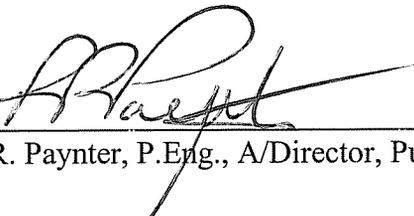

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
June 25, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: 
R. Paynter, P.Eng., A/Director, Public Works & Transportation

DATE: June 13, 2002

SUBJECT: TRAFFIC PLANNING PROBLEMS - DISTRICT 12

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council, May 21, 2002, item 9.2.1

BACKGROUND

Councillor Sloane submitted correspondence regarding some traffic planning problems in her district.

DISCUSSION

Staff offers the following comments on the issues raised:

1. Robie Street northbound at Jubilee - the lane lines at this location do not go straight.

Lane lines were skewed to provide storage for left turning vehicles and improve the overall operation of the intersection. Skewed lane lines are used effectively on many arterials including Quinpool Road and Connaught Avenue.

2. Summer Street - drivers must change lanes between Jubilee Road and Sackville Street to continue through.

To make optimal use of the intersection approaches given the present turning patterns, a southbound through lane changes into a dedicated left turn lane and drivers must change lanes to continue through on Summer Street. Lane changes are hard to avoid in maneuvering a city street network and staff believes lanes at this location are well marked.

3. Summer Street - centre median alongside the Public Gardens makes the remaining street too narrow for parking and traffic.

This concern has also been raised by Metro Transit. Staff feels, however, that the benefits in improved maneuverability for traffic do not outweigh the cost of removal or the loss of an attractive street feature in an important historical area.

4. Traffic signs - drivers don't know which lane to be in.

Staff agrees that the designation of lanes in HRM is generally inadequate and causes great difficulty for drivers unfamiliar with the street network. Last year, staff initiated a street signage program which will see greater implementation of overhead lane designation signs and oversized street name signs for better driver guidance. Overhead lane control signs installed recently on Bayers Road by the Halifax Shopping Centre illustrate the type of signage that will become more abundant under this program.

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.

Report prepared by: David McCusker, P.Eng., Manager, Traffic & Transportation Services,
490-6696. *DM*

DMC/bmh