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HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL

July 2, 2002

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**



John Sheppard, P.Eng., A/Director, Public Works & Transportation

**DATE:** June 24, 2002

**SUBJECT:** TRAFFIC CALMING MEASURES - SIR CHARLES TUPPER  
SCHOOL

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council, May 28, 2002, Item 9.2.1

#### BACKGROUND

A petition was submitted by Councillor Uteck signed by residents in the area around Sir Charles Tupper School requesting the installation of traffic calming measures in the form of reduced speed limit and speed humps designed and spaced in accordance with the Linseman Study of July 2001. This report is in response to that petition.

## DISCUSSION

Traffic calming measures do have some benefit in reducing speeds in certain circumstances. They can also have negative impact such as reducing emergency vehicle response times, vehicle damage, and staff safety for emergency response vehicles. They also have negative impacts on street maintenance and operations and for drivers and passengers with spinal cord injuries. Increased noise and exhaust emissions can also be expected to increase. The petition also requests a reduction in travel speeds to 30 km/h, however, devices currently approved by the Transportation Association of Canada for use on public streets normally have an impact only at speeds in the range of 40 -50 km/h and above.

Staff is in the process of developing a policy on the installation of traffic calming devices. The policy would limit the installation of these devices to locations where speed reductions could reasonably be achieved and impact on emergency response and other street operations would be minimal. This policy is expected to be completed in the fall following further data collection and consultation with service delivery providers.

To date, HRM has installed traffic calming devices only in conjunction with the Neighbourhood Short-Cutting Policy. It is unlikely that Beech Street would qualify under this Policy, as short-cutting volumes do not appear to be excessive on this street.

The ability to post speed limits below 50 km/h has been requested of the province through the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities but has been rejected.

## BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

N/A

## 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

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.

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490-6696. 

DMC/bmh