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Item No. 8
Halifax Regional Council
April 14, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

Eddie Robar, Director, Halifax Transit

DATE: March 17, 2015

SUBJECT: Response – Petition for Eastern Passage Transit Route

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

This report originates from the January 13, 2015 Regional Council meeting. Councillor Karsten submitted a petition with 928 signatures requesting a direct bus route from Cole Harbour to Eastern Passage and Cow Bay.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 69(1) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides the legislative authority for the municipality to provide a public transportation service. Section 79(1)(o) provides the authority for Council to expend money required by the municipality for public transportation services.

BACKGROUND

At the January 13, 2015 Regional Council meeting, Councillor Karsten submitted a petition containing 928 signatures requesting a direct bus route from Cole Harbour to the Eastern Passage and Cow Bay area. The petition was started by the Eastern Passage Cow Bay Residents Association, and states that a direct route to Cole Harbour would provide access to services not available in Eastern Passage, including shopping, doctors, recreational facilities, and before and after school programs. The petition suggests that this could be achieved by altering an existing route, such as the Route 59, Route 65, or Route 60, and also indicates that access to the rapid transit service available at the Portland Hills Terminal is important.

DISCUSSION

On February 17th, 2015, Halifax Transit released the draft Moving Forward Together Plan, which includes a proposed transit network. The proposed network does not include a direct connection from Cole Harbour to Eastern Passage, as described in this petition. However, Halifax Transit is now conducting an extensive community engagement process to collect feedback on the draft network. One of the objectives of this process is to identify gaps in service and travel patterns that are not addressed by the draft plan. Following the current consultation process, Halifax Transit will review and analyze all feedback, including this petition, and will identify the modifications that are achievable and are consistent with the Moving Forward Together Principles. The revised Moving Forward Together Plan is expected to be brought forward for Regional Council's consideration in fall 2015. |

[DR1][HP2]

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report as it is for information only.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Halifax Transit is currently undergoing an extensive community engagement process to gather feedback on the proposed Moving Forward Together Plan.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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