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North West Community Council
August 28, 2008
12th

TO: Chair and Members of North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:



Mike Labrecque, Director Transportation and Public Works

DATE: July 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Bicycle Facilities in NWCC Districts

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 11.5 raised at the July 10, 2008 meeting of North West Community Council.

BACKGROUND

Motion of North West Community Council on July 10, 2008 requesting a staff report on obtaining ongoing funding for the implementation of bike lanes in the North West Community Council districts with immediate attention given to the areas of Beaver Bank Road, Glendale Drive and Cobequid Road in Sackville.

DISCUSSION

The 2002 Blueprint for a Bicycle Friendly (the 'Bike Plan') HRM identifies a number of streets and trails in the North West Community Council district as important routes for the development of bicycling infrastructure, including Beaver Bank Road, Old Sackville Drive, Cobequid Road, and the Bedford-Sackville Trail. The 2006 Active Transportation Plan (the 'A.T. Plan') echoed many of these suggestions for on-road infrastructure, and also added Windgate Drive and suggested an off-road trail connection between Windgate and Glendale Drives skirting the shores of First and Second Lakes. While the Bedford-Sackville Greenway Connector from Bedford Place Mall to Lynn Court was developed almost immediately after publication of the Bike Plan, on-road infrastructure for cyclists on the above roads has only been incrementally improved over the years.

Ongoing funding for implementation of bicycle facilities (painted bicycle lanes, wide curb lanes, other pavement markings, as well as support facilities for cyclists such as bicycle parking) is a recommendation of both the Bike Plan as well as the A.T. Plan. Since publication of the 2002 Blueprint, Council has allocated funds every year for implementation of the plan, with the exception of the current fiscal year.

In years when funds are allocated by Council, spending priorities for those funds are developed in consultation with Council's Bikeways Advisory Committee (soon to become the 'Active Transportation Advisory Committee'). The BAC has previously identified several routes as priorities for spending including the Bedford Highway, Herring Cove Road, St. Margaret's Bay Road, Purcell's Cove Road, Kearney Lake Road and Hammonds Plains Road. Several pieces of cycling infrastructure have already been built on these identified priority routes, and more sections will be completed in the future as budget allows.

The streets suggested in the July 10, 2008 motion of Council have not been identified to date as priorities by the Bikeways Advisory Committee, however this does not preclude any work being done in those areas as they may be reconsidered by the committee as priorities in the future. In the meantime, Traffic Services works to ensure that bicycle facilities are developed on *any* of the identified priority routes in the Bike Plan/AT Plan when other capital works projects are planned for those streets. For example, in connection with a water/sewer project for the Lively Subdivision, bike lanes were developed along 2.4 km of Sackville Drive from Melham Drive to Hamilton Drive. This year, an allowance for wide curb lanes will be made along a short section of Beaverbank Road where sidewalk and curb will be built. "Piggy-backing" bicycle infrastructure on other capital works is a cost-effective way of building the infrastructure and ensuring that opportunities for development of bicycle facilities are not missed.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

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

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