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**Item No. 2**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 11, 2011**

**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:** December 20, 2010

**SUBJECT:** Integrated Transportation Authority  
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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

At the November 2, 2010 meeting of Halifax Regional Council, a request was made for the Strategic Joint Regional Transportation Committee to provide a status update and analysis report based on the Greater Vancouver Transportation Authority model.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Bill 64, An Act to Establish a Transportation Authority for the Capital Region, was developed jointly by the Province and Municipality and was intended to be re-introduced in the Provincial Legislature in the spring, 2005. A mutual decision was made, however, that legislation was not needed and that a joint committee should be established instead.

The Strategic Joint Regional Transportation Committee (SJRTC) was formed in 2006 to discuss issues of mutual interest related to strategic transportation planning and to coordinate major projects. Membership on the Committee includes senior staff from HRM, Nova Scotia Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal, Halifax Harbour Bridges, Halifax Gateway Council, Greater Halifax Partnership and the Halifax Chamber of Commerce. At the December 6, 2010 meeting of the SJRTC, the issue of a regional transportation authority was discussed.

## **DISCUSSION**

The SJRTC acknowledged the broad number of groups and individuals who have suggested the need for the establishment of a Regional Transportation Authority but felt there has never been a clear agreement on what such an Authority would look like, what responsibilities it would carry, and what value it would provide. While the Committee was open to considering the establishment of an Authority, it felt that such a step must be taken only if it provides clear value and not solely for the sake of dealing with transportation in a different way.

The Committee recognized that, in addition to the Vancouver model identified in the Regional Council motion, a number of possible models exist for the governance of transportation. While some of these models may provide an opportunity to better manage regional transportation issues, others may not.

To determine what value a Regional Authority might generate within HRM, the SJRTC proposed to undertake a two phase examination. The first phase will examine the roles and functions that such a body might play. Following that phase, a variety of governance and administration models will be evaluated for the strengths and weaknesses each might provide in a local context, and a preferred model(s) might be selected for development of a full business case analysis. The results of the first phase may also demonstrate that there is no productive role for an authority to play in the region at which point the investigation would be completed.

The SJRTC has directed staff to prepare a terms of reference for this investigation for review at its next meeting in March, 2011.

## **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**

Consultation with the community and key stakeholders will be part of the forthcoming study.

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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.

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