



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

Info Item No. 3
Transportation Standing Committee
April 28, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Bruce Zvaniga, P.Eng, Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: March 24, 2016

SUBJECT: Pedestrian and Cyclist Safety on Rocky Lake Drive and Duke Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.3.3, November 26, 2015 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor Outhit, THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report regarding pedestrian and cyclist safety on Rocky Lake Drive and Duke Street, Bedford and explore potential options for mitigation.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The Halifax Charter Section 322(1) states that Council may design, lay out, open, expand, construct, maintain, improve, alter, repair, light, water, clean, and clear streets in the Municipality.

BACKGROUND

At the October 15, 2015 meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee a representative of Dexter Construction made a presentation on concerns that they had received from the public related to pedestrian and cyclist safety in the vicinity of the entrance to their facility at the Rocky Lake Quarry entrance at 927 Rocky Lake Drive. The representative indicated that road safety in this area was discussed at a recent meeting of their internal occupational health and safety committee company, and that they are looking for support and information on what to do to increase safety. A member of the Committee also discussed bicycle and safety concerns on Duke Street in the same area.

Rocky Lake Drive extends eight kilometres from the intersection of Trunk #1 in downtown Bedford to the intersection of Waverley Road in the community of Waverley. This section is designated as an arterial in the municipal road classification hierarchy. Rocky Lake Drive is also designated as part of Trunk #2 in the provincial road classification system.

There are three segments of cross-section of the Rocky Lake Drive over its eight kilometres. The initial 2.3 kms from the intersection of Trunk #1 in downtown Bedford to Duke Street features two travel lanes and a sidewalk on one side. From Duke Street to the community of Waverley (4.5 kms), the cross section features two travel lanes and gravel shoulders. The final 1.2 km of Rocky Lake Drive through the

community of Waverley, starting at 2187 Rocky Lake Drive, to the Waverley Road has two travel lanes and a sidewalk on one side. The access to the Rocky Lake Quarry entrance at 927 Rocky Lake Drive is in the section where there is no sidewalk, about 650 meters from the terminus of the sidewalk at Duke Street.

The 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan proposes two designations for Rocky Lake Drive. From the intersection with Trunk #1 to Duke Street, it is designated as "facility type to be determined" and from Duke Street to the Waverley Road it is designated as "signed only bike route". The typical facility type for a bike route on a road such as Rocky Lake Drive would be either a paved shoulder or a painted bicycle lane. The typical point at which planning happens to decide what to do with a "facility type to be determined" segment is when a recapitalization is being considered as part of the Municipality's state of good repair program for roads.

Rocky Lake Drive is used by recreational bicyclists as part of a loop that includes Waverley Road and Cobequid Road.

Duke Street extends about 1.5 kms from Rocky Lake Drive to Highway 102, where it transitions to Glendale Avenue. There is a short 120m segment of sidewalk from Rocky Lake Drive to a driveway on Duke Street. The remainder of the corridor consists of two travel lanes with no sidewalk. Duke Street is designated as "facility type to be determined" in the Active Transportation Priorities Plan. This corridor could eventually be connected to the proposed extension of Highway 107 from Akerley Boulevard/Burnside Drive to Rocky Lake Drive (which is a Provincial Government project). A parallel active transportation greenway is planned for the Highway 107 extension.

DISCUSSION

Consideration of pedestrian and cyclist safety on Rocky Lake Drive and Duke Street requires a comprehensive assessment that will take a number of months to complete. Factors that would need to be considered include but are not limited to:

- motor vehicle volumes, types and speeds;
- collision history;
- roadway dimensions and characteristics;
- pedestrian and cyclist volumes and perceptions;
- the number and dimensions of bridge structures;
- design and construction feasibility;
- potential future configurations of the streets; and,
- budget implications

Also, given that the original request came from Dexter Construction, further work with their representatives may highlight issues specific to their driveway entrance off of Rocky Lake Drive.

Consideration of any changes to Duke Street also requires further consultation with the Provincial Government on their plans for the Highway 107 extension and any envisioned future connections to Highway 102.

Staff will endeavour to undertake this work in 2016 and report back to Transportation Standing Committee before March 2017. That report will detail the results of the safety assessment and will identify potential measures to improve overall road safety along the Rocky Lake Drive corridor. As well an update on Duke Street will be provided.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

n/a

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1, Map of Rocky Lake Drive and Duke Street

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: David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, 902.490.1665

Report Approved by: Dave Hubley, P.Eng., Manager, Project Planning and Design, 902.490.4845

Attachment 1, Map of Rocky Lake Drive and Duke Street

