



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

**DECLASSIFIED**

FOIPOP Review Original Signed

Approved to Release Original Signed

Date: November 9, 2021

**Item No. 17.4**

<b>Request for Council's Consideration</b>		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<p><b>Date of Council Meeting: November 9, 2021</b></p> <p><b>Subject: IN CAMERA – Intergovernmental Relations - HRM Participation in Provincial Planning Panels</b></p>		
<p><b>Motion for Council to Consider:</b></p> <p>That Halifax Regional Council directs the Mayor to formally write the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and the Premier to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>(1) Express HRM's objection to the Province's interference in HRM's planning jurisdiction.</li> <li>(2) State HRM's participation in the new transportation and planning panels is not an endorsement of this interference.</li> <li>(3) Request the panels meetings be open to the public to attend</li> </ol> <p>Regional Council further request the CAO provide a report to Council to outline what options Council might have should the panel meetings not be open to the public</p> <p><b>Reason:</b> The Halifax Regional Municipality Charter requires planning decisions to follow "a consultative process to ensure the right of the public to have access to information and to participate in the formulation of planning strategies and by-laws, including the right to be notified and heard before decisions are made." HRM meets this requirement through (1) notification by mail, newspaper and signage, (2) public information meetings, (3) online engagement, and (4) public hearings where staff's recommendation is presented, and the applicant and public can address Council before Council makes a decision.</p> <p>Under the legislation introduced on November 28, the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing has the ability to create special planning areas and amend HRM's existing plans on advice of the Planning Taskforce. The Bill doesn't require the Taskforce to meet in public, and the Minister has indicated publicly that it won't. Replacing the municipality's publicly open planning process with a private one is not something that HRM should readily accept and Council should consider its options.</p> <p><b>Outcome Sought:</b></p> <p>Change in Provincial Taskforce and report on HRM's possible options</p>		
<p><i>Councillor Sam Austin</i></p>	<p><i>District 5</i></p>	