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**Item No. 6**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**October 12, 2010**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director  
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Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** October 1, 2010

**SUBJECT:** WaterLink Transportation Update  
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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Unsolicited Proposal – Harbour Ferry, Item 10.1.1 submitted to Halifax Regional Council by WaterLink Transportation at the December 15, 2009 Regional Council Meeting.

#### **BACKGROUND**

WaterLink Transportation met with HRM staff in late 2009 to discuss their plan to run a private hovercraft passenger service between Bedford and Halifax. At the request of WaterLink, the following recommendation was presented to Regional Council at its December 15, 2009 meeting:

It is recommended that Regional Council endorse, in principle, a proposal by WaterLink Transportation to provide a high-speed watercraft service between Bedford and downtown Halifax and direct staff to work with the proponent to explore a possible project partnership to be presented to Halifax Regional Council at a later date.

Regional Council passed a motion to defer WaterLink's request to a later date, while asking that a presentation by WaterLink be made at that time. WaterLink, citing project timing pressures, withdrew their proposal.

**DISCUSSION**

Despite withdrawing their original proposal, WaterLink Transportation did provide some indication that they would reconsider exploring opportunities for hovercraft service in Halifax Harbour at a later date. To date, no further direct communication with HRM staff has happened. There is some indication that WaterLink has now sold the one hovercraft vessel that they had owned and were proposing to use in Halifax.

**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, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement has been undertaken.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments.

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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:  
Report Approved by:

*Original Signed*  
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David McCusker, P.Eng., Manager, Strategic Transportation Planning, 490-6696

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