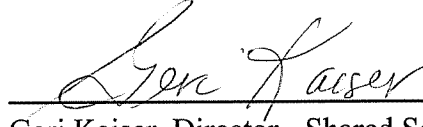

Halifax Regional Council
February 12, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Geri Kaiser, Director - Shared Services

DATE: February 5, 2002

SUBJECT: MAC PASS Usage - HRM Fleet

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN - At the January 15, 2002 meeting of Council, Councillor McInroy asked for a staff report on the use of MACPASS for HRM Fleet Vehicles.

BACKGROUND - In 1998 the Halifax Dartmouth Bridge Commission introduced an electronic toll system. By the end of 2001, MACPASS users accounted for almost 40% of the 30.5 million total annual crossings. Councillor McInroy indicated that the use of the MACPASS is growing and 68% of the daily commercial traffic uses the MACPASS.

Councillor McInroy outlined the benefits of the MACPASS and inquired about the extent to which HRM Fleet Vehicles used the MACPASS.

DISCUSSION - HRM has approximately 457 light trucks, utility vehicles, cars and 209 transit units in its Fleet system broken down as follows:

SERVICE AREA	NUMBER OF UNITS	NUMBER USING MACPASS
Transit Services	209	204
Police Services	196	196
Fire Services	56	52
General Fleet	205	30

In the Transit, Police and Fire Services areas, all units which routinely travel the bridge are equipped with a MACPASS. In the General Fleet area the use of MACPASS is very limited.

Annually HRM budgets \$273,000 for Bridge Tolls. SAP reports indicate that 90% of the cost of these crossings are paid through the electronic toll system. The balance is through cash or token payments.

The use of the MACPASS has many benefits over the coin or token system:

- The cost of crossings for passenger vehicles is reduced from \$.75 per crossing to \$.60 per crossing.
- Vehicles can use any lane for the crossing cutting wait time, travel time and avoiding line-ups.
- Reduced congestion at tolls and the harmful auto emissions that result.
- Automatic account billing for clients on a monthly basis.
- Reduced staff time in managing cash and tokens.
- An effective tool to audit the travel patterns of HRM vehicles.

In the past, General Fleet vehicles have been assigned annually to the East, West or Central Divisions of the Municipalities. HRM is now moving to more general purpose vehicles which promotes the sharing of these resources among the various Business Units.

Given the benefits of using the MACPASS and the potential to reduce the costs associated with bridge crossings, Shared Services will work with the Business Units to encourage and promote the use of the MACPASS and have them adapt appropriate, applicable operational policies.

ATTACHMENTS

NONE

Additional copies of this report, and information on its status, can be obtained by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.
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