

Item No. 2
Halifax Regional Council
January 10, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: December 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Light for the Crosswalk at the Intersection of Windsor Street and Hood Street

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 9.2.1 raised at the October 25, 2011 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

Councillor Blumenthal submitted a petition with 156 signatures requesting that Halifax Regional Municipality immediately install a light at the crosswalk at the intersection of Windsor Street and Hood Street in Halifax.

BACKGROUND

Though Windsor Street generally runs in a north-south direction, the portion of the street studied for this report clearly runs east-west. Hood Street intersects Windsor Street in the north-south direction. The crosswalk in question would therefore be considered to be located on the east side of the intersection. It is a standard marked crosswalk with four (4) pedestrian signs (2 for each direction) mounted to face traffic travelling on Windsor Street. The crossing length is 12 metres. The crosswalk is well lit with an overhead street light.

DISCUSSION

The Halifax Regional Municipality follows the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) guidelines to determine where and what type of crosswalk should be installed, when warranted by traffic and pedestrian volumes. Typically a two lane roadway of this nature requires at least 20 pedestrians in the busiest hour of the day and fewer than 120 crossing gaps per hour, which generally equates to 800 vehicles per hour. Two recent morning peak hour studies show traffic volumes on Windsor Street just below 800 vehicles per hour with 14 pedestrians crossing in the hour. The existing marked crosswalk with side mounted signs is the appropriate treatment for this location.

The overhead flashing crosswalk lights being requested for this intersection are reserved for multi-lane roadways or roadways with unusual characteristics that would require extra notification to drivers, such as an extra wide crossing distance or sight line issues. The sight distance is excellent in each direction at this location and there were no issues detected with pedestrians crossing at this location. Overhead flashing lights are not warranted.

It was noted during site visits that the existing RA-4 side mounted pedestrian crossing signs are worn out. These signs will be replaced with new retro-reflective signage to make them more visible to drivers, especially at night. Also, the west bound signs are located on poles along with truck route signs. The truck route signs will be relocated to new posts, leaving the new RA-4 signs standalone on the poles, also making them more visible.

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

Community input supported the request for this report by way of a petition containing 156 signatures presented to HRM Council. Further community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because decisions were based on operational procedures.

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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Report Approved by: Original Signed
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