

# HALIFAX

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

**Item No. 1**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**June 19, 2018**

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

**SUBMITTED BY:**

Original Signed by 

---

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

Original Signed by 

---

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** May 15, 2018

**SUBJECT:** Pride Rainbow Art Crosswalks

---

## **INFORMATION REPORT**

### **ORIGIN**

On September 19, 2017 Councillor Bill Karsten put forth the report request at Halifax Regional Council:

*“Request a staff report to explore an option for safe paint applications and explore design guidelines for future instances.”*

### **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.”

Section 90(1) of the Motor Vehicle Act provides that “The traffic authority may establish and designate and may maintain, or cause to be maintained, by appropriate devices, marks or lines upon the surface of the highways, crosswalks at intersections where, in his opinion, there is particular danger to pedestrians crossing the highway, and at such other places as he may deem necessary.”

## **BACKGROUND**

In 2015 Transportation and Public Works established a pilot project to install rainbow artwork at specific signalized intersections throughout the municipality. Four intersections received the rainbow artwork and the installs generated positive public response. Due to its success TPW has continued with the Pride Crosswalk initiative annually funding four installs from the operational budget while supporting BIDs and Council with additional installs.

2018 Locations – costs covered by HRM:

- Spring Garden Road and South Park Street (four at this location)
- Spring Garden Road and Queen Street (four at this location)
- Gottingen Street and Cornwallis Street (four at this location)
- Alderney Drive and Ochterloney Street (four at this location)

2018 Locations – costs covered by others:

- Sackville Drive at Millwood Drive (one at this location)
- Sackville Drive at Cobequid Drive (one at this location)
- Sackville Drive at Leadsid Drive (one at this location)
- Portland Estates Blvd W at Portland Estates Blvd (one at this location)
- Cow Bay Road at Shore Road (one at this location)
- Quinpool Road at Harvard Street (one at this location)
- Quinpool Road at Vernon Street (one at this location)
- Portland Street and King Street (four at this location)
- Bedford Hwy and Hammonds Plains Road (four at this location)
- Willett Street and Main Street (four at this location)

## **DISCUSSION**

### **Design and Paint Application**

When the program was implemented, 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 from existing crosswalk markings. The goal was to maintain the integrity of the standard traffic control and to increase friction/reduce risk of slipping (see Appendix A for design).

Since implementation, staff received feedback and requests from the community to consider spanning the entire width of the crosswalk, enlarging the rainbow or using additional colour patterns. Design changes could impact the Municipality's compliance with the Motor Vehicle Act (MVA) and Regulations, and could introduce non-standard variations that could cause confusion.

The 2018 rainbow crosswalk program maintains the existing design while expanding to new locations funded by others. Consideration should be given to surfaces/opportunities other than the pavement crosswalk area to add supporting artwork. There are no MVA constraints on sidewalks, banners, street furniture, etc.

Rainbow crosswalk paint requirements are not defined in national standard guidelines. In 2016, staff researched pavement marking application methods used in various Canadian cities and adopted a variation of those installation specifications. The 2017 rainbow crosswalks were painted with a heavy-duty, epoxy-based, fast drying paint that is surface tolerant. This application is reasonably durable however, 2018 rainbow crosswalk paint requirements include the mandatory addition of an anti-slip additive to increase durability, surface friction and reflectivity as supported by the revaluation of paint application techniques

and industry standards. The use of anti-slip additive (specifically glass beads) aligns with the requirements defined in the 2018 pavement markings tender, ensuring consistency with other roadway and (white) crosswalk paint.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

The 2018/19 approved TPW Operating Budget (R100 6919) includes funds in the amount of up to \$6,256 (net HST included) to re-mark the HRM funded locations.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Community engagement was not done for this report.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

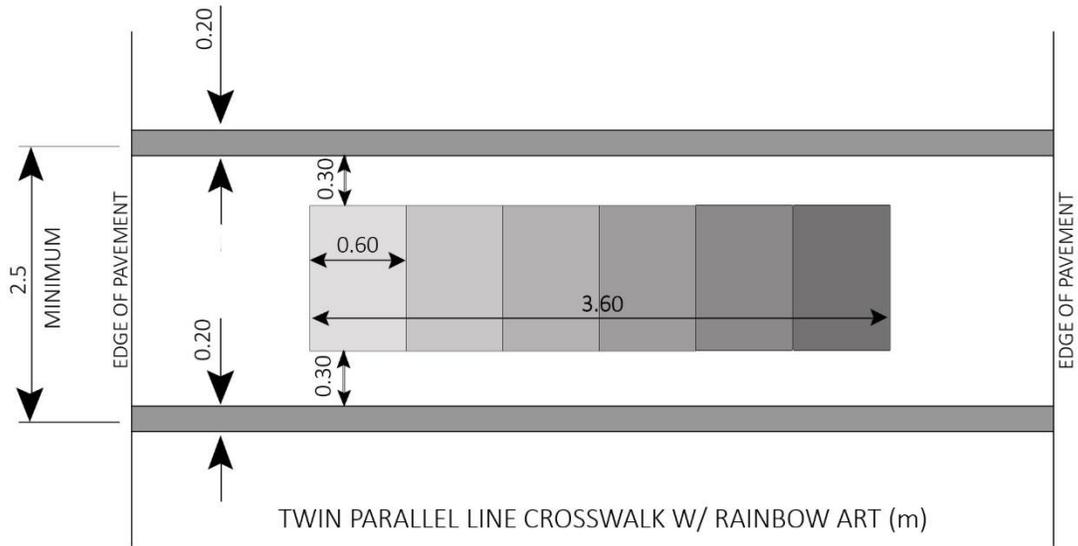
Appendix A: Rainbow Art Crosswalk Design

---

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: Tracey Dickson, A/Coordinator, Transportation and Public Works, 902.490.717.1739

---



Rainbow centered within existing crosswalk markings. Total crosswalk length dependent on intersection.