

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

Original signed

SUBMITTED BY: _____
Lisa Pottie, Chair, Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: May 6, 2013

SUBJECT: Encroachments, Sidewalk Cafés & Sandwich Board Signs

ORIGIN

Motions approved at the April 15, 2013 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, s. 21 “The Council may establish standing, special and advisory committees.”

HRM By-laws relating to encroachments, sidewalk cafés & sandwich board signs:

- E-200 Encroachments By-law
- S-300 Streets By-law
- S-800 Temporary Signs By-law

RECOMMENDATION

The Accessibility Advisory Committee requests that the Transportation Standing Committee:

1. Request an update on amendments to By-Law S-800 and report back to the Committee on the status of the amendments.
2. Request staff to perform a cross-jurisdictional review to examine best practices around ensuring accessibility where permanent encroachments have been permitted and report back to the Committee.
3. Request that any future applications for permanent encroachments on sidewalks be brought for review by the Accessibility Advisory Committee, and that the Committee’s feedback be incorporated as a part of the staff report.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

On January 15, 2013 an application for a permanent encroachment was brought before Regional Council. A discussion was held by members of Council at that time on the overall issue of sidewalk encroachment regulations and guidelines.

At the January 21, 2013 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, a motion was approved to request a staff presentation on the status of sidewalk standards and implications for accessibility for HRM residents.

HRM Right-of-Way Services staff presented to the Committee on April 15, 2013 on the topic of encroachments and sidewalk cafés. Staff and the Committee discussed HRM's sidewalk guidelines and rules around sandwich board signs. It should be noted that a Sidewalk Café By-law is currently being drafted.

The three requests outlined in the recommendation section of this report were made following the presentation and discussion at the April 15th meeting.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified with this report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Accessibility Advisory Committee membership is currently comprised of nine citizen members and two members of Regional Council, with staff liaison members. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Minutes, agendas, reports and other information on the AAC are posted on the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified with this report.

ALTERNATIVES

The Transportation Standing Committee may choose to approve the AAC recommendations, as a whole or in part, as set out in the Recommendation section of this report. Alternatively, the TSC may put forward any alternative recommendations deemed appropriate by the Committee.

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

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