

Halifax Regional Council
April 1, 2008

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Cathie O'Toole, Director, Infrastructure & Asset Management

DATE: March 20, 2008

SUBJECT: Intersection Improvements - Burnside Drive

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

A motion at the June 26, 2007 meeting of Regional Council (Item 10.3.2) asked that staff provide a report on the intersection improvements at Burnside Drive, Commodore Drive and Ronald Smith Drive in Burnside.

BACKGROUND

In making his motion, Councillor Smith noted this intersection improvement is connected to a Provincially planned improvement of Burnside Drive and Highway #111 and also tied together with the Highway 111 pedestrian overpass that Council included in the budget three years ago.

He noted these three projects are all integrated. He stated he would like the report to highlight the following:

- How these changes came about and whether the changes are going to improve the left turning access out of Commodore Drive,
- Does the work take into consideration the expected growth on Burnside Drive,
- Is there a need for an independent traffic study before or after these improvements come forward for that particular area of Burnside,
- Are the active transportation improvements being considered for this project and how will HRM coordinate with the province on the work taking place,
- How does this line up with the Gateway project.

DISCUSSION

The need for capacity changes to the Burnside/Commodore intersection was first proposed in the *Burnside Industrial Park Major Routes Traffic Access Study* (SNC Lavalin; May 2001) and the layout was further refined in the *Burnside Intersection Performance Evaluation* (CBCL; April 2002). The need for additional capacity at this intersection was affirmed in the *Regional Municipal Planning Strategy* (HRM; June 2006). Modelling of the future demands on Burnside Drive did take into account the ability to expand the existing Highway 111/Burnside Drive interchange and the completion of Highway 107 between Highway 111 and Highway 102 (Burnside Expressway) announced as part of the Province's Atlantic Gateway initiative. Staff does not believe there is any further need to evaluate the traffic implications of this project.

Although the intersection layout results in additional turning lanes on Burnside Drive, gains in capacity can be allocated to any of the intersection movements (including left turns from Commodore Drive) by simply reallocating green time amongst the various signal phases.

The Active Transportation Plan includes a corridor adjacent to Burnside Drive. At some point, this project will be brought forward for implementation by HRM in a future capital budget, but was not included in the current project as Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) do not fund active transportation projects on provincial roadways. Tentative cost-shared funding for an active transportation overpass of Highway 111 at Burnside Drive has been approved for NSTIR.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

ALTERNATIVES

There are no recommended alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

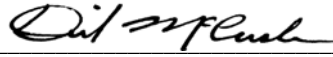
There are no attachments.

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.

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 at 490-4208.

Report Approved by:



Dave McCusker, P.Eng., Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning 490-6696