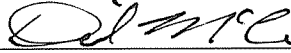

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL

June 11, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
David McCusker, P.Eng., Traffic Authority

DATE: May 22, 2002

SUBJECT: PROPOSED CHANGES TO PARKING RESTRICTIONS -
SOMERSET STREET

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

April 9, 2002 Halifax Regional Council meeting, item 9.1.2.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Cunningham served a petition from residents requesting that staff reassess the traffic hazards on Somerset Street, between Lashburn Place and Berkley Brae, prior to making any changes to the existing parking restrictions.

DISCUSSION

This section of Somerset Street, until very recently, operated with no parking controls and with no recorded collision history. On December 11, 2001, staff approved the installation of no parking signs on both sides of Somerset Street due to safety concerns raised by area residents caused by parked vehicles on the crest of the hill. Once the installation took place, staff was asked by other area residents to reassess the safety concerns in order to provide some on-street parking. As a result, staff approved a plan to reinstate parking on the northeast side of the street with the exception of approximately 25 metres at the intersection of Lashburn Place. This short no parking zone is required to increase the sight lines for vehicles coming out of Lashburn Place. Additionally, an offset yellow centreline will be painted to help designate the separation between opposing travel lanes over the crest.

Parking control is a balancing act between achieving safety and providing on-street parking as a service to residents who require it. However, safety is the primary consideration. Staff believes that the above plan should be viewed as a positive step towards resolving potential vehicle and pedestrian conflicts as compared to what has existed in that location for many years.

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

ATTACHMENTS

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 prepared by: Taso Koutroulakis, P.Eng., Traffic Services Supervisor, 490-4816.

TK/bmh