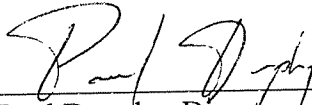




PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
February 13, 2007

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Paul Dunphy, Director of Community Development

DATE: February 9, 2007

SUBJECT: UPDATE: Joint Public Lands Plans - Capital District

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

- May, 2004: Capital District *Public Facilities and Opportunities Study* tabled with Council identifying as a priority the study of the public lands in the Spring Garden/Queen Street area and the Grand Parade/Province House area.
- Dec 14, 2004: Council directed that the issue of parking in the Grand Parade be addressed as part of an overall management plan.
- Jun 15, 2005: Regional Council authorized a Memorandum of Understanding between HRM and the Province of Nova Scotia, to proceed with these joint public lands plans.
- Jul 4, 2006: A joint HRM-Province of Nova Scotia Information report was brought to Council, which provided updates for both Public Lands Projects

BACKGROUND

Over the past eighteen months, staff from HRM's Capital District and the Province of Nova Scotia's Department of Transportation and Public Works have been working with their consultants on these two high-profile Public Lands Projects within the Capital District. These projects have enjoyed a high level of cooperation and support from senior staff at the Province and HRM both in terms of the great importance of the visions for these civic precincts and the continued cooperative interest in seeing this work move to the implementation stage. The projects are now complete, and will be presented to Council at the February 27 Committee of the Whole (COW) meeting. This interim information report outlines how the reports are being reviewed by the Province and by HRM Council.

DISCUSSION

Given the collaboration between the Province and HRM on these projects, the project team is proposing to bring forward the final staff report to Council as a joint report endorsed by staff at both levels of government. This joint sign-off is in the spirit of the June 2005 Memorandum of Understanding, and it also sends a clear message to Council, Cabinet and the public that both levels of government worked cooperatively and achieved positive outcomes that enjoy universal support.

In anticipation of these reports coming forward to Council, and in order to allow sufficient time for Council's review, copies of the consultant reports were distributed to Halifax Regional Council on January 12th. The completed reports were then presented to the Minister of Nova Scotia Transportation and Public Works on January 25, 2007 at which time they were received very favourably. The Minister requested that they then be presented to, and reviewed by, the larger Cabinet, other senior provincial staff, and the NSTPW Issues Committee. Following the provincial briefing, HRM staff were informed on February 8th that the Province has endorsed moving forward with these reports.

Despite efforts by all involved to fast-track the process, the Provincial review was not received in time for the HRM staff report to be submitted for the February 13th COW meeting. As such, the joint HRM-Provincial staff report and its supporting slide presentations will be on the February 27, 2007 COW agenda. In staff's opinion the positive benefit resulting from proceeding with a joint-report far outweighs the inconvenience of several weeks delay.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time. Project funding has already been approved by Council, and includes cost sharing from provincial and federal governments.

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

None.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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: Andy Fillmore, Capital District Urban Design Project Manager, 490-6495

Report Approved by: Jacqueline Hamilton, Manager, Capital District, 490-5685