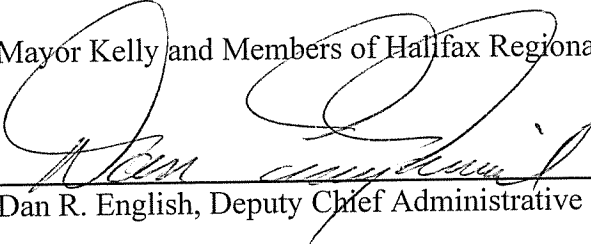


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Halifax Regional Council  
May 14, 2002  
Committee of the Whole

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

  
Dan R. English, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** May 9, 2002

**SUBJECT:** REGIONAL PLANNING UPDATE #3

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Previous Committee of the Whole Update took place February 12, 2002. The April 9<sup>th</sup> update was postponed to May 14<sup>th</sup> due to time constraints.

## BACKGROUND

This report is to provide an update on two important Regional Planning (RP) initiatives that will be described in more detail at the COW presentation on Tuesday May 14<sup>th</sup>.

## DISCUSSION

### **Pressing Traffic Issues**

This initiative has been undertaken at the request of the CAO, and was initiated early this year. The purpose is to examine the 'Pressing Traffic Issues' that have been brought forward but not resolved. These issues were considered to have regional implications and therefore needed to be addressed as part of the Regional Planning Project.

The goal is to apply a filter of agreed criteria to these projects and segregate those that can proceed because they have no, or minor regional implications; those that do have regional implications but, for a number of reasons could proceed early and may not have to wait for an Integrated Transportation Study (ITS); and those which have significant regional implications and need to be part of the ITS in Phase 2 of the Project. A report will be brought before Council in June, describing the categorization.

### *Tasks and Timing*

- Establish an interdepartmental committee with representation from Public Works and Transportation (PW&T), Planning and Development, Transit, and Regional Planning (April);
- Assemble complete list including potential projects from Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Public Works, and Interim Regional Transportation Study (April);
- Prepare draft criteria for categorization (first week of May);
- Using the filter approach, classify into A, B, C
  - A) projects can proceed independently from Regional Planning (RP) but should incorporate transit needs, bike, and TDM measures in the design;
  - B) projects have RP implications but may include interim measures that can be implemented right away, budget permitting. Two sub-categories identified.
  - C) projects are definitely RP issues and need to be addressed in the Integrated Transportation Plan (2003-4).
- Confirm classification (mid May);
- Overall priorities for projects that can proceed, matching with the budget allocation will be the responsibility of PW&T and will follow the A,B,C classification process;
- Any consultation needs attached to specific projects will be analyzed but will be the responsibility of PW&T to carry out;
- Presentation to EMT in late May/early June, presentation to Council mid-June (or earlier if report is completed).

*Resources*

This work is being undertaken with internal resources

**Development Suitability and Cost Analysis, and Growth Scenario-building**

This initiative is at the concept stage. The purpose is to prepare:

- A map showing the suitability of land in HRM for future development. It will focus on the main growth area in which un-serviced development is taking place. This will be largely a GIS analysis and involve data from HRM, the Province and Federal agencies. It will identify areas of opportunity and also risk. This work will complement the other studies (Greenfield, Brownfield, and Greyfield) that are also underway.
- An analysis of the current development pattern focusing on the comparative cost of delivering services in different development situations - both serviced and unserviced areas will be included. This analysis will employ selected indicators for which good data is available (for example road maintenance, police service) and which are broadly comparable from one area to another. It will also examine other types of costs under the headings of community/personal (for example transportation costs) and environment (for example vehicle emissions and land consumption).
- Alternative growth scenarios will be developed which compare the long term costs accompanying different growth patterns. One of the scenarios will be a continuation of the current trends, others (probably three) will take different premises for the starting point (for example, one might be a transit intensive model) and examine the implications that come with that form of growth.

Terms of Reference for these studies will be prepared within the next month.

*Resources*

- This project will require a combination of staff time and consultant support. A partnership is being explored with the Province. The cost of this work has not yet been determined, and will depend on how much computer modeling and external expertise is required. Preliminary discussion indicates that the Province may contribute money and staff time.
- Opportunities for 'mentoring' on this initiative are being explored with other municipalities in Canada that have experience with scenario-building. This may mean bringing in someone for a few days (or sending staff elsewhere) to help develop the Terms of Reference for the studies, advise on the consulting expertise that is available, advise on the type of computer modeling that will be needed and the data quality that will be required to support it, and the evaluation of the proposals.

This analysis will be very important for Halifax Regional Municipality in the discussion of 'Options' that will begin with Council and the public in late Fall, leading to a presentation of alternative scenarios in the spring of next year.

**BUDGET IMPLICATIONS**

Expenditures are anticipated to be within the planned budget for Regional Planning.

**MULTI-YEAR FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

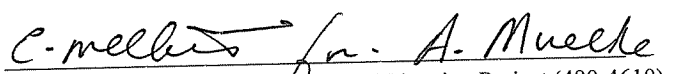
This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Capital and Reserve policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Capital and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

**ALTERNATIVES**

N/A

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.

Report Approved and Prepared by:

  
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