

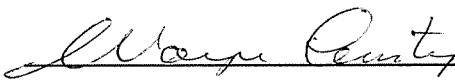
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Halifax Regional Council
January 31, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Wayne Anstey, Acting Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: January 12, 2006

SUBJECT: HRM/CNR Relationship

ORIGIN

At a Regional Council meeting of August 9, 2005 a motion was passed for HRM to strike a committee with respect to having a more formal and coordinated relationship with CN.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that :

1. HRM's Manager, Regional Transportation Planning assume responsibility for the coordination of municipal interaction with Canadian National Railways on strategic matters requiring attention and resolution.

BACKGROUND

Staff have done a cursory review of the quantity and type of current and potential interaction between HRM and CNR.

Interaction with CNR has typically involved issues such as:

- design, construction and signing of rail/road crossings
- rail yard relocation
- negotiating easements
- real estate and land use matters
- harbour front land uses
- infrastructure ownership and maintenance (eg. bridge maintenance)
- residential development with potential impacts on CNR
- by-law services
- requests to eliminate train whistles

Possible future opportunities for collaboration and coordination with CNR include:

- active transportation opportunities, multi-use trails
- long range strategic planning
- service delivery to Port of Halifax
- preserving rail corridors

DISCUSSION

Within HRM there is a myriad of current and potential issues of mutual interest. It has been suggested that there is a need for coordinated approach to building an effective relationship with CNR representatives to provide more direct access to decision makers and enable improved communication flow between the organizations. Although HRM and CNR already share ideas and concerns through participation in the Halifax Gateway Council and the Transportation Subcommittee of the Halifax Chamber of Commerce, a more formal and specific partnership would be an enhancement.

HRM's interaction with external partners needs to be focussed and strategic. A single HRM point of contact for CNR would help to reduce the quantity of communication from HRM to limited local CNR staff. More focussed communication will help to ensure more timely response to issues that need to be addressed.

The issues highlighted in the background section of this report would involve interaction and coordination with other areas such as Bylaw Enforcement, Transportation & Public Works and Real Property and Asset Management. A small staff working group including representatives from these and other affected business units could meet once a quarter to coordinate multi-faceted CNR issues that involve many HRM business units. If a more formal mechanism is required in reviewing and

resolving issues, the current Energy and Underground Subcommittee would be an effective vehicle. HRM's contact on CNR issues could liaise with the Energy and Underground Subcommittee, which could be expanded to items related to CNR as required as a venue to raise and discuss specific issues requiring resolution.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

None.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES / BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

ALTERNATIVES

1. Council could choose to expand the mandate of the Energy and Underground Subcommittee and forgo directing responsibility to a single contact person.
2. Council could choose to form a separate committee with a mandate to coordinate HRM's relationship with CNR.

These alternatives are not recommended.

ATTACHMENTS

None.

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.

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