



P.O. Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Item No. 11.3.1
Halifax Regional Council
December 7, 2010

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

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SUBMITTED BY: _____
Councillor Bob Harvey, Chair, North West Community Council

DATE: November 30, 2010

SUBJECT: **Proposed Halifax Harbour Bridges Toll Increase**

ORIGIN

The North West Community Council November 22, 2010 meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Request that Halifax Harbour Bridges exempt HRM's Metro Transit buses from paying bridge tolls.
2. Endorse that North West Community Council, with input from the North West Transit Advisory Committee, also write to Halifax Harbour Bridges requesting that they exempt Metro Transit buses from paying bridge tolls.

BACKGROUND

As per the attached November 11, 2010 report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

DISCUSSION

During the North West Community Council's November 22, 2010 meeting, the Community Council further requested that a copy of this report be forwarded to the Nova Scotia and Utility and Review Board (NSUARB) for review and consideration during their public hearing.

It was later noted that the NSUARB's public hearing was held on November 22, 2010; however, the Community Council still requested that a copy of this report be provided to them for their information.

As per the attached November 11, 2010 report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

As per the attached November 11, 2010 report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

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

As per the attached November 11, 2010 report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee.

ALTERNATIVES

No alternatives were provided by the North West Community Council.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Report from the North West Transit Advisory Committee dated November 11, 2010

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.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: Krista Tidgwell, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerks Office, 490-6519



P.O. Box 1749
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North West Community Council
November 25, 2010

TO: Chair and Members of the North West Community Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original signed
Mr. John Merrick, Chair, North West Transit Advisory Committee

DATE: November 11, 2010

SUBJECT: Proposed Halifax Harbour Bridges Toll Increase

ORIGIN

The October 13th and November 10th, 2010 North West Transit Advisory Committee meetings.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the North West Community Council:

1. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council request that Halifax Harbour Bridges exempt HRM's Metro Transit buses from paying bridge tolls.
2. Recommend that Halifax Regional Council permit the North West Community Council and North West Transit Advisory Committee to also write to Halifax Harbour Bridges requesting that they exempt Metro Transit buses from paying bridge tolls.

BACKGROUND

The North West Transit Advisory Committee was advised that Metro Transit buses are required to pay the bridge toll each time they traverse the bridges. The Committee has recently learned that Metro Transit buses will be exempt from the proposed bridge toll increase but will remain obligated to pay the current bridge toll rate for each bridge crossing by a Metro Transit bus.

DISCUSSION

Reduction of Greenhouse Gas emissions is the desire of all and may be achieved through the use of mass public transit and active transportation options. The North West Transit Advisory Committee recommends that a portion of the proposed Halifax Harbour Bridges Toll Increase, if approved, go toward eliminating the tolls for Metro Transit buses. The cost savings to Metro Transit, through the elimination of bridge tolls, could be reinvested in HRM's mass public transit service for the benefit of all.

An increased use in Mass Transit will help to reduce Greenhouse Gas Emissions by reducing the number of vehicles on the road. Fewer vehicles on the road would also reduce traffic crossing the bridges which would result in less wear and tear and the resulting maintenance requirements as well as reducing congestion issues at the bridges during peak hours.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Elimination of bridge tolls would be an estimated annual cost savings of \$471,000 to HRM's Transportation and Public Works (Metro Transit) department.

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

The North West Transit Advisory Committee has a current membership of eleven (11) with ten (10) of the members being citizen representatives from the districts under the North West Community Council and one (1) elected official representing the North West Community Council. The Community Engagement requirement has been met.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The North West Community Council may choose not to recommend that Halifax Regional Council request that Halifax Harbour Bridges exempt HRM's Transportation and Public Works Metro Transit buses from paying bridge tolls. This is not the recommended option.

ATTACHMENTS – NONE

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

Report Prepared by : Chris Newson, Legislative Assistant, 490-6732
