



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 14.3.1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**July 18, 2017**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Councillor Tim Outhit, Chair, Transportation Standing Committee

**DATE:** June 26, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Alternate Side of the Street Parking to Allow for Daytime Cleaning

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**ORIGIN**

April 27, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, Item No. 12.1.1.

June 22, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee, Item No. 8.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, section 4 (a) which states: "The Transportation Standing Committee shall oversee and review of the Municipality's Regional Transportation Plans and initiatives, as follows: overseeing HRM's Regional Transportation Objectives and Transportation outcome Areas".

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to instruct staff to begin removal of overnight parking restrictions related to street cleaning activities in those areas where daytime parking is minimal and switch to daytime sweeping operation in those areas.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to instruct staff to include for consideration in the 2018-2019 proposed budget the cost of piloting alternate side of the street parking to allow for daytime street sweeping in the area identified in the staff report dated April 27, 2017 and;
3. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to instruct staff to continue to assess street sweeping routes on an on-going basis to identify any further areas that could be moved to daytime operations because of minimal daytime parking demands.

## **BACKGROUND**

A staff report dated March 31, 2017 pertaining to Alternate Side of the Street Parking to Allow for Daytime Cleaning was before the Transportation Standing Committee for consideration at its meeting held on June 22, 2017.

For further information, please refer to the attached staff report dated March 31, 2017.

## **DISCUSSION**

The Transportation Standing Committee reviewed the March 31, 2017 staff report at its meeting held on June 22, 2017 and opted to defeat staff recommendation number two (2) in favour of the alternative recommendation contained in the March 31, 2017 staff report. The alternative recommendation was amended to direct the Chief Administrative Officer to include the cost of piloting alternate side of the street parking to allow for daytime street cleaning for consideration by Council in the proposed 2018-2019 budget.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the attached staff report dated March 31, 2017.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

As outlined in the attached staff report dated March 31, 2017.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The Transportation Standing Committee meetings are open to public attendance, a live webcast is provided of the meeting, and members of the public are invited to address the Committee for up to five minutes at the end of each meeting during the Public Participation portion of the meeting. The agenda, reports, video, and minutes of the Transportation Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Transportation Standing Committee considered alternative recommendation one as part of its overall recommendation to Halifax Regional Council.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

1. Staff report dated March 31, 2017.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6521

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**Item No. 8.1**  
**Transportation Standing Committee**  
**April 27, 2017**  
**June 22, 2017**

**TO:** Chair and Members of Transportation Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed  

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Bruce Zvaniga, P.Eng., Director, Transportation & Public Works

**DATE:** March 31, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Alternate Side of the Street Parking to Allow for Daytime Cleaning

**ORIGIN**

Item 11.1 of the January 26, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee:

MOVED by Councillor Mason THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report outlining operation and cost implications to implement alternate side of the street parking to allow for daytime cleaning in high parking utilization areas as described in the staff report dated November 22, 2016.

MOTION PUT AND PASSED

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Subsection 322(1) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides that, "The Council may design, lay out, open, expand, construct, maintain, improve, alter, repair, light, water, clean, and clear streets in the Municipality."

Subsection 34(3) of the *Halifax Regional Municipality Charter* provides that, "The Council shall provide direction on the administration, plans, policies and programs of the Municipality to the Chief Administrative Officer."

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Regional Council:

1. Direct the CAO to instruct staff to begin removal of overnight parking restrictions related to street cleaning activities in those areas where daytime parking is minimal and switch to daytime sweeping operation in those areas;

2. Direct the CAO to instruct staff to continue overnight sweeping operations in those areas where high-demand daytime parking exists using the new, quieter sweeper equipment to determine if operations would still impact residents as it pertains to noise; and,
3. Direct the CAO to instruct staff to continue to assess street sweeping routes on an on-going basis to identify any further areas that could be moved to daytime operations because of minimal daytime parking demands.

## **BACKGROUND**

The practice of overnight street cleaning of residential streets on the Halifax Peninsula has been in place since the late 1970s. At the time, residents were surveyed to determine if there was support to have restricted parking during the overnight hours to accommodate the service between the hours of 12:05 am – 8:00 am. The survey received positive support and parking restrictions were put in place throughout these residential neighbourhoods.

The street sweeping program (the program) is managed by Road Operations & Construction and operates annually from April to November, weather permitting. The program currently employs a fleet of 8 street sweepers operated by 11 staff working a combination of day and night shifts.

Overnight sweeping is carried out Monday to Friday by 4 operators/sweepers, twice per week in the downtown area and weekly on the residential streets signed with the overnight parking restrictions. All other residential areas are swept 3-5 times per year by 7 operators/sweepers working through the day, Monday to Thursday.

Concerns regarding this practice have been raised by residents since the initiation of the overnight service and are primarily related to the noise created by the machinery used to do the work.

## **DISCUSSION**

In order to determine the impact created by eliminating overnight sweeping activities, staff reviewed the existing signed sweeping routes. This exercise has identified that approximately 15% of the current night routes have minimal demand for on-street parking during the day. These could be switched to daytime sweeping by removing the parking restrictions currently in place and reassigning staff and equipment to the day shift. This could be done fairly quickly as it only involves the removal of signs and at this time, it is anticipated that this could be done without the need for additional equipment and would have no significant financial impact.

In areas with high demand for on-street, daytime parking (areas near hospitals, universities, business areas, etc.), eliminating overnight sweeping by switching to alternate side of the street parking would require significant changes to the existing parking control signage. As a starting point, staff looked at the area bounded by Quinpool Road, Coburg Road, Robie Street and Oxford Street, which was identified as a potential pilot area for alternate side of the street parking at the January 26, 2017 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee. Based on an assessment of this area, it is estimated that approximately 630 signs would need to be installed to implement alternate side of the street parking, at an estimated cost of \$75,000. Significant time would be required to change existing parking restrictions in order to switch to alternate side of the street parking. At this time, staff anticipate that switching to daytime sweeping operations in the pilot area could be done using existing equipment and the cost related to the change in signage would be the only financial impact.

The pilot area identified above, would represent approximately one fifth (1/5) of the total area that would need to be converted to alternate side of the street parking to allow for the elimination of overnight sweeping in residential areas. Conversion of the entire area to daytime operation would therefore result in significant cost to replace / install new parking signs, potentially in the range of \$375,000, plus the impact

of time and staff resources required to get the signage produced and installed. In addition to the signage costs, if the entire overnight sweeping operation was moved to days, staff has estimated that two additional sweepers may be required in order to maintain service levels of sweeping all streets 3-5 times per year. This would result in additional cost of approximately \$360,000 (\$180,000 per machine). Overall, moving the entire overnight sweeping operation to days could result in additional cost totalling approximately \$735,000.

Staff is currently in the procurement process to obtain two new street sweepers to replace older equipment in the fleet. These new machines operate significantly quieter than existing equipment. The current street sweepers, when in operation, produce sound at a level of approximately 90 decibels (dB), whereas the new sweepers operate at 80 dB. A decrease of 10 on the decibel scale would be considered significantly quieter as this would equate to noise level being reduced by about half. To provide context, 85 dB would be equivalent to the sound of city traffic heard from inside a car.

Implementing daytime sweeping in areas where demand for on-street parking is minimal in addition to making use of the new quieter equipment to maintain overnight operations in high on-street parking demand areas, will provide an opportunity for staff to determine the impact to equipment and staffing resources with no financial impact. This approach will also allow for the evaluation of the new equipment and how much of an improvement it will provide in relation to noise concerns in residential neighbourhoods.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with the recommendations in this report.

### **RISK CONSIDERATION**

There are no significant risks associated with the recommendations in this report.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement was not deemed necessary as this report was a result of resident input submitted through the Councillor to Transportation Standing Committee.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

None identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Transportation Standing Committee could forward a recommendation that the Audit & Finance Standing Committee identify a funding source, and that Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to instruct staff to proceed with piloting alternate side of the street parking to allow for daytime street sweeping in the area identified in this report. Staff does not recommend this alternative because of the cost and resources required to implement a temporary pilot, when there is potential that new equipment could resolve the current concerns with nighttime operations.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> [or other appropriate Committee link] then choose the appropriate [Community Council/Board] and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: Roddy MacIntyre, P.Eng., Senior Traffic Operations Engineer, 902.490.8425

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