

PO Box 1749 Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 10.1.4

Halifax Regional Council November 25, 2008

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer

Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

DATE: November 12, 2008

SUBJECT: Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail Canal Bridge Approaches - Request

for Funding

ORIGIN

The Waterfront Development Corporation Limited (WDCL) has requested that HRM participate in funding the bridge approaches associated with the recently installed Canal Pedestrian Bridge on the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Regional Council;

1) Authorize a payment of \$80,000 to the Waterfront Development Corporation as per the budget implications section of this report; for the completion of the approach to the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail Canal Bridge.

BACKGROUND

The Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail will stretch 4.6 km from the Woodside Ferry to the MacDonald Bridge. It will convey pedestrians and cyclists along the harbour to and from hospitals, the community college, public transit stations, local neighbourhoods and downtown Dartmouth. Currently 3.1 km have been completed on this phase through the joint efforts of the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trails Association, Halifax Regional Municipality and the Waterfront Development Corporation. One of the current initiatives of the Waterfront Development Corp. is the construction of a pedestrian bridge across the lower portion of the Shubenacadie Canal where the Dartmouth Harbourfront Trail meets the Shubenacadie Trail. This fall the bridge itself was put in place. HRM committed and contributed \$50,000 towards the \$190,000 structure. The WDC has since tendered the bridge approaches which came in at \$160,000. The WDC has requested that HRM contribute \$80,000 (or 50% of the cost) of the approaches and has suggested that HRM use funds from berthing fees as a funding source.

DISCUSSION

The berthing fees are collected by the Waterfront Development Corporation each year for berthing of tour boats and other watercraft at the HRM owned wharf at Nathan Greene Square. It accrues approximately \$4,800 per year and the account currently contains \$52,730.32. Under an agreement between the WDC and HRM the funds are to be used for projects along the waterfront. The Canal Bridge qualifies as such a project.

Since the Finance Business Unit was not aware of the agreement and WDC did not notify HRM that it was collecting the berthing fees, HRM had not been invoicing the Waterfront Development Corporation on an annual basis for these fees, and the WDC had not been remitting them. On a go forward basis, the fees will be invoiced by HRM and collected on an annual basis.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

The bridge will be owned and maintained by the WDCL. Funding for this grant will be provided by cost centre I101 in the Infrastructure and Asset Management business unit. The berthing fees shall provide for \$52,730 and the remainder of \$27,270 will be absorbed in the IAM cost centre budget.

Finance has confirmed availability of these funds.

Budget Summary: I101 - IAM Admin

Cumulative Unspent Budget	\$ 200,086
Add: Berthing Fees	\$ 52,730
Less: Grant funding	<u>\$ 80,000</u> *
Balance	\$ 172,816

^{*} **Note** - This is a cost centre in the Operating Budget, versus a capital account. A surplus of \$11,302 is currently projected in this cost centre for fiscal year 2008/09.

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

Council could choose to not approve funding for the bridge approaches in which case the project will not be completed until the WDCL secures additional funding.

ATTACHMENTS

Report Approved by:

Photos and drawings of the Canal Bridge.

1 0	can be obtained online at http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html then the meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or
Report Prepared by:	Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, IAM, 490-6047
Report Approved by:	Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning, IAM, 490-6047
Financial Approval by:	Catherine Sanderson, Senior Manager, Financial Services, 490-1562
	Cathie OToble

Cathie O'Toole, Director, Infrastrcuture and Asset Management, 490-4825



