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Halifax Regional Council  
October 26, 2004

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

**DATE:** October 4, 2004

**SUBJECT:** **Petition for Crosswalk Lights and Speed Bumps - St. Margaret's Bay Road in Lakeside**

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council Meeting, August 17, 2004, Item 9.2.5.

#### BACKGROUND

Councillor Rankin submitted a petition from residents requesting that flashing lights be constructed without delay above the crosswalk (on St. Margaret's Bay Road) in front of the Pharmasave Drugstore; and that speed bumps be installed to help lower the speed along the stretch of St. Margaret's Bay Road from Lakeview Drive to Tim Hortons. The Councillor requested that the petition be forwarded to the Traffic Authority with a request that a meeting be set up with the Councillor to discuss possible resolutions to the residents' concerns and that a report in this regard be brought back to Council.

## **DISCUSSION**

An on-site meeting was held with Councillor Rankin, at which time a number of issues were discussed regarding the location of the existing crosswalk, the location of bus stops, the location of driveways, etc., related to the installation of a new concrete sidewalk along the north side of St. Margaret's Bay Road between Wilbert DeVoe Crescent and the Ultramar station. General issues of vehicular speeds, pedestrian safety and traffic controls were also discussed at length. The new concrete sidewalk along the north side of St. Margaret's Bay Road is now complete. The location of all driveways and the bus stop have been finalized.

## **FLASHING LIGHTS**

The existing marked crosswalk on St. Margaret's Bay Road at Civic #1813 (in the area of the Pharmasave) is presently equipped with typical basic marked crosswalk devices which consist of two painted white lines across the roadway and four side-mounted pedestrian crosswalk signs - two signs facing each direction of traffic.

Overhead illuminated pedestrian crosswalk signs (known as RA-5 signs) equipped with pedestrian activated flashing amber lights are not required in order to designate marked crosswalks under the present Provincial Regulations Respecting Traffic Signs. They are essentially a supplementary traffic control device designed for locations where a driver's attention may be difficult to obtain with a standard marked crosswalk. On wide, multi-lane streets it is often more difficult for a pedestrian to make eye contact or to signal his/her intention to cross by raising a hand. Flashers are not deemed necessary on narrower two-lane roadways and they can have the negative effect of increasing rear-end vehicle collisions if pedestrians activate the flashers and immediately step into the travel way without waiting for traffic to slow to a stop.

In the case of the marked crosswalk on St. Margaret's Bay Road at the Pharmasave, there is no particular difficulty in conveying a pedestrian's crossing intention to drivers. Some drivers may choose deliberately not to stop and others may be inattentive and fail to stop, but that is not something that flashing lights can overcome. There have been no pedestrian-vehicle collisions reported at this crosswalk in the past five years for which records are kept. Further traffic control measures are not warranted or recommended at this location.

## **SPEED BUMPS**

Speed bumps such as those sometimes used in parking lots are not used on public streets in the HRM. While there are some trial installations of speed humps, (which are designed to be longer and lower than speed bumps) on residential streets as part of HRM's Neighbourhood Shortcutting Policy, speed bumps are not designed nor intended for use on major collector streets such as St. Margaret's Bay Road.

