

Request for Council's Consideration

- Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)** **Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)** **Request from the Floor**

Date of Council Meeting: May 14, 2019

Subject: HRM Support for Open Streets Initiatives

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Regional Council request a staff report on possible options to reduce the cost of street closures for Open Streets type events. Measures to consider should include a possible grant program specifically for street closures or subsidizing the policing costs.

Reason:

The Integrated Mobility Plan's Action 49 commits HRM to "support more frequent and widespread Open Streets Initiatives." The Open Streets program in HRM is largely delivered by community groups and Business Improvement Districts, with some support from HRM through Bike Week. Other cities have developed more extensive and regular street closure programs.

One of the major barriers to expanding Open Streets programs in HRM is the cost of policing, a cost that is the responsibility of organizers. HRM Council previously asked the Province to amend the Motor Vehicle Act to allow Traffic Control Personnel to close streets for special events rather than police officers, but the Province had concerns about the training needed to manage special events and wasn't willing to amend the Motor Vehicle Act or the new Transportation Safety Act.

Given that there appears to be no regulatory avenue to reduce the need for policing and its associated costs at Open Street events, HRM should consider what the municipality can do to provide additional support. Measures to consider should include a possible Open Streets specific grant program or subsidizing policing costs.

Outcome Sought:

Staff Recommendation Report

Councillor Sam Austin

District 5