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Item No. 4
Halifax Regional Council
November 13, 2012

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by Director

SUBMITTED BY:

Ken Reashor, P. Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: October 15, 2012

SUBJECT: Frederick Avenue Parking

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 10.2.1 raised at the September 11, 2012 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

Councillor Walker submitted a petition containing six signatures on behalf of residents of Frederick Avenue requesting the Traffic Authority conduct a formal review of the parking on Frederick Avenue with a view to installing no-parking or two-hour parking signage.

BACKGROUND

Frederick Avenue between Dutch Village Road and Birch Street is a 9.0 metre wide street in Fairview. There are currently no-parking signs installed on utility poles on the north side of the street.

DISCUSSION

According to HRM's residential on-street parking policy:

The policy procedure may be initiated through the completion of a petition with signatures (one per address) representing a majority of households and businesses on the candidate street block. The petition should indicate the street block to be considered for parking restriction review.

Staff will review the street, its existing parking restrictions (if any), width, grade, alignment, and if any special cases exist on the street (i.e. businesses, bus stops). This review will determine the number of valid parking spaces on each street, the number of sides on which parking can be accommodated, which is the preferred side if parking can exist safely on only one side and what parking restrictions (if any) would be acceptable under good traffic engineering practice and in consideration of nearby non-residential land uses.

Traffic and Transportation staff reserves the right to modify parking restrictions that exist on residential streets where there is underutilization of valid parking or where parking restrictions could be improved upon under this policy. Where the interests of nearby businesses or institutions come into question, their input will be solicited by staff either individually or through an appropriate business association. For example, if a street is posted for one hour parking and low demand for this type of parking results in underutilization, modifications to the restriction may be considered. Furthermore, if a nearby commercial business(es) is reliant on on-street parking for customers, restrictions may be limited to short duration parking (i.e. 30 minute or 1 hour)

The residents of Frederick Avenue are permitted to submit a petition to the Traffic Authority for the installation of restrictive parking signs. However, with 25 addresses on this block of Frederick Avenue and only six signatures on the submitted petition, the requirement that the petition represent a majority of households and businesses on the candidate street block was not met.

Street width in this section is 9 metres; therefore, Frederick Avenue is wide enough to accommodate dual sided parking and parking restrictions, such as no-parking signs, are not required from a safety perspective on either side of Frederick Avenue. The existing no-parking signs on the north side of Frederick Avenue were installed in 1971 to accommodate winter conditions and were expected to be temporary.

The submitted petition requests the installation of no-parking signage or two hour parking because "the congestion of parked cars makes it impossible to either back out or drive out of our driveways in a safe manner." HRM staff has visited this location numerous times and have not witnessed the problem as described by the residents. HRM does not typically install no parking signs to attempt to prevent drivers from parking in front of driveways as parking in such a location is already illegal under the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act, and given the road width of Frederick Avenue drivers are able to enter and exit driveways without being impeded by legally parked vehicles.

Due to the width of Frederick Avenue, Frederick Avenue can accommodate dual sided parking and a petition for the installation of additional no-parking signs will be rejected. The residents of this block of Frederick Avenue can gather a second petition that more completely represents the residents and businesses on this block with the understanding that the timed parking signs would replace the existing no-parking signs.

Once the petition is complete it can be resubmitted via the Councillor or directly to Traffic & Right of Way Services, at which time Traffic & Right of Way Services will conduct the assessment.

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.

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
