

HALIFAX

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Item No. 14.1.1
Halifax Regional Council
September 19, 2017

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

Original Signed by 

SUBMITTED BY:

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

DATE: August 1, 2017

SUBJECT: Pride Rainbow Art Crosswalks

ORIGIN

This is a staff initiated report.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 73(a) of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter. "The Municipality may enter into and carry out agreements... (a) for highway construction, improvement and maintenance and other purposes pursuant to the Public Highways Act."

Section 79(1) of the Halifax Regional Charter provides that "Halifax Regional Council may expend money required by the Municipality for... (aa) streets, culverts, retaining walls, sidewalks, curbs and gutters."

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1) Direct staff to continue to include funding for the Pride Crosswalk Program as part of TPW's operational budget which would include the installation and maintenance of rainbow art at four signalized locations to be determined by the Director of TPW; and
- 2) Authorize the Director of TPW to approve requests for rainbow crosswalk art at additional locations only if sufficient funds are provided from an external source and the design is approved by the Traffic Authority.

BACKGROUND

Halifax Regional Council's 2017-21 Strategic Plan identified equity and inclusion as a priority outcome under the Social Development Council priority area with the statement, "HRM is a diverse and inclusive community that supports everybody".

For more than 30 years Halifax has been celebrating Pride and support for our 2SLGBTQ+ communities. The Halifax Regional Municipality (the municipality) has taken part in the annual Pride Parade for many years to support this community initiative. In 2016, Transportation and Public Works added rainbow art to the crosswalks at four signalized intersections selected in consultation with Halifax Pride to demonstrate HRM's commitment to diversity and inclusion.

This received a very positive response from the community and the initiative was included in the 2017 approved budget to be reimplemented.

The 2017 selected crosswalks included:

- Gottingen and Cornwallis streets (repaint)
- Spring Garden Road and South Park Street (repaint)
- Alderney Drive and Ochterloney Street (repaint)
- Spring Garden at Queen Street (replacing Spring Garden Road and Barrington Street from 2016)

In addition to municipal-funded crosswalks, some were funded by the local Business Improvement Districts or local Councillors:

- Millwood Drive at Sackville Drive
- Cobequid Drive at Sackville Drive
- Leaside Drive at Sackville Drive¹
- Portland Street at King Street
- Bedford Highway at Hammond's Plains Road

DISCUSSION

To date, the rainbow crosswalk art painting initiative has been led by staff without specific direction from Council. For the past two years, the funds to run the program have been included within TPW's operational budget. With growing interest from the community and businesses alike, staff is seeking formal direction from Council as to whether to continue, expand, alter or end the program.

Design

Several cities and municipalities across the country and abroad have adopted some form of rainbow coloured painting at crosswalks and signalized intersections². When the program was implemented in HRM, staff wanted to ensure safety was paramount in the design and chose a rainbow design centered in the intersection with sections of asphalt separating the colours to reduce friction and risk of slipping (see appendix A for design). Since implementation, we have received feedback and requests from the community to consider spanning the entire width of the crosswalk, enlarging the rainbow. In 2017 we received a request from the Pride community to also consider implementing crosswalks with the Transgender flag colours (see appendix B). Such changes were not within budget therefore staff did not alter the design.

¹ Staff will be reinstating

² See: [Atlanta](#), [Vancouver](#), [Toronto](#), [San Francisco](#), [Kelowna](#),

Specifications

The request for quotation (RFQ) was issued with specifications based on feedback from other cities and municipalities to ensure maximum wear and to comply with environmental standards. The RFQ stated that "Contractor can submit options for paint products that can be tinted, suitable for hot tire pick up, UV resistant and have permanent wear. Suggested but not limited to: Epoxy, Urethane or Siloxane paint or approved alternative product with non-slip additive."

Locations

In 2016, locations in downtown Halifax and Dartmouth were chosen based on consideration of pedestrian volumes, input from the Halifax Pride executive and local area councillors. In 2017 the program was expanded to facilitate additional installations requested and funded from the business improvement districts and the Councillor District Capital funding.

Cost

In both 2016 and 2017, staff issued an RFQ for the rainbow art painting to be done by a contractor to ensure that the regular line painting program was not impacted and to reduce costs associated with sourcing specialty paint. The amount included in the 2017/18 budget for the rainbow art painting is \$20,000. In 2016 the cost to HRM was \$21,000. In 2017, the Municipality's cost was \$4,600 for the four intersections included in the HRM program. The year over year variation in price is a result of bids received, not a change in scope of work.

Other considerations

Capital program

Consideration should be given to the placement of the crosswalk art and future capital plans to reduce the risk of investing in crosswalks that could later be torn up due to construction later in the season.

Art other than Rainbows

Though not formally requested, staff have received a few requests from members of the community for urban art in crosswalks. In the past these requests have been denied by the Traffic Authority citing that the use of non-standard markings or graphics would not be supported.

The Traffic Authorities for HRM and Nova Scotia consider safety and consistency of travellers' expectations as critical. Going forward, safety of all commuters will need to be considered in the selection of any future design. If Council were to direct staff to change or alter the design of the existing rainbows, funds would need to be allocated to remove the existing paint to accommodate new art.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

While the current installation and maintenance of rainbow art crosswalks at four (4) signalized intersections can be accommodated within TPW's operating envelope, should Council wish to change the scope of the program, the budget within TPW would need to be adjusted accordingly.

RISK CONSIDERATION

There are limited to no risks associated with this report. However, a change in design could impact commuter safety at intersections or serve as a distraction.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement was not done for this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications as the paint used complies with environmental standards.

ALTERNATIVES

Options

#	Description	Financial Implications
1	Direct staff to discontinue funding the annual installation of four (4) rainbow art crosswalks but continue to facilitate, approve and administer the Rainbow Art crosswalk installations funded by others.	Resulting in a budget item reduction of \$20,000 to the TPW budget. Staff time allocation to consult, coordinate, design and procure would continue to be required and could grow depending upon demand.
2	Direct staff to expand the Rainbow Art crosswalks program to have one location in every District.	The operating budget for TPW would need to be increased to accommodate the increase in installation and maintenance costs. Staff time allocation to consult, coordinate, design and procure would increase significantly.
3	Direct staff to discontinue the Rainbow Art crosswalks program.	Resulting in a budget item reduction of \$20,000 to the TPW budget.
4	Direct staff to alter the design of the Rainbow Art in crosswalks program	TBD determined based on change in scope of work.

ATTACHMENTS

Appendix A: Current Design for Rainbow Art in Crosswalks

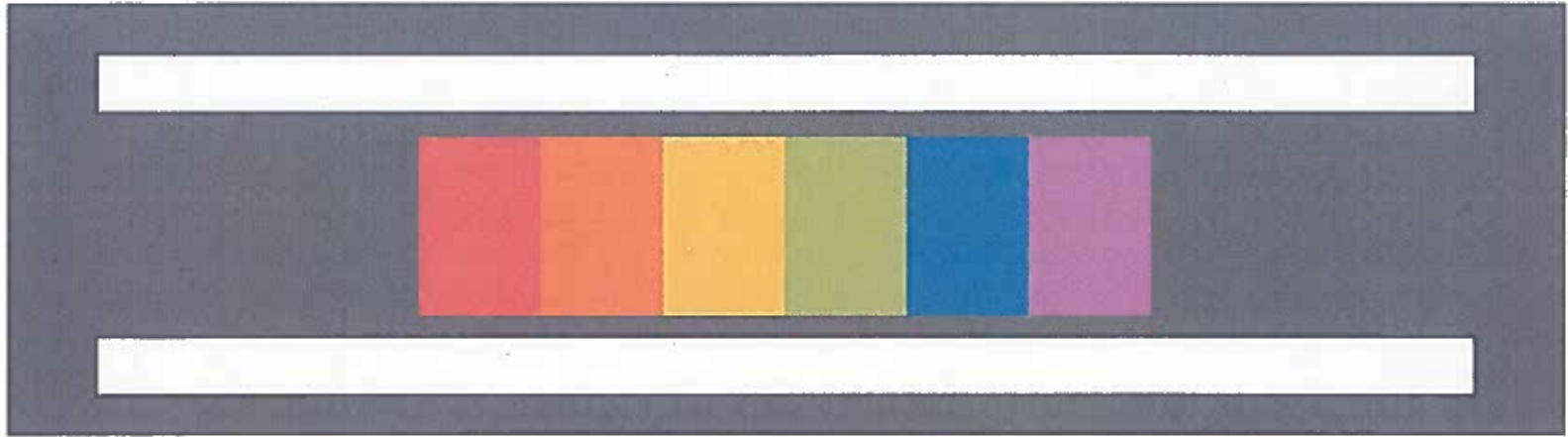
Appendix B: Transgender Flag

Appendix C: Options Used in Other Cities

A copy of this report can be obtained online at halifax.ca or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

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Appendix A: Current Design for Rainbow Art in Crosswalks



White lines are represent existing traffic control

Each colour block is .6 m totaling 3.6m end to end with rainbow centered within existing crosswalk markings

Height of colour blocks will leave .3 m at both top and bottom of black asphalt

Total crosswalk length dependent on intersection

Appendix B: Transgender Flag



Appendix C: Options Used in Other Cities

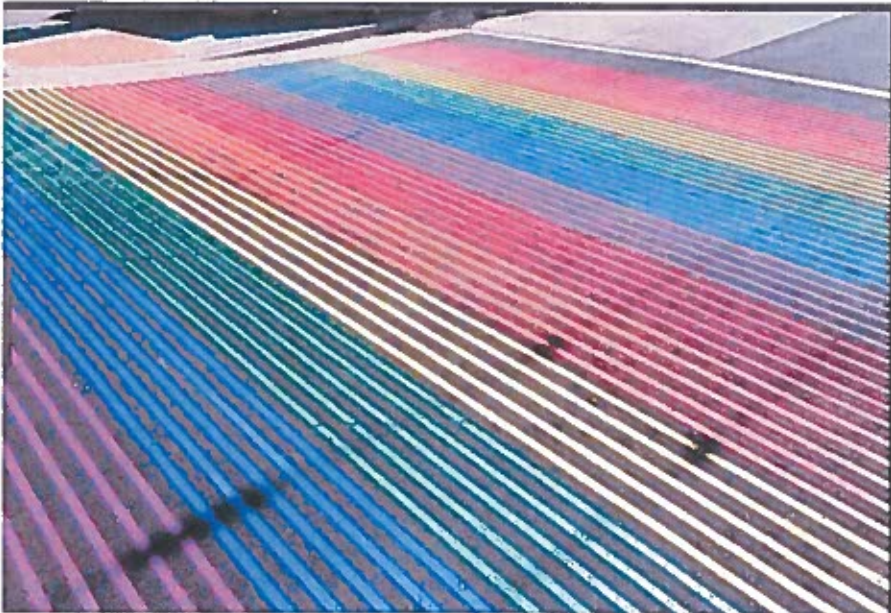
Vancouver



Kelowna



Sacramento



Atlanta

