



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

Item No. 07
Halifax Regional Council
June 21, 2016

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed by Director

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

DATE: May 24, 2016

SUBJECT: Project Update: Improving Access to the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

At the September 22, 2015 meeting of Regional Council the following motion was passed: THAT Halifax Regional Council direct staff to continue planning bridge bikeway access improvements on both sides of the bridge, pursue funding partnerships and determine requirements for any land use agreements. It is recommended that on the Dartmouth side of the bridge, that staff continue to develop two options: 1. an access directly from the bikeway to Lyle and Dickson Streets which would connect with proposed bicycle routes into downtown Dartmouth and north end Dartmouth; and, 2. enhancements at the Wyse Road and the Nantucket intersection to facilitate improved access from the bridge bikeway to the street network and to a planned bicycle route through the Dartmouth Common to communities east of the bridge. On the Halifax side, it is recommended that staff continue to develop a “flyover ramp” option that would also incorporate enhancements to the intersection of Gottingen and North Streets to facilitate access to the street network and origins and destinations in the north (e.g. north end of the peninsula), west (e.g. western mainland and peninsula west end) and south (e.g. commons, hospitals and universities); and THAT an interim information report be provided to Halifax Regional Council in Spring 2016 regarding progress on activities outlined in the staff report dated August 4, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, clause 79 (1) (aa): “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for (aa) streets, culverts, retaining walls, sidewalks, curbs and gutters;”

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, subsection 61 (1): “The Municipality may acquire and own property granted or conveyed to the Municipality either absolutely or in trust for a public or charitable purpose.”

Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, section 79 (1): “The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for: (ah) playgrounds, trails...bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities;”

BACKGROUND

On September 22 2015, Halifax Regional Council approved the above motion that directed staff to continue planning how to improve access to the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway. Since that time, an engineering consulting firm has started the planning work and a project advisory committee has been formed.

DISCUSSION

Planning for the project is underway. The consulting firm Parsons has been engaged to lead the planning process. They are working with a steering committee of representatives from HRM and Halifax Harbour Bridges.

On June 2 and 3, 2016, the consulting team was scheduled to meet with property owners, various officials and host an informal information session for members of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

The full planning process is expected to be complete by late fall 2016 and will include the following elements:

- 1) Engagement with internal stakeholders such as Traffic Management, Halifax Transit and Corporate Facility Design and Construction as well as key stakeholders such as Halifax Harbour Bridges and the Department of National Defense;
- 2) Formal public and external stakeholder engagement which is currently scheduled for fall 2016;
- 3) Advice on the development of bicycle routes to which improved bridge bikeway access points will connect;
- 4) Consideration of how improved bicycling connections would relate to transit and motor vehicle movements on either side of the bridge; and,
- 5) Development of preliminary designs for the selected options as well as preliminary cost estimates.

Staff will submit a report to Council following the preliminary planning exercise in early 2017 with the results of the planning process and recommendations for Council to consider on next steps. The envisioned next steps on which Council direction will be sought include which options to retain for detailed design, budget and funding options, and consideration of an implementation timeframe.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The planning work for the MacDonald Bridge Bikeway is one of the four bikeway planning projects totalling \$200,000 (Design/Public Engagement of Regional Centre Bikeways), which are included in the Approved 2015/16 Project Budget from Project Account No. CTU00420 – Active Transportation – Strategic Projects. A full detailed report is expected to be submitted in late fall as outlined in the discussion section.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

None

ATTACHMENTS

None

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by: David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor, 902.490.1665

Report Approved by: Dave Hubley, P.Eng., Manager, Project Planning and Design, 902.490.4845
