with the street sweeping operations in these locations. These services include:

- sidewalk and street washing during the night shift hours 5 days per week;
- the purchase and implementation of three new sidewalk sweepers which enables debris to be swept up and removed from the sidewalk areas before this same debris would historically be deposited into the gutter;
- the realignment of all staff to operate out of the same depot and to have supervision present during the night shift when the majority of the EMA street sweeping occurs; and
- a thorough review of past street sweeping operations, resulting in a change in mindset on how to deal with difficult streets. For example, there are locations which have been identified to be accessible using a sidewalk sweeper rather than a street sweeper, with the ability to manoeuvre into tighter spaces, creating an overall cleaner street.

Staff are confident, based on the recent changes to their services, that the majority of streets can be cleaned without the need for more parking prohibitions. Staff recognize that there are certain streets which historically have been challenging to clean and they will be tracking these streets on an ongoing basis. If staff continues to find that these streets remain difficult to clean due to the presence of parked vehicles, they will be assessed on a case-by-case basis to determine if restricting parking one night per week is feasible and can be accommodated without undue hardship to neighbouring businesses or residents.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications at this time.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because this report is based on internal operational procedures.

---

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.

Report Prepared by: Patrick Doyle, Senior Traffic Analyst, Traffic and Right of Way Services 902.490.6133

*Original Signed*

Report Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chris Mitchell, Manager, Municipal Operations, 902.490.4673

*Original Signed*

Report Approved by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., PTOE, Manager, Traffic and Right of Way, 902.490.4816

---