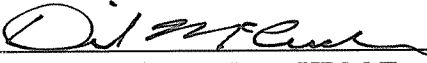

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL
November 19, 2002

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

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

DATE: November 12, 2002

SUBJECT: TOPSAIL BLVD./PLAZA DRIVE - THREE WAY STOP REQUEST

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

September 3, 2002 Halifax Regional Council meeting, item 8.2.1.

BACKGROUND

Councillor Sarto submitted correspondence from a resident requesting a three-way stop be installed at the intersection of Topsail Blvd. and Plaza Drive.

DISCUSSION

In an effort to standardize the use of multi-way stop signs, staff uses internationally accepted warrant criteria to determine where they should be used. Such things as traffic and pedestrian volumes, intersection geometry and accident data are considered. Typically, traffic volumes on the major street should not be more than twice that of the minor street.

Stop signs are very effective as a traffic control measure at busy intersections. They are neither intended nor recommended for use as speed control devices and are reserved for use in controlling intersection right-of-way. Studies have shown there is a high incidence of intentional violations at unwarranted stop signs which is cause for greater safety concerns for pedestrians and other motorists.

This intersection is a "T" intersection with existing stop control on Plaza Drive, typical of a major-minor street. A recent peak hour count was conducted at the intersection and the total approach volume was recorded at 143 vehicles, 7 of these from Plaza Drive.

Multi-way stop signs may be warranted if the total approach volume for the intersection is at least 500 vehicles per hour (vph) for any eight hours of the day.

Based on the above, the existing stop control at the intersection is correctly assigned and a three-way stop is not warranted.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications at this time.

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

There are no recommended alternatives.

<p>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: Karen MacQuarrie, Traffic Analyst, Eastern Region, 490-4859.</p>
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KMQ/bmh