


Item No. 10.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
January 31, 2012

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original signed by 

SUBMITTED BY:

Richard Butts, Chief Administrative Officer

Original Signed by 

Mike Labrecque, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 6, 2012

SUBJECT: **Proposed 2012 Aid to Municipality Program**

ORIGIN

This report originates from the requirements under the Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal/HRM Construction Agreement 2012-012.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council approve the list of streets submitted to the Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) for the 2012 Aid to Municipality cost shared paving program at the estimated cost of \$1,000,000.00. This work is to be equally funded between the Province and the HRM Project No. CXU00585, New Paving Subdivision Streets Outside Core. HRM's portion is to be recovered via the Local Improvement Process and the list of streets is presented in Table 1 of this report.

BACKGROUND

On October 18, 2011, Halifax Regional Council approved a three-year construction agreement (Construction Agreement 2012-012) with NSTIR. The Aid-to-Municipality is an agreement between NSTIR and other Nova Scotia municipalities (including HRM) to upgrade provincially owned and maintained gravel roads with an asphalt wearing surface. With respect to roads located within HRM boundaries (and outside the core area), it is the Province's responsibility to create a construction agreement, and to design, tender and manage the construction of the paving work. HRM's role is to identify the streets to be paved, and to facilitate the Local Improvement Charge (LIC) process. The program is cost-shared between the Province and the Municipality, each paying 50% of the total construction costs. However, HRM's portion is recovered in its entirety by levying Local Improvement Charges (LIC's) to the affected properties.

DISCUSSION

In keeping with the process HRM staff recently submitted to NSTIR the priority list of streets to be considered as candidates for the 2012 cost shared paving program of subdivision streets outside the core area. The estimated cost for the 6 streets is \$1,000,000.00 (refer to Table 1 below). HRM will receive notification from the Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal identifying which streets have been approved under the Province's 2012 budget. Staff will then present an Information Report to Council confirming the list of streets to be paved under the 2012 Aid to Municipality Program.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

Budget will be available in the Proposed 2012/13 Project Budget from Project No. CXU00585 – New Paving Subdivision Streets Outside Core. NSTIR will be tendering these streets in the summer of 2012 with an anticipated completion date prior to October 31, 2012. HRM will then be invoiced for 50% of the actual tender cost from NSTIR. The budget availability has been confirmed by Finance.

Budget Summary:

Project No. CXU00585 – New Paving Subdivision Streets Outside Core

Net Project Cost to HRM*	\$ 500,000.00
Less: Amount Recoverable from LIC	<u>\$ 500,000.00</u>
Net Cost to HRM	\$ 0.00

*The total gross project cost is estimated at \$1,000,000 with 50% paid directly by NSTIR. The remaining 50% will be paid to NSTIR by HRM from Project CXU00585, and will then be recovered in its entirety through LICs.

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

A meeting was held on March 10 and March 14, 2011 to discuss the paving of the remaining gravel roads in district 18 that are owned and maintained by NSTIR. The district councillor and HRM staff met with residents to explain the Provincial Cost Shared Paving program for subdivision "J" class streets and HRM's role in this program. As part of the meeting agenda, property owners were provided with surveys for their respective streets, and those not in attendance had the surveys mailed to their properties. In total 15 streets were surveyed for paving, and based on the final results 6 streets were determined to be successful (refer to Table 1 below). These streets were subsequently submitted for consideration to the Province for the 2011 program; however they were not approved due to budget restrictions. The property owners on the 6 streets that were successfully surveyed were notified in May 2011 informing them that their street was not approved in the 2011 program, but that the streets would be resubmitted for consideration for the 2012 program. As a note all property owners were notified in writing as to the results of the survey.

**Table 1 – Subdivision "J" Class Streets to be Considered for the 2012 Aid to
Municipality Program**

Street Name	Limits	Community	District	Estimated cost
Honey Court	Old Sambro Rd to End	Williamstown	18	\$70,000
Grover Drive	Old Sambro Road to End	Williamstown	18	\$400,000
Oakwood Drive	End to End	Williamstown	18	\$275,000
Maplewood Drive	Grover Drive to Oakwood Drive	Williamstown	18	\$55,000
Mercury Avenue	Neptune Drive to End	Harrietfield	18	\$150,000
Willow Street	Ketch Harbour Road to End	Sambro Head	18	\$50,000
TOTAL				\$1,000,000

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose to not approve the recommendations in this report; however this is not recommended by staff.

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.

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AR/pm