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Item No. 6
Halifax Regional Council
March 23, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ken Reashor".

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Acting Director, Transportation and Public Works

DATE: March 5, 2010

SUBJECT: Petition - Rockcliffe Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 10.2.1 raised at the February 2, 2010 meeting of Regional Council. Councillor Uteck submitted a petition containing 17 names requesting HRM and Council consider that the winter parking ban on Rockcliffe Street be made permanent.

BACKGROUND

Temporary "No Parking Anytime" signs may be installed where and as required to address issues such as safe traffic circulation, service delivery vehicle access and driveway access/egress problems caused by reduced street width due to significant snow accumulation. Rockcliffe Street is traditionally signed in this manner pending prevailing winter conditions.

Rockcliffe Street is a relatively short, low volume, residential street with unlimited parking in effect along both sides except where "No Parking" exists at curves and where a "Two Hour" time limit exists on a portion of the west side. A frustration for the residents is the fact that the majority of unlimited parking is monopolized by students and employees from nearby Dalhousie University.

DISCUSSION

There are 21 properties on Rockcliffe Street. However, the 17 signatures on the petition represent only 12 of those 21 properties. Therefore, four of the ten properties on the east side and five of the eleven properties on the west side are not represented on the petition. Staff requires that a petition requesting changes to parking signs, represent a significant majority or consensus among the residents. Based upon the lack of participation in this petition by a significant number of residents and the non-consensus of opinion among residents on at least one side of the street, this petition is inconclusive.

Staff also received a letter subsequent to receipt of this petition from one resident suggesting that the requested new "No Parking" restrictions be installed on the west side rather than the east side of the street. This request is contrary to what the original petition requested.

There is some history with respect to requested changes to parking controls on Rockcliffe Street. A trial of "No Parking" signs were approved on the east side of the street in 2004, simply by leaving the temporary winter ban signs in place. This is similar to what is requested by this particular petition. Opposition to those signs was both immediate and significant, causing staff to conduct its own petition by sending a letter to each homeowner. No consensus was reached and the signs were removed.

Therefore, based upon the inconclusive results of this petition and the similarity between it and our past experience, staff is not prepared to approve the requested sign change for Rockcliffe Street. The temporary "No Parking Anytime" signs on the east side of Rockcliffe Street are scheduled to be removed along with other similarly installed signs on other streets at the end of the winter.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

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 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Kevin McEachern, Traffic Analyst, 490-6133

Report Approved by:



Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., Acting Manager, Traffic & Right of Way, 490-4816