

# HALIFAX

P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
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## Item No. 3

Halifax Regional Council  
January 28, 2020

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

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed

Kelly Denty, Director of Planning & Development

Original Signed by 

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer

**DATE:** December 5, 2019

**SUBJECT:** **Status of Proposed Provincial Highway 113 Adjacent to Blue Mountain  
Birch Cove Wilderness Reserve**

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### INFORMATION REPORT

#### ORIGIN

On September 17, 2019, the following motion of Regional Council was put and passed:

“THAT Halifax Regional Council request a staff report to examine the status of the proposed Highway 113 adjacent to the Blue Mountain Birch Cove Wilderness Reserve.”

#### LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

##### **Highway, housing and trails agreements**

**73** 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*,

(c) with the Government of the Province with respect to the development, operation or maintenance of trails on land of Her Majesty in right of the Province. 2008, c. 39, s. 73.

#### BACKGROUND

Highway 113 is a proposed provincial 100 series highway that will connect Highway 103 to Highway 102, and bypass congested sections of these highways that access the urban core and Hammonds Plains Road. While construction is not anticipated to happen for many years, the Nova Scotia Department of

Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (NSTIR) began corridor preservation work in 1998. The proposed Highway 113 route runs through the growing community of West Bedford and adjacent to the Blue Mountain - Birch Cove Lakes Wilderness Area, which is designated for protection under Nova Scotia's *Wilderness Areas Protection Act* (Attachment A).

### **DISCUSSION**

The initial 2006 Regional Plan listed Highway 113 as a future potential project. These are projects that were identified to be potentially built beyond the 25-year time frame (2031) of the Plan. The NSTIR Highway 113 Environmental Assessment Report (2009) estimated that Highway 113 would be constructed within 20-years (2029). The current 2014 Regional Plan identifies Highway 113 as a Provincial project with environmental assessment complete, but not yet programmed. The 2017 Integrated Mobility Plan did not anticipate the construction of Highway 113 until beyond 2031.

The most recent NSTIR 5-Year Highway Improvement Plan (2019-20 Edition) does not indicate any planned work on the proposed Highway within the next five-years. Recent discussions with NSTIR staff have indicated that Highway 113 is a long-term project with no work anticipated in the short to medium term future.

### **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

None.

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

None.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment A – Hwy 113/BMBC Wilderness Reserve

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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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# Attachment A- Status of Proposed Provincial Highway 113

