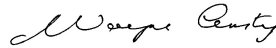


TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council



SUBMITTED BY:

Dan English, Chief Administrative Officer



Wayne Anstey, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer - Operations

DATE: June 3, 2009

SUBJECT: St. George's Lane, Dartmouth

ORIGIN

Item 12.1 raised at the June 2, 2009 Halifax Regional Council meeting.

MOVED BY Councillor McCluskey, seconded by Councillor Younger that Halifax Regional Council direct staff to provide a report for the June 16, 2009 session to initiate the process to have St. George's Lane, Dartmouth, made a one way street.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council not approve the motion to make St. George's Lane a one-way street.

BACKGROUND

At the September 6, 2007, meeting of Harbour East Community Council Councillor McCluskey presented a petition signed by residents and users of St. George's Lane, in support of:

1. St. George's Lane permanently becoming one-way south bound from Portland Street to Pleasant Street;
2. the installation of speed bumps.

DISCUSSION

To reiterate discussion of the previous Community Council report, St. George's Lane is a 6m wide, 180m long street intersecting to the north at Portland Street and to the south at Pleasant Street. There are eleven abutting properties, one of which is a tennis club. Parking is restricted on portions of both sides. Residents and club patrons are concerned that the amount of traffic and speed on the street are becoming a safety hazard.

It is recognized that a portion of the traffic volume could be attributed to motorists travelling between Portland Street and Pleasant Street, however, the traffic volumes on St. George's Lane are much less than required to be considered under the HRM Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy. Speed humps therefore, were not recommended or approved.

Traffic Restrictions on Local Residential Streets

In 2002, Council passed a motion that no street closures or intersection turning movement prohibitions be implemented outside the Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy except in the following circumstances:

- (i) where a specific intersection safety hazard has been demonstrated;
- (ii) where street operation would be improved;
- (iii) where impacts from new roadway projects or developments are being mitigated.

Since none of the above applies, and following Council's direction we therefore cannot recommend St. George's Lane be made one-way south bound from Portland Street to Pleasant Street. However, staff has no objection should Council wish to make an exception to the current policy regarding traffic restrictions on local residential streets and will implement the proposed change to St. George's Lane, making it one-way south bound from Portland to Pleasant Street if so directed. This will result in a full time restriction of left and right turns from Pleasant Street to St. George's Lane.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

If Council approves the one-way street proposal, signage costs (approximately \$900) would be covered under Traffic and Right of Way Services (R747) existing operating budget.

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

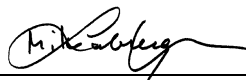
1. Council could choose to approve staff's recommendation. Staff recommends this option for reasons outlined in the report.
2. Council could choose not to approve staff's recommendation and move forward with the process to make St. George's Lane one way south bound. Left and right turns would be restricted from Pleasant Street to St. George's Lane on a full time basis. Although this would deviate from the current policy, staff has no objection from an operational perspective.

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.

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