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Item No. 9.4.2
Transportation Standing Committee
September 24, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Ben Buckwold, Chair, Active Transportation Standing Committee

DATE: August 21, 2015

SUBJECT: Sideguards

ORIGIN

Motion from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee at its August 20, 2015 meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 2.1 of the Committee's Terms of Reference – "The Committee will provide timely advice on matters relating to budget, infrastructure, education, policy and public awareness."

RECOMMENDATION

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report, to investigate the implications of installing side guards on city-owned and contracted vehicles; specifically addressing the following items:

1. The cost of installing side guards on all city-owned heavy trucks, plows, and other heavy equipment.
2. The cost and legal authority of requiring long-term contractors (such as garbage collection and snow removal) to install side guards on all heavy vehicles.
3. The cost and legal authority of requiring all city-contracted (including hourly/daily jobs) vehicles to be equipped with side guards.
4. The cost of including side guards on all newly-purchased city vehicles.

BACKGROUND

The issue of side guards was discussed at the Committee's April meeting. At the August meeting it was discussed again and the Committee passed a motion recommending a staff report, as noted above.

DISCUSSION

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee believes that truck side guards have been shown to reduce the risk of serious injury or death to cyclists and pedestrians involved in side-on collisions with heavy trucks. The Cities of Montreal and Boston have recognized the importance of side guards and have begun installing them on all city-owned and contracted trucks in the absence of federal laws. The Committee felt there is merit in exploring the idea for city-owned vehicles in Halifax and passed a motion as noted above.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Any financial implications associated with this request would have to be identified in a future staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Active Transportation Committee is comprised of four members at large, one representative from the following organizations: Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM, Halifax Regional Trails Association, Halifax Cycling Coalition, Province of Nova Scotia, Bicycle Nova Scotia, Ecology Action Centre Trax program; and three elected officials. Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes can be viewed online at www.Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

Not applicable.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee did not provide alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.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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