



P.O. Box 1749  
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**Item No. 3**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 7, 2012**

**TO:** Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

**DATE:** June 29, 2012

**SUBJECT:** Baker Drive – Marked Crosswalk Request  
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### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Councillor Karsten submitted a petition containing 527 signatures on behalf of residents in the Baker Drive area requesting that a marked crosswalk be installed on Baker Drive near the intersection of Baker Drive and Coldstream Crescent.

## **DISCUSSION**

Crosswalks have been requested at civic 59 Baker Drive, Coldstream Run, Freshwater Trail, and Lindenwood Terrace. Due to the geometry of Baker Drive and both the commercial and residential uses along Baker Drive the best location for a crosswalk would be at Baker Drive and Freshwater Trail. Traffic Services therefore undertook its crosswalk assessment at this intersection.

All crosswalk requests made to Traffic and Right of Way Services are assessed by analysing the conflicting traffic and pedestrian volumes. Marked crosswalks are only approved for installation where the Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) warrants are met. These warrants require a high traffic volume combined with a high pedestrian volume such that there is an insufficient number of crossing gaps to accommodate the pedestrians. Studies conducted on the relative safety of crosswalks show that marked crosswalks can provide a false sense of security for pedestrians and therefore, Traffic and Right of Way Services is reluctant to recommend the installation of unwarranted, marked crosswalks. As this location is at an intersection, a legal crosswalk exists under the Motor Vehicle Act whether or not it is marked as such.

HRM staff conducted a pedestrian count at the intersection of Baker Drive and Freshwater Trail 7:30 am to 8:30 am and 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm on May 8, 2012. During these periods, there were 7 and 8 pedestrians, respectively crossing Baker Drive and 665 and 1154 vehicles, respectively on Baker Drive. Based on these counts the existing unmarked crosswalk at Freshwater Trail is not warranted for markings at this time.

Additionally, HRM staff conducted pedestrian counts on June 11, 2012 on Baker Drive between Norm Newman Drive and Lindenwood Terrace from 7:30 am to 8:30 am, 9:30 am to 10:30 am and 4:30 pm to 5:30 pm. During these periods there were a total of 20, 11, and 17 pedestrians combined 1 kilometre section of Baker Drive, and there were 678, 707, and 1044 vehicles in each of the hours, respectively. The highest number recorded at a single crossing location during any of the hours was 5. Based on these numbers, if all of the pedestrians crossing Baker Drive in each hour between Norm Newman Drive and Lindenwood Terrace were combined at one single location, the marked crosswalk would still not be warranted.

Traffic Services recognizes that there is development ongoing around Baker Drive. As the development progresses, continued assessment will be undertaken.

## **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 engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because decisions were based on operational procedures.

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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: Patrick Hatton, EIT, Traffic Analyst, Traffic and Right of Way Services, 490-6644

Original Signed

Report Approved by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Taso Koutroulakis, P. Eng., Deputy Traffic Authority, 490-4816

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