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Western Region Community Council

January 22, 2007

February 26, 2007

TO: Chair and Members of Western Region Community Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: November 1, 2006

SUBJECT: Traffic Concerns - St. Margarets Bay Road and Timberlea Collector (off Exit 3)

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 12.2 raised at the August 28, 2006 meeting of Western Region Community Council, and item 4.2.2 raised at the October 23, 2006 meeting of Western Region Community Council.

BACKGROUND

At the August 28, 2006 meeting of Western Region Community Council, it was moved by Councillor Rankin, seconded by Councillor Meade that a letter be sent to the Provincial Department of Transportation and Public Works requesting a crosswalk at St. Margarets Bay Road and Timberlea Collector (off Exit 3) due to increased pedestrian traffic now that there are sidewalks on both sides of the road.

A response from NSTPW was received advising that the said location was actually within the jurisdiction of HRM.

At the October 23, 2006 meeting of Western Region Community Council, staff was requested to have the crosswalk repainted at the Beechville Baptist Church location, and to consider placement of a crosswalk at the Sheppards Run and St. Margarets Bay Road intersection.

DISCUSSION

Because of the numerous requests for the marking of crosswalks, it has been necessary to establish criteria which provide an objective basis for evaluation as to where marked crosswalks are installed on HRM roadways. Given that it is not practical to mark crosswalks at every intersection and bus stop, most jurisdictions use some form of evaluation criteria to determine which crosswalks will be marked and which will not.

The Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines for marked crosswalk installation have been adopted for use in HRM. The TAC guidelines require that the volume of traffic results in fewer than 120 crossing opportunities per hour and there be a minimum of 20 pedestrians per hour crossing.

St Margarets Bay Road at Timberlea Village Parkway

During one hour pedestrian counts conducted on Wednesday, September 13, 2006 in peak traffic hours, no pedestrians were observed crossing St. Margarets Bay Road at Timberlea Village Parkway from 8:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and only nine adult pedestrian crossings were observed from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. Because the minimum pedestrian crossing criteria is not met, a marked crosswalk would not be approved at this location.

St. Margarets Bay Road at Beechville Baptist Church

The marked crosswalk at this location, which had been installed in 1983 by the Provincial Department of Transportation without criteria or warrants, was authorized for removal in 1999 by the HRM Traffic Authority when the road was being widened in order to create a left turn holding lane into Beech Tree Run. Observations by staff who regularly travelled the St. Margarets Bay Road indicated that the crosswalk was rarely, if ever used by pedestrians.

St. Margarets Bay Road at Sheppard's Run

A one hour pedestrian count conducted at this location during the afternoon peak from 4:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, August 9, 2006 recorded only one adult crossing. A review of recent bus load counts provided by Metro Transit indicates only sixteen passengers per day getting on or off at the bus stops near this location. Based on this low pedestrian activity the minimum pedestrian volume warrant is not met and a marked crosswalk would not be approved at this location.

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.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

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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