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Information Item No. 1
Transportation Standing Committee
March 26, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Eddie Robar, Director, Halifax Transit

DATE: February 27, 2015

SUBJECT: Commuter Rail Feasibility Study Project Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This information report originates from a request from the Transportation Standing Committee for monthly status updates on the Commuter Rail Feasibility Study project.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 69(1) of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter provides the legislative authority for the municipality to provide a public transportation service.

BACKGROUND

Regional Council has directed staff to undertake a feasibility study for commuter rail in the Halifax to Windsor Junction to Enfield corridor. In order to complete this work the services of an external rail consultant was procured in August 2014, and the study began in September 2014.

DISCUSSION

A very well attended public open house was held on February 26, 2015, from 5:00 pm to 8:00 pm at the Sunnyside Mall in Bedford. The purpose of the public open house was to provide the public with information on the initial assessments and evaluations prior to finalizing the study. The information available at the open house included a thorough analysis of the documented background assessments of existing infrastructure, estimation of traffic demand, potential station locations, and operations design. The information provided at the open house is available for viewing on the Halifax Transit website.

The consultant is now preparing a final draft of the study which will be available in early summer.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report as it is only providing information to the Committee.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A public open house was held February 26th 2015 to share information about this study. Information is also available on the Halifax Transit website. Once the final study is assembled and presented, if Council chooses to pursue commuter rail, a more comprehensive public consultation program may be warranted.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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

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