



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 4**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 29, 2013**

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

Original signed

**SUBMITTED BY:**

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Ken Reashor, P.Eng., Director, Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** January 8, 2013

**SUBJECT:** Petition-Increased Path Lighting Between School Ave. & Melrose Ave.

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Item 10.2.2 raised at the September 11, 2012 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 31 "Petitions and Communications" of Administrative Order Number One Respecting the Procedures of the Council.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Councillor Walker submitted a petition signed by ten (10) residents of School Avenue requesting increased lighting on the cul-de-sac and on the path between School Avenue and Melrose Avenue.

## **DISCUSSION**

Currently, there are wooden poles with High Pressure Sodium street lights located at each end of the pathway and another located midway through the path. There is one additional pole located at the cul-du-sac at the end of School Avenue which does not have a street light. Adding a light to this pole will provide additional lighting to the cul-du-sac, however, there are presently no additional poles along the pathway to install additional lighting.

The pathway was reviewed by HRP in 2009 in response to complaints they had received respecting lighting concerns. Although their review concluded that the lighting was adequate, it was noted that the lights were obstructed by trees and would benefit from some pruning. At that time, a request was made to have the canopy over the pathway thinned out to increase light levels, however, the tree canopy remains an ongoing issue.

On November 21, 2012, staff revisited the pathway to determine the current light levels. The street light at the Melrose end of the path and the light at the bend of the pathway are in the trees. The other two lights towards the School Avenue end of the pathway are not obstructed. It was observed that there were some dark areas along the pathway and the lower vegetation was a concern.

In general, pathway lighting is not recommended because it encourages pedestrians to take these short cuts at night away from streets where there is better visibility. This pathway is somewhat unique because in essence, it functions as an extension of the sidewalk. It is a major connection between School Avenue (dead end street) and the remainder of upper Fairview. For this reason, additional lighting is justified and will be installed to provide uniform lighting. A work order has been issued to complete this work.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

To increase the light levels along the path it will require a minimum of two additional wooden poles to be installed. The pathway also requires a substantial amount of tree branch trimming and low growth removal. An estimated cost of \$6,000 for two additional poles and three additional fixtures will be covered under Project Account No. CRU00792 – Street Lighting.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement was not deemed to be necessary in this process because the request originated as a petition and decision was based on an operational procedure.

**ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Implications not identified.

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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: Mike Filippone, P.Eng., Traffic Signal & Street Lighting Supervisor, 490-6194

**Original signed**

Report Approved by:

Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., Acting Manager, TROW, 490-4816

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