



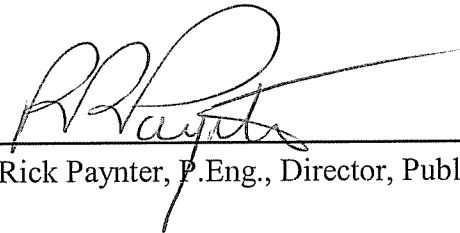
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Halifax Regional Council
March 18, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:


Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director, Public Works & Transportation

DATE: March 6, 2003

SUBJECT: Main Street Corridor

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Halifax Regional Council meeting of December 10, 2002, item 10.2.1.

BACKGROUND

At the December 10, 2002 Regional Council meeting, during a discussion of a motion regarding the intersection of #7 Highway and Ross Road, Councillor Colwell requested staff to examine the [#7 Highway] corridor to see if there is some way in which the traffic flow can be improved in the morning and evening.

DISCUSSION

For the purpose of this report, the #7 Highway (Main Street) corridor is defined as the 3.9 km four-lane section of Main Street from Ridgecrest Drive east to Salmon River. High traffic volumes, several uncontrolled intersections and numerous commercial/private driveways in this section contribute to the overall congestion and operational difficulties. Recognizing this, the Main Street Traffic Study was conducted for HRM in 1998. The objective of the study was to evaluate the existing level of service in various sections and intersections within the 3.9 km. Several recommendations for phased improvements were made that would provide an adequate level of service and safety within the study area until such time as the proposed extension of Highway 107 was constructed.

Since 1999, implementation of several recommendations have been phased in. The section between Forest Hills Drive and Panavista Drive has been widened with new sidewalk, signals at Panavista/Sobeys entrance, and left turn holding lanes. The speed limit has been reduced from 70 km/h to 60 km/h between Ridgecrest Drive and Riley Road. The intersection of Main Street/Forest Hills Drive/Highway 107 has been upgraded to include two left turn lanes on both Forest Hills Drive and Highway 107 and the eastbound right lane to Forest Hills Drive has been lengthened. This upgrade included signal timing changes.

The next phase scheduled is the widening of Main Street between Ridgecrest Drive and Forest Hills Drive to provide for a two-way left turn lane and sidewalk on the south side. Pending budget approval, this will be completed during 2003-2004. As future budgets permit, other recommendations will be implemented.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no new 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 at this time.

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:



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KMQ/bmh