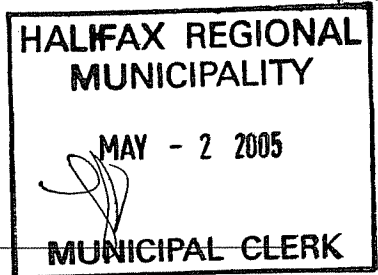




Transportation and Public Works
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2



March 23, 2005

Patti Halliday
Acting Municipal Clerk
Halifax Regional Municipality
P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Halliday:

Thank you for your letter of March 14, 2005 on behalf of the Western Region Community Council, inquiring if any of the \$40,000,000 allocated by the Province towards the upgrade of roads will be put towards paving of subdivision roads. Earlier this year, Premier Hamm announced that an additional \$60,000,000 over two (2) years (\$30,000,000 per year), would be allocated for work on Nova Scotia's roads. This is indeed, a significant boost in capital spending on Nova Scotia highways and is consistent with the Government's plan to increase funding for infrastructure in the province. That said, despite increases in the capital budget every year for the last five (5) years, the amount available for capital spending is still not sufficient to address the highway infrastructure deficit built up by years of under spending.

The biggest infrastructure challenges that we currently face are the needs to rehabilitate and repave the current paved road system in the province; the need to repair and/or replace existing bridges and the need to improve capacity and safety on our freeway system such as, Highway 103, 101 and 104.

The Subdivision Paving Program must compete for funding with all the Department's priorities and it is anticipated that this year, we will again, allocate \$1,000,000 to this program.

I trust you find this satisfactory.

With personal regards,

Honourable Ronald S. Russell, CD
Minister

/mjl

cc: Brian Stonehouse, Deputy Minister
Martin Delaney, Executive Director-Highway Operations