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Item No. 1

Halifax Regional Council
January 20, 2009

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. Townsend".

Phil Townsend, Assistant Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: December 31, 2008

SUBJECT: Public Consultation-Bayers Road/Highway 102 Corridor Study

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the April 3, 2007 meeting of Halifax Regional Council (Item 10.1.6 deferred from March 27, 2007) a motion was passed that HRM partner with Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal on a Corridor Study for Bayers Road/Highway 102 and Highway 107.

BACKGROUND

Although the Corridor Study being jointly undertaken by HRM and Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) is not completed, nor ready to be tabled with Regional Council, it is at a stage where public consultation will be of benefit in gauging public reaction to the draft plans and soliciting ideas on what changes may be beneficial. The plan that will be presented at these consultation sessions the week of February 9, 2009 will show Highway 102 and Bayers Road being widened to between four and eight lanes, depending on the section, from the current width which is predominantly four lanes, based on modelled future trip demand.

The public meetings will be run by the project consultant and will be an open house format. They are scheduled to run from 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm at the following locations:

St. Andrews Centre, 6955 Bayers, Road, Wednesday, February 11, 2009

LeBrun Centre, 36 Holland Avenue, Thursday, February 12, 2009

The need to consider additional vehicle capacity on this corridor is consistent with HRM's Regional Plan. Focussing future growth to areas like Bedford South and Bedford West, even with much of the resulting trip demand being captured by investment in effective transit, will result in increased vehicle trip demands on the Highway 102 corridor. Although the Regional Plan was successful in removing the need to widen a number of corridors, Bayers Road was one that still needed additional vehicle capacity to handle future growth.

DISCUSSION

The initiation of this study and the approval of its terms of reference was undertaken by the Strategic Joint Transportation Planning Committee. This committee strives to take an integrated approach in dealing with transportation issues common to the Province and the Municipality. It is important that the completion of this study, including the public consultation phase, continue to be done jointly.

The implementation of any recommendations coming from the study would be the sole responsibility of HRM for Bayers Road and of NSTIR for Highway 102. Since these two roadway sections function as one continuous corridor, it is critical that any recommendations are coordinated in terms of vehicle capacity and facilities for transit priority and/or high occupancy vehicles.

Any recommendations coming out of the Corridor Study in respect of Bayers Road, will be subject to the final approval by Regional Council.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications to staff participating in public consultation.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

There are no attachments.

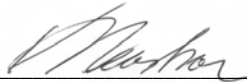
A copy of this report can be obtained online active transportation <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk active transportation 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by:



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Report Approved by:



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