

5.



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
January 13, 2004

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rick Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director of Public Works and Transportation

DATE: January 5, 2004

SUBJECT: Signalized Crosswalk in a Location Without a Sidewalk

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At a Regional Council Committee of the Whole meeting, March 19, 2003, a request was made there be a report to Council on the logic of why there would be signalized crosswalks and no sidewalks.

BACKGROUND

As staff recall, this issue was raised by Councillor Smith in respect to proposed changes at the intersection of Highfield Park Drive and Victoria Road.

DISCUSSION

Public Works and Transportation is designing a crosswalk across Victoria Road at the Highfield Park Drive intersection and a formalized access connection to Trinity Avenue with the intent the work be tendered and built in 2004. This is to address an existing problem of people crossing Victoria Road even though there is no sidewalk in place now on either Victoria Road nor Highfield Park Drive and the traffic signal timing is not set up to accommodate pedestrians.

Staff believe there is no sidewalk now in place because the designers at the time the area was built were trying to encourage people to cross on the pedestrian overpass over Victoria Road which connects between Brule Street and Alfred Street, not at grade at Highfield/Victoria. There is also a 2 metre chain link fence on the west side of Victoria Road. People have been making holes in the fence to cross at grade.

One of the recommendations of the **Pinecrest - Highfield Park Neighbourhood Plan & Secondary Planning Strategy** was Policy 5.1.2: *It shall be the intention of City Council to undertake an sidewalk/walkway construction program throughout the Pinecrest-Highfield Park neighbourhood in order to make the area more accessible for pedestrians.*

The proposed new at-grade pedestrian crossing of Victoria Road with an opening through the fence and a walkway connection to Trinity Avenue is part of following the recommendation to make the area more accessible for pedestrians.

Sidewalks could be placed later, or could be done simultaneously with the crossing. The sidewalk should not be built before the crossing is in place.

While it is intended to construct the new crossing in 2004 (pending budget approval), there is no current program to construct any sidewalk along Highfield Park Drive. While sidewalks certainly provide a better environment for pedestrians, people are legally allowed to walk on the paved part of the roadway between the curbs when no sidewalk is provided. This is what many people are doing now. Some people are also walking on informal trails through a brushy area from Brule Street or from the baseball diamond.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The proposed addition of the crosswalk to the existing traffic signal, the opening in the fence, and construction of the ramp to Trinity Avenue is expected to be part of the proposed 2004-2005 capital budget. If a sidewalk were to be added to Highfield Park Drive between Victoria Road and the North Dartmouth Community Centre a cost estimate would need to be provided and funds allocated. There is no current or proposed budget item for such a sidewalk.

MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL STRATEGY IMPACTS

Should Council wish to proceed with a new sidewalk on Highfield Park Drive appropriate capital funding will need to be arranged.

ALTERNATIVES

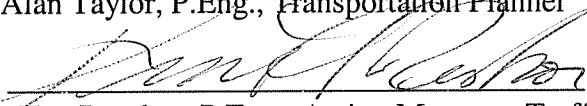
There are no recommended alternatives at this time.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

Additional copies of this report and information on its status can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or facsimile 490-4208.

Report prepared by: Alan Taylor, P.Eng., Transportation Planner

Report approved by: 

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Acting Manager, Traffic and Transportation