

3.



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Halifax Regional Council
February 21, 2006

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike Labrecque".

Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

DATE: January 31, 2006

SUBJECT: Petition - Additional Crosswalks - Sheet Harbour

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Item 9.2.2 raised at the December 14, 2004 meeting of Halifax Regional Council.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Streach served correspondence from the Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce requesting additional crosswalks on Highway 7, one near the Bluewater Building and the other at Church Point Road near the schools.

DISCUSSION

This section of Highway 7 remains under the ownership of the Province of Nova Scotia. Therefore, the Department of Transportation and Public Works has jurisdiction over the approval of marked crosswalks. On February 8, 2005, His Worship Mayor Kelly sent a letter to the Honourable Ronald Russell, Minister of Transportation and Public Works requesting on behalf of the Sheet Harbour and Area Chamber of Commerce that the Province consider the installation of marked crosswalks at the subject locations.

A response was received from the Provincial Area Manager on February 24, 2005. The proposed crosswalk location near the Bluewater Business Centre was reviewed and since there were no pedestrian crossing movements observed during a six-hour peak volume period, a marked crosswalk is not warranted and would not be installed.

Regarding the proposed crosswalk location near the schools, it falls within a posted school zone. In these cases, the Province will only consider approval for a marked crosswalk if they receive application from the appropriate school authority. This process includes the necessity for the school to provide the mandated supervision at the crosswalk when children are present.

To date, staff is unaware of any official application made by the school authority to the Province for a marked crosswalk. However, staff recently conducted a study to see if a crossing guard is warranted, given that this is one of the conditions that must be met in order for the Province to consider a marked crosswalk. During the morning peak period, only two children were observed crossing at this location and a two-way traffic volume of 112 vehicles was recorded. Upon completion of the study, staff visited the school and reviewed the findings with the administrator. She stated that a maximum of only five children cross at this location per day. Afterwards, staff reviewed the survey with a member of the local RCMP detachment. All appeared to understand and agree with staff's assessment.

Given that the pedestrian and vehicular volumes are low, a crossing guard is not warranted. Therefore, a marked crosswalk would not be considered by the Province since a crossing guard is not required.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications.

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


There are no recommended alternatives.

ATTACHMENTS

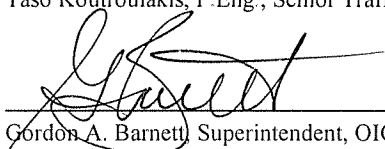
None.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/agenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

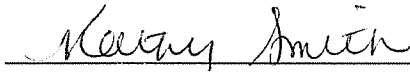
Report Prepared by:

Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., Senior Traffic Operations Engineer, 490-4816 

Report Approved by:


Gordon A. Barnett, Superintendent, OIC Halifax County District, 490-6880

Financial Review:


Kathy Smith, Financial Consultant, 490-6153