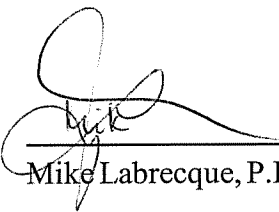




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Halifax Regional Council
November 22, 2005

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
Mike Labrecque, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works Services

DATE: November 15, 2005

SUBJECT: **Transit Oriented Development and High Capacity Transit Opportunities Analysis Study**

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

September 27, 2005 request by Regional Council (Councillor Linda Mosher) for staff to provide an update on the status of the Transit Oriented Development and High Capacity Transit Opportunities Analysis Study.

BACKGROUND

In August 2003, LEA Consulting was awarded a contract to undertake a Transit Oriented Development and High Capacity Transit Opportunities Analysis Study as part of the Regional Planning process. As part of the 25-year Regional Plan, it was determined that the role of higher capacity transit modes, including ferry, rail, and improved rapid bus services, required further study and analysis. The goal of the analysis was to determine which of the above transit modes would work best in the region on multiple transportation corridors. The deliverables for this project included:

1. A land use analysis along the corridors which identified the appropriate mix, density, and layout required, both existing and potential, to support a high capacity transit system.
2. A market analysis that would determine the incentives necessary to capture the ridership required to support the high capacity transit alternatives.

3. Preliminary ridership estimates for potential high capacity transit modes in several priority corridors.
4. A preliminary operating plan for each transit mode option which determines total vehicle requirements, vehicle hours, vehicle kilometres, and maximum passenger capacity of service.
5. A preliminary capital elements plan for the type and location of transit non-vehicle investments required to implement the transit mode option within each of the corridors.
6. Capital and operating and maintenance cost estimates for each transit mode and corridor under consideration.

The following three primary high capacity transit modes that were considered for this study:

1. Bus Rapid Transit which offers a higher speed service than conventional transit.
2. Rail Transit which can be diesel powered, high capacity rail passenger service designed to serve commuters and non-commuters traveling between the suburban and urban areas.
3. Ferry service which can include fast ferries, small boat ferries and high capacity ferries.

DISCUSSION

The following interim reports were provided by the consultant:

March 2004	Priority Corridors Supplementary Report Priority Corridors Overview Logistical Feasibility Interim Report Transit Oriented Land Use Interim Report Marketing Incentives Draft Working Paper
August 2004	Logical Feasibility Report

To complete the analysis of the Regional Plan's settlement pattern options, the consultant was directed to focus on the elements of the study that would deliver that outcome. The consultant was able to achieve those deliverables, although there was still work remaining to complete the study. This work has been delayed, in part due to HRM staff's focus on completing the regional plan and, in part, due to the consultant's project manager leaving the project and, in part, due to a dispute over services invoiced.

A new project manager has been appointed by the consultant, the dispute over services resolved, and the project is again on track. Completion of the project is expected early in January.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implication resulting from this report.

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

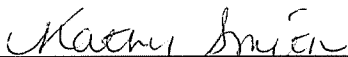
There are no recommended alternatives.

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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