

Hammonds Plains Traffic Congestion

North West Community Council Meeting
Glen Arbour Traffic Committee Update
January 13, 2025

Current Experience

Traffic congestion has been steadily increasing over the past number of years and is expected to get worse

We have witnessed the following situations:

- Constant waves of road / lane closures
- Same stretches of road in the Hammonds Plains and surrounding area being torn up repeatedly within months
- Simultaneous lane reductions on the Hammonds Plains Road (leaving Glen Arbour) in both directions
- Traffic backed up for miles in both directions on the Hammonds Plains Road now becoming the norm
- Unsafe driving practices by commuters trying to navigate the congestion
- New construction (residential and commercial) happening all throughout the area

We believe that the situation has escalated to the point where something must be done

- Commute times have more than doubled
- Relatives and friends are avoiding the area at all costs
- Businesses are losing revenue
- Property values in danger of being negatively impacted
- Significant safety threats now exist for residents, businesses and first responders

Validation

We wanted to ensure that this issue was in fact a top priority for the region

In June of 2024 we undertook the following activities:

- Surveyed all Glen Arbour residents
- Contacted more than 50 Businesses in the area
- Contacted 9 other Homeowner Associations in the area

What we found supported our position that this is much more than an inconvenience

- We had a huge response from the residents of Glen Arbour - all 100% supportive
- Unanimous support among businesses in the area
- Concurrence among other Homeowner Associations that this is a major priority

Raising Awareness – Our Approach

We met with sitting Municipal and Provincial authorities in the area

We spoke to the Nova Scotia Deputy Minister of Priorities and Planning

We held face to face conversations with residents of Glen Arbour

We presented our case to the Halifax North West Community Council – September 2024

We attended local Councillor “meet and greet” sessions prior to the Municipal election

We attended the Mayoral “meet and greet” sessions prior to the election

We sent out questionnaires to all Municipal Council candidates in Districts 1,13,14,15 and 16

We sent out questionnaires to all Mayoral candidates

We held face to face meetings with the top 3 Mayoral candidates

We met with Provincial Candidates in the area prior to the election

Outcomes To Date

Huge interest from residents (170+ responses to survey) with lots of ideas, support and encouragement

Enthusiastic support from Municipal Councillor candidates

Enthusiastic support from Mayoral candidates

Enthusiastic support from Provincial candidates

We have been made aware that a **Joint Regional Transportation Agency** (Provincial and Municipal) has been charged with improving traffic issues across the region including Glen Arbour

We have been made aware that a **Municipal Functional Plan** was requested by Council (and approved) to help resolve traffic issues specifically in the Hammonds Plains area

We have been made aware of a Focus Report (March 2006) regarding a proposed Highway 113 Bypass

The Premier's office recently announced several measures for traffic improvements including the Hammonds Plains area

Next Steps

We would like to see a long term plan that considers the following:

- Short term initiatives (working smarter, coordinating activities, new policies)
- Medium term initiatives (road widening, traffic circles, traffic lights)
- Long term initiatives (bypass options, twinning)

We believe that working with the Province *and* the Municipality is key

Questions:

- How do we come up with a plan considering the Regional Functional plan, the Premier's announcement and the Focus Report on the potential 113 bypass?
- Who has ultimate accountability – Joint Regional Planning Committee, Municipal Planners, Provincial Planners?
- How can the Glen Arbour HomeOwners Association help

We are organized, committed and *“ready, willing and able”* to help!