




PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
October 31, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: October 11, 2006

SUBJECT: **Petition - Councillor Murphy - Crossing Light on North Street at
Maynard Street/Fuller Terrace**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 8.2 raised at the September 19, 2006 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Murphy served a petition on behalf of residents in his district requesting a crossing light at the intersection of North Street at Maynard Street and Fuller Terrace.

DISCUSSION

The existing marked crosswalk on North Street at Maynard Street/Fuller Terrace is presently equipped with the basic marked crosswalk installation (which consists of two painted white lines across the roadway and four ground-mounted pedestrian crosswalk signs - two signs for each direction of travel) and is supplemented with overhead illuminated pedestrian crosswalk (RA-5) signs. The two illuminated RA-5 signs which are present at the crosswalk - one sign positioned over the centre of each lane, help to designate the location of the crosswalk at night and provide additional nighttime downlighting over the crosswalk area. Pedestrian-actuated flashing amber lights are intended for use on multi-lane roadways and are not considered necessary at this two-lane crosswalk location.

Pedestrian actuated flashing amber lights are not legally required at any marked crosswalk. They are basically a supplementary traffic control device designed for more complex locations where a driver's attention may be difficult to obtain with a simple marked crosswalk. On wide, multi-lane streets it is often difficult for a pedestrian to make eye contact or to signal his/her intention to cross by raising a hand. Flashers are less useful on a narrower two-lane roadway and can have a negative effect of increasing rear-end vehicle collisions if pedestrians activate the flashers and immediately step into the travelway without first waiting for traffic to slow to a stop.

In the case of the marked crosswalk on North Street at Maynard Street, there is no particular difficulty in conveying a pedestrian's crossing intention to a driver. 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.

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/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Vaughn Perrin, Traffic Analyst, 490-4822