



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 2

**Halifax Regional Council
May 5, 2009**

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 

Phil Townsend, Acting Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: April 17, 2009

SUBJECT: Sidewalk at CNR Bridge - Bayers Road

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The following motion was passed at the February 3, 2009 Regional Council:

“That Regional Council request the widening of the sidewalk on Bayers Road be referred to staff for consideration as part of the 2009/10 budget process.”

BACKGROUND

Councillor Blumenthal made the motion as it related to the sidewalk located on the bridge that spans the CN rail tracks on Bayers Road. In the information to Council, Councillor Blumenthal advised there are accessibility issues (particularly under snow and ice conditions) with respect to this stretch of sidewalk. Notably he indicated persons in wheelchairs are experiencing challenges under these conditions. As a result Councillor Blumenthal requested the sidewalk be sufficiently widened and considered as part of the 2009/10 capital budget program.

DISCUSSION

This section of sidewalk is located on a bridge that is owned by CN. Under the HRM/CN cost sharing agreement, CN is responsible for the substructure and superstructure components (i.e., abutments, girders, arches, parapet walls, etc.), and HRM is primarily responsible for the surface components including the asphalt, sidewalk, and curb and gutter.

HRM staff reviewed this request in some detail. Preliminary designs were completed along with cost estimates, and it appears a possible configuration would be to shift the south side sidewalk (opposite side) to allow for the north side widening without the reduction in lane widths. An alternative would be to eliminate the sidewalk on the south side to enable the widening of the north side sidewalk. However additional review on this alternative is required to ascertain the feasibility of removing the south side sidewalk altogether. As well further detailed design is required on both options to verify the geometry, and review possible land implications.

Also HRM staff has been in contact with CN officials to discuss short term plans for this bridge structure. CN provided a preliminary response and suggested a structural analysis of the bridge may occur in the near future. As a result HRM staff suggests that no work occur with respect to the sidewalk and curb and gutter widening until clarification is provided by CN. Until the assessment is completed it is unknown if work is required on the superstructure and substructure. However if upgrades to the CN components are necessary there is a strong possibility the asphalt, sidewalks, and curb and gutters will be disturbed. Therefore it would not be prudent to address the sidewalk until CN provides further clarification on their intentions.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

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

Plan - Existing Sidewalk at CNR Bridge

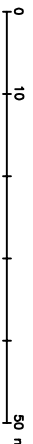
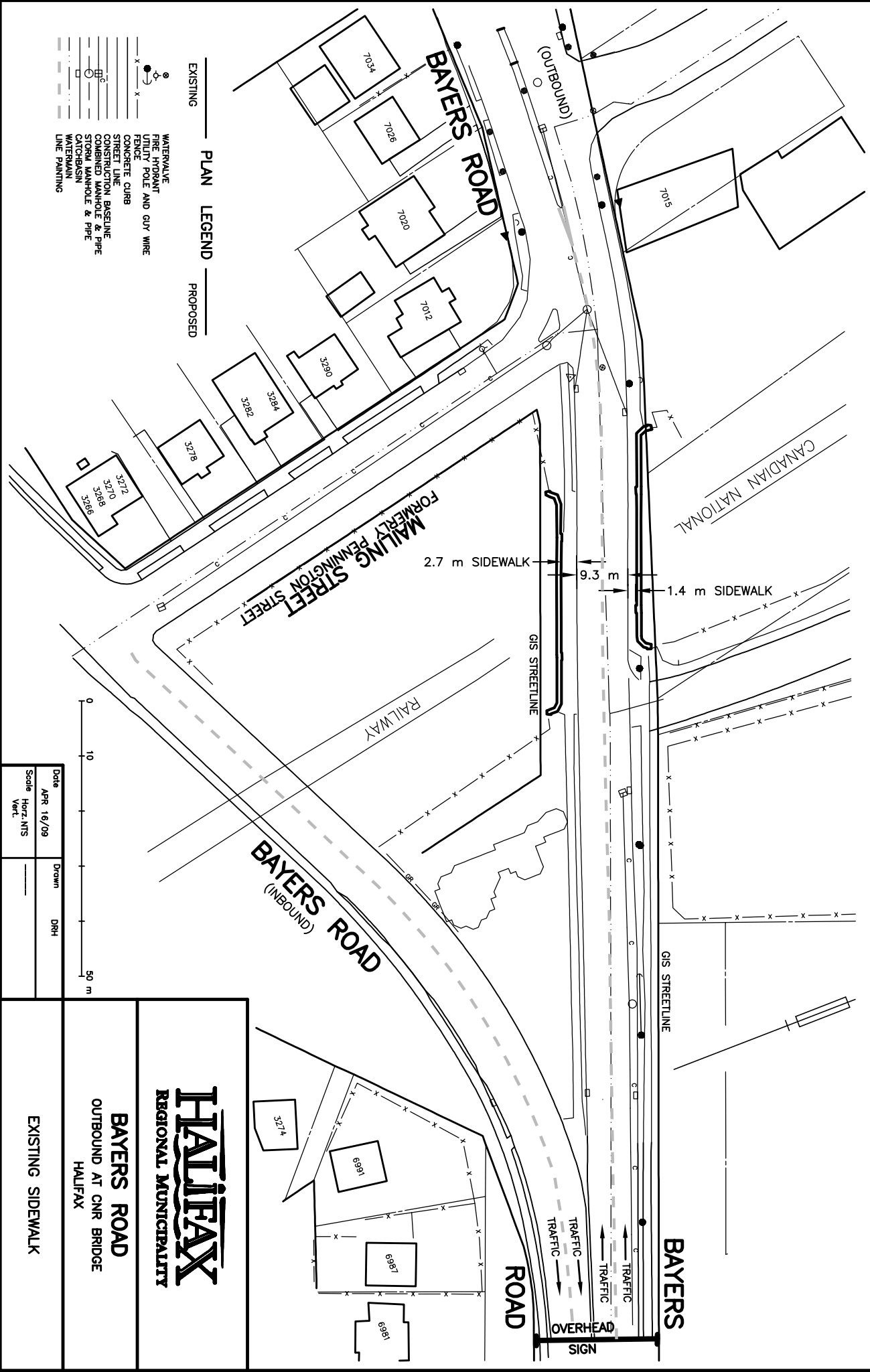
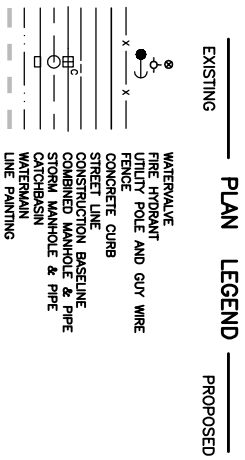
A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared and approved by :



David Hubley, P.Eng., Manager, Design and Construction, 490-4845

DH/kr



Date	Apr 16/09	Drawn	DRH
Scale	Horz. NTS	Vert.	

HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

BAYERS ROAD
OUTBOUND AT CNR BRIDGE
HALIFAX

EXISTING SIDEWALK