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**Item No. 11.7.5**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**September 22, 2015**  
**October 6, 2015**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director  

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Bob Bjerke, Chief Planner and Director, Planning & Development

**DATE:** August 12, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Bedford Highway Reversing Lane

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#### **INFORMATION REPORT**

##### **ORIGIN**

March 31, 2015 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

##### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

The Halifax Charter Section 322(1) states that Council may design, lay out, open, expand, construct, maintain, improve, alter, repair, light, water, clean, and clear streets in the Municipality.

##### **BACKGROUND**

A staff information report was submitted to Regional Council at its meeting of March 10, 2015 and brought forward for discussion on March 31, 2015. The staff report described the analysis undertaken to assess the value of a reversing lane on the Bedford Highway. The report concluded that there would be little, if any decrease in traffic delay in the morning peak unless the capacity of the Fairview Interchange area was increased. The report also indicated that reducing the Bedford Highway to a single lane in the Bedford-bound direction would have a significant negative impact on morning peak traffic in that direction.

Following discussion, Regional Council requested a staff report outlining costs, and possible time lines and strategies for the installation of a reversing lane on the Bedford Highway from Kearney Lake Road to the Fairview Interchange.

**DISCUSSION**

Staff believes that, based on the technical analysis and the direction from Regional Council, the next step is to engage a consultant in a broader analysis which would include an assessment of the Fairview Interchange area and the measures necessary to increase vehicle capacity should two inbound lanes be created on the Bedford Highway (through a reversing lane system or otherwise). A request for proposals for such a study has been issued.

**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The cost of hiring an engineering firm to undertake the analysis proposed is expected to be between \$40,000 and \$50,000. Funds are available to undertake small functional studies of this nature through the approved Regional Transportation Planning 2015-16 operating budget (Cost Centre R951).

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

No community engagement will be undertaken specifically as part of this analysis, however, the idea of adding vehicle capacity to the Fairview Interchange area will be included in the Road Network Priorities Plan for engagement with the public in November 2015.

**ATTACHMENTS**

There are no attachments.

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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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