

MARCH 11, 2021

MUNICIPAL CLERK

**From:**  
**To:** [Lovasi-Wood, Andrea; Office, Clerks](#)  
**Cc:**  
**Subject:** [External Email] Request to present to SC march 25 meeting (of some urgent impo  
**Date:** Thursday, March 11, 2021 12:50:47 PM

*[This email has been received from an external person or system]*

Clerks:

We request the opportunity to present to the March 25, 2021 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee. Here is the information you request on the [Presentations halifax.ca website](#).

**Subject:** Equitable provision and maintenance of traffic control devices for blind and partially sighted persons.

**Outcomes:** We ask that Transportation Standing Committee request the CAO to have staff:

1. Accelerate their efforts to understand the cause of the consistently inconsistent operation of Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS);
2. Use this understanding to repair the APS devices so that they are reliable 100% (ideally) of the time they are used;
3. Adopt an inspection schedule appropriate to the frequency of occurrence of APS defective operation;
4. Update the Complete Street Guidelines to include a Standard Detail drawing specifying the horizontal and vertical location of APS devices at intersections; and,
5. Investigate methods to improve crosswalk marking maintenance to enhance their visibility to partially sighted persons throughout the year.

We appreciate your consideration of our request at your February meeting to change the use of the APS buttons from a push and hold to a simple push. This is progress.

As you may know, we have been corresponding and meeting regularly with your Transportation and Public Works (TPW) staff for about a year to ensure that APS devices operate as they are intended to operate. We appreciate staff's time on this matter and have noticed and appreciate increased attention to the matter recently. We'd welcome TPW staff to attend the meeting with us and provide information from their perspective on this issue to the Committee.

We acknowledge that Traffic Signal Maintenance staff have numerous responsibilities, including APS maintenance. However, we believe additional urgency needs to be brought to understanding the root cause of the APS device defects so that they operate at nearly 100% reliability and support safe mobility options for us.

Our requested outcomes appear to be consistent with HRM's Accessibility Strategic Priorities and its Safe & Accessible Integrated Mobility Network priority outcomes.

Sincerely,

Milena Khazanavicius and Bernard Bessette

**Municipal Clerks Office**

**Date Distributed:** March 19, 2021

TSC, STAFF, Solicitor

**Other:**