



PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

5.

Halifax Regional Council
September 2, 2003

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Paynter", written over a horizontal line.

Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director of Public Works and Transportation

DATE: August 27, 2003

SUBJECT: Posted Lower Maximum Speed Limits

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

The recent approval by the Provincial Minister of Transportation and Public Works to post speed limits lower than 50 km/h on a trial basis for Flamingo Drive, Meadowlark Crescent in Bridgeview and Bayview Road and Gateway Road in Clayton Park. Copies of Ministerial approval letters are attached.

BACKGROUND

This report is a follow-up to numerous communications regarding failed attempts by HRM to effect amendments to the Nova Scotia Motor Vehicle Act, which would allow the posting of maximum speed limits lower than 50 km/h on residential streets.

DISCUSSION

Moving forward on this issue, HRM and the Province have engaged a consultant to conduct a nationwide survey on the experiences of other municipalities in dealing with the establishment of lower maximum speed limits on residential streets.

In conjunction with this joint survey and at the request of Chebucto Community Council, the Minister of Transportation has approved, on a trial basis, the posting of lower maximum speed limits for selected residential streets in HRM. In particular, the Minister has identified Flamingo Drive, Meadowlark Crescent, Bayview Road and Gateway Road as candidates for this trial. Following consultation with Police, it was decided that 40 km/h would be the preferred speed limit for the duration of the trial. The installation of regulatory "Maximum 40 km/h" speed limit signs on these four streets is scheduled for Thursday, September 4, 2003.

In order to monitor the effectiveness of these lowered speeds, staff has collected baseline "before" speed profiles for each of these streets and will be obtaining additional speed information over the next twelve-month trial period. This information will be used in conjunction with that obtained from the nationwide survey in determining if a case can be made for implementing change to the existing MVA as relates to urban speed limits.

Staff will be reporting back to Council upon evaluation of the consultant's findings and will also be providing to Council updated information on the effects of our own trial on driver habits. While this reduced maximum limit is on a trial basis, it will be legal and will be subject to Police enforcement. We anticipate that a short grace period will be allowed for drivers to become accustomed to the new lower limit, and, we have prepared a news release to be distributed to local media to advise motorists of this change.

Staff would note as well, that there has been a request from this neighbourhood for the installation of stop signs at certain intersections to be installed as part of this same trial period for the lower speed limits. This is being accessed by staff as to whether or not the introduction of this additional measure would have a detrimental impact on the findings for the trial period for the lower posted speed limits.

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.

ATTACHMENTS

Copies of approval letters from the Minister of Transportation and Public Works dated June 27, 2003 and July 7, 2003.

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: Rick Paynter, P.Eng., Director of Public Works and Transportation, 490-4855



Department of
Transportation
and Public Works
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2N2

Our File Number:

Mr. Rick Paynter
R.P.

June 27, 2003

Mr. Rick Paynter, P. Eng.
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Paynter:

As requested by the Halifax Regional Municipality, and in accordance with Section 104 (1) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, I authorize the Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality to post a speed limit of 30 or 40 km/h if they so desire on the following section of highways within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

1. Bayview Road from Lacewood Drive to the Bedford Highway
2. Flamingo Drive from Knightsbridge Drive to the Bedford Highway

I am approving these two streets for reduced speed limits on a trial basis so that the results can be examined as part of a joint study being done by the Halifax Regional Municipality and Transportation and Public Works into the impact of speed limits less than 50 km/h.

I would point out that posting these sections of highways less than 50 km/h will cause a conflict with a school zone should any exist on these sections of highways.

Yours truly,

Michael G. Baker, Q.C.

/has



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contains recycled fibre

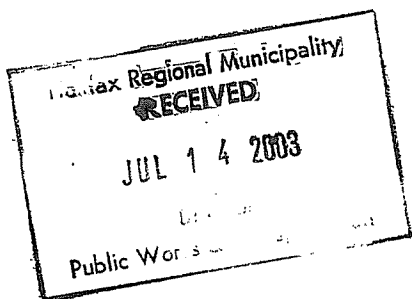


**Department of
Transportation
and Public Works**

Office of the Minister

PO Box 186
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 2N2

Our File Number:



July 7, 2003

Mr. Rick Paynter, P. Eng.
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Mr. Paynter:

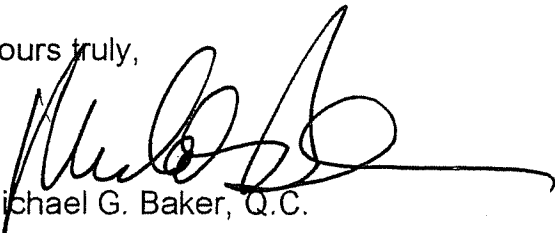
As requested by the Halifax Regional Municipality, and in accordance with Section 104 (1) of the *Motor Vehicle Act*, I authorize the Traffic Authority for the Halifax Regional Municipality to post a speed limit of 30 or 40 km/h if they so desire on the following section of highways within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

1. Gateway Road from Lacewood Drive to Bayview Road
2. Meadowlark Crescent from Lincoln Cross to the Flamingo Drive

I am approving these two streets along with those listed in my June 27, 2003 letter for reduced speed limits on a trial basis so that the results can be examined as part of a joint study being done by the Halifax Regional Municipality and Transportation and Public Works into the impact of speed limits less than 50 km/h.

I would point out that posting these sections of highways less than 50 km/h will cause a conflict with a school zone should any exist on these sections of highways.

Yours truly,


Michael G. Baker, Q.C.

/ps

