

Item No. 3
Halifax Regional Council
March 22, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director
Phillip Townsend, Director, Infrastructure and Asset Management

DATE: March 4, 2011

SUBJECT: Bridge Expansion – Thomas Raddall Drive, Mainland Common

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

May 18, 2010 Regional Council meeting - Councillor Mary Wile requested a staff report as to the viability of twinning the bridge on Thomas Raddall Drive on the Mainland Common.

BACKGROUND

Thomas Raddall Drive is a private driveway owned by HRM, which serves as primary access through the Mainland Common. It was built in 2002 as part of HRM's contribution to the construction of the Halifax West High School. At the time, the old Halifax West High School was condemned due to mold problems and the Municipality offered a site, on the Mainland Common, to the Province for construction of a new school. This required the construction of Thomas Raddall Drive ahead of planned development; however, several regulations prevented the route from attaining a "public street" status. Among those were intersection and signalization designs where Thomas Raddall met Regency Park Drive and Lacewood Drive, traffic shortcutting concerns into residential neighbourhoods, and a shortage of funds which prevented the construction of sidewalks and curbs at that time.

The bridge near the new school was a requirement of the Department of Education, to allow students to access the adjacent sport field for classes without crossing a traffic way. The bridge was a substantial unanticipated cost to the Municipality, however, it was built as a single lane structure as part of a traffic calming strategy aimed at protecting the neighbourhoods at Stratford Way and Regency Park Drive from shortcutting. The bridge was constructed with the understanding that when the intersection issues were resolved through the development of adjacent properties and other planned uses were built on the Mainland Common, the driveway would be turned into a full public street and the one-way bridge could be converted to a two-way bridge with sidewalks, etc. The single lane bridge was constructed to allow expansion and to meet public street standards.

DISCUSSION

With the resolution of intersection signalization issues and construction of adjacent developments, including the Washmill Court underpass and the Canada Games Centre, staff is developing plans to bring Thomas Raddall Drive up to public street standards and the single lane bridge near Halifax West High School to a two-lane bridge.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Staff's design work will include development of class B cost estimates and the project will be a part of the Capital Budget considerations for 2012/13.

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

Discussions have been held with the administration of the Halifax West High School and area councillors.

ATTACHMENTS

None

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: Peter Bigelow, Manager, Real Property Planning – 476-4016
