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Info Item No. 2
Transportation Standing Committee
September 22, 2016

TO: Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

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

DATE: August 15, 2016

SUBJECT: Use of Lane Light (RRFB) Rapid Flashing Beacons for Crosswalks in HRM

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 13.1 of the July 21, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Walker, THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the use of Lane Light Rapid Flashing Beacons for crosswalks in HRM.

Motion put and passed.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Schedule 7, "Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference", of HRM Administrative Order One.

BACKGROUND

At the July 21, 2016 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, Councillor Walker introduced a motion requesting a staff report to outline the potential use of Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFB) in HRM. During the meeting, several questions were asked surrounding the use of the beacons in relation to locations where they are being proposed, whether the use of solar power was considered and how the beacons would be activated (push-button or motion activated).

DISCUSSION

Tender 16-251 "Various Locations – East, West and Central Region – Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons" was issued on August 15, 2016 (closing on August 30, 2016) for the installation of RRFBs at four marked crosswalk locations.

Locations included in the project are:

1. Williams Lake Road at Ravenscraig Drive
2. Maple Street at Dahlia Street
3. Basinview Drive at Bedford Hills Drive
4. South Street at Wellington Street

The Williams Lake Road location was selected based on an assessment for a new marked crosswalk which, based on roadway alignment, identified that the use of the RRFB may provide improved visibility of the crosswalk and notification for drivers approaching the crossing. The other three locations were selected based on assessments of existing RA-5 crosswalks conducted as part of the first Pedestrian Safety Action Plan. Each of these locations were identified as not meeting the criteria for the overhead RA-5 crosswalk treatment, but because of pedestrian and / or vehicle volume may benefit from something more than the standard side mounted signs and pavement markings.

Of the four locations, two will be solar powered (Williams Lake Road at Ravenscraig Drive and Basinview Drive at Bedford Hills Drive) and all will be activated via pedestrian push-buttons.

The use of passive activation (where the lights are activated by simply walking up to the crossing) was not considered at this time because of uncertainty of the effectiveness of this technology and the increased cost associated with it. It was decided that the use of standard pedestrian push-buttons was the most appropriate approach for the initial pilot installations at this time, but the use of passive activation could potentially be considered for future installations.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not required as this report provides information in response to an inquiry raised at the Transportation Standing Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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

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