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**Info Item No. 4**  
**Transportation Standing Committee**  
**December 7, 2017**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** ORIGINAL SIGNED

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

**DATE:** November 9, 2017

**SUBJECT:** City Lights App Technology

**INFORMATION REPORT**

**ORIGIN**

Item 12.3.1 of the July 27, 2017, meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee.

THAT the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the feasibility of integrating the City Lights App technology into HRM's traffic light infrastructure as outlined in the presentation provided to the Accessibility Advisory Committee on June 19, 2017.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Section 8(a) of the Transportation Standing Committee's Terms of Reference states that the Transportation Standing Committee shall promote and encourage the development of integrated programs, policies and initiatives in the municipality that support the Municipality's transportation goals and outcomes.

**BACKGROUND**

The developer of the City Lights App made a presentation at the June 19, 2017, meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee. This free navigation app for blind pedestrians uses Google Maps and identifies all traffic signals in HRM. As the pedestrian approaches a signalized intersection, the app triggers the phone to provide an audible signal or vibrate to warn the pedestrian of the upcoming intersection.

The app developer would like to partner with HRM in the next phase of the app development which would detect the pedestrian walk phase in the preferred direction of travel. The proposal was that HRM fund 50% of the total cost of the app development (approximately \$20,000). Also, the app would require access to HRM's traffic signal network.

## **DISCUSSION**

Access to the traffic signal network would require a Dedicated Short Range Communication (DSRC) system installed locally at each signalized intersection within the cabinet. DSRC is a two-way short-to-medium-range wireless communications system that permits very high data transmission critical in communications-based active safety applications.

This technology is in its infancy and does not currently exist within the HRM traffic signal network. There are several research projects in flight (e.g. the University of Michigan) to test this technology for transportation uses. This technology is not currently included in the approved Capital Budget and future year projections.

Staff is currently engaged in a number of actions to support accessibility such as the Integrated Mobility Plan which will provide a short and medium term framework for accessibility improvements.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement was not conducted as this report provides information in response to questions raised by members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

## **ATTACHMENTS**

None.

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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.

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