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**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 12, 2004**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Betty MacDonald  
Betty MacDonald, Director, Governance & Strategic Initiatives

**DATE:** October 6, 2004

**SUBJECT:** Fast Ferry Project Update #1

### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

At the July 6, 2004 meeting of Regional Council, a motion was passed authorizing Staff to proceed with an assessment and pre-design investigation of expanding the harbour ferry network to include fast ferry routes to Mill Cove and Purcell's Cove. This information report provides an update on that work.

## **BACKGROUND**

The objective of the project is to demonstrate the feasibility of expanding the harbour ferry network to include high speed routes from downtown Halifax to Bedford and Purcell's Cove. This work is being done within the framework of the HRM Regional Plan.

## **DISCUSSION**

The following key project milestones have been reached within the past week.

### **Request to Province Through the Waterfront Development Corporation**

A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer was sent to the Waterfront Development Corporation requesting their partnership in the development of a ferry terminal within their Bedford Waterfront Phase II project. The letter, which is attached to this report, requests a donation of land for terminal and parking facilities and a commitment on timing for the construction of a new access from the Bedford Highway overpassing the CN rail lines.

### **Request to Federal Government on Possible Assistance**

Staff have been meeting with a number of federal departments and agencies seeking support and possible funding for both the development of the concept and its implementation. Interest from the federal government has been positive towards the concept, and work is being done to identify possible sources of financial support.

### **Request for Vessel Design Expressions of Interest**

A request has been issued for qualified marine architecture firms to submit an expression of interest to assist HRM staff in developing a vessel design suited to our harbour conditions and operating plans.

An information sheet on the fast ferry project aimed at providing information to the public has been prepared and is attached to this report. It is also available on the HRM website.

## **BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

There are no budget implications at this time. Commitment of funding towards any aspect of the project, other than the investigative work already approved and underway, will be done through normal budget approval methods.

## **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 applicable alternatives.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Letter from CAO to Waterfront Development Corporation dated October 7, 2004
2. Halifax Harbour Fast Ferry Project information sheet

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 Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:

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