



# HRM Priorities

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Presentation to NDP Caucus Members  
September 2009

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# Introduction

- First meeting with new caucus since election
    - Meetings held with Premier and individual Ministers over the summer
  - HRM meets with all party caucuses prior to Legislature sittings to provide update on issues and discuss collaborative efforts
  - Look forward to new opportunities in the coming months
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# Council Focus Areas

- In January Council adopted five new Focus Areas to guide priorities for the next four years:
    - Infrastructure
    - Transportation
    - Public Safety
    - Community Planning
    - Governance and Communications
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# Common Priorities

HRM's priorities are guided by CFAs

Need for increased alignment of priorities  
between all levels of government

Here to discuss most important issues facing  
HRM in the coming months

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# Government Relations Priorities

- Infrastructure
  - Legislative Amendments
  - Pension Legislation Review
  - Capital Transportation Authority
  - Transit
  - Hub Cities
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# Infrastructure – Federal Economic Stimulus

*Infrastructure is top intergovernmental priority*

Infrastructure Stimulus Fund:

Project announcement on September 13

Concerns with funding program administration

Status of Four-Pad Arena

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## Infrastructure – Building Canada Fund

- HRM still has no BCF agreement, two years after fund was announced
  - Council approved priority projects for BCF funds in April 2009:
    - Central Library
    - Woodside Ferry
  - Need to know how much money HRM might receive and when it will flow
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# Legislative Amendments

- HRM has close to 40 requests for legislative amendments outstanding
  - New Charter has helped to some extent but still many issues for which we need amendments
  - Top priorities are:
    - Heritage Property Act (Bill 182)
    - Public Utilities Act
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# Pension Legislation Review

- Pension Review Panel recommendations raise significant concerns for HRM and HRM Pension Committee
  - Two major issues:
    - Solvency Valuation Funding Requirement
    - Pension Funding Rules
  - Public consultations – opportunity to increase awareness of legislators on all issues involved
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# Capital Transportation Authority (CTA)

- - Multi-stakeholder body to align long-term strategic transportation issues
  - Build on existing SJRTPC
  - Original proposal went before Legislature in October 2004 – revisit concept
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# Transit

- Increased funding for public transit
  - NS has lowest investment in public transit in Canada
  - New federal funding focuses on green initiatives and transportation
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# Mayor's Forum on the Economy- Hub Cities

- Keynote Glen Hodgson, Conference Board on importance of hub cities and Halifax as economic hub of N.S. and Atlantic Canada
  - Three imperatives for achieving successful cities:
    - Make major cities a national priority
    - Strengthen the cornerstones of competitive cities through:
      - Infrastructure
      - Sustainability – strengthen industrial ecology
      - Governance
    - Give major cities the power and fiscal resources they need for success
  - **Investment in hub cities results in greater benefits to entire region than “one size fits all” approach**
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# Hub City – Economic Strategy

- Province, ACOA were participants in development of HRM's Economic Strategy:
    - Halifax Chamber of Commerce tracks performance of Strategy implementation through an Annual Scorecard
    - For 3 straight years Strategy has received a “red light” score for levels of public investment in HRM against benchmark Canadian cities of similar size, structure
    - Areas directly impacted by HRM received “green light” score
  - *Focusing on common goals will achieve overall improvement*
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# Discussion

Questions and Comments

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