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**Item No. 7**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**August 4, 2015**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director

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Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works

**DATE:** July 26, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Macdonald Bridge Bikeway Connections – Timeline for Submission of Staff Report

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**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

March 11, 2015 motion of Regional Council, Committee of the Whole to “Direct staff to develop options for the Bikeway Connection on both sides of the bridge. The options reviewed should include budget implications and partnership opportunities for the connection. Staff should then return to Regional Council for direction on the progress report by July 31, 2015 and include options for detailed design for inclusion in the capital budget for 2016/2017.”

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, clause 79 (1) (aa): “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for (aa) streets, culverts, retaining walls, sidewalks, curbs and gutters;”

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, subsection 61 (1): “The Municipality may acquire and own property granted or conveyed to the Municipality either absolutely or in trust for a public or charitable purpose.”

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, section 79 (1): “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for: (ah) playgrounds, trails...bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities;”

**BACKGROUND**

In March 2015 Regional Council requested a staff report regarding the bikeway connections to the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway and that the report be submitted before July 31, 2015. Since that time, staff reviewed previous consultant studies on bikeway connection improvement options, conducted initial discussions with some potential project partners, and considered the essential elements of a full planning and project development approach for improving connectivity to the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway on both sides of the Harbour.

**DISCUSSION**

Staff expects that this report will be presented to Regional Council at their September 8, 2015 meeting. The report is substantially complete. Additional time was required to consider an expanded scope for the planning process and to further review the previously proposed connection improvement options. The goal of the proposed planning process is to develop and implement bikeway connection options that will accommodate and attract people of all ages and bicycling abilities, and that will advance municipal objectives for expanding sustainable transportation options and developing healthy communities.

The proposed September report therefore will present a number of options for improving access to the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway on both sides of the Harbour. The report will also propose a broader planning approach that analyzes how improved bikeway access points will connect with the proposed on-street bicycle network from the Active Transportation Priorities Plan. The report will also contain information on potential project partners and will propose a project plan and timeline to guide planning, decision-making and budgeting.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications at this time.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

N/A

**ATTACHMENTS**

N/A

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.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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