



Councillor's Office

Halifax Regional Municipality
Post Office Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3A5 Canada

Tel: (902) 490-4050
Fax: (902) 490-4122
www.halifax.ca

August 11, 2009

Dear Residents:

SUBJECT: Chester Spur Line Abandonment Update: Previous Rail Line from Joseph Howe Drive to Lakeside

You may recall that in early 2006, Canadian National (CN) Railway indicated that they intended to discontinue the operation of the Chester Spur rail line that ran from Joseph Howe Drive to Lakeside. And, that in November, 2007, CN notified all three levels of government that the line was for sale. Both the federal and provincial governments advised CN that they didn't wish to purchase the line and as per protocol it was then offered to HRM. To ascertain public opinion, HRM held two community consultation meetings and received many written submissions and a petition.

We're pleased to advise our residents that after lengthy negotiation, Halifax Regional Council approved an agreement to purchase the abandoned Chester Rail Spur corridor from CN on Tuesday, August 11. We anticipate that the transaction will be completed by the end of September. The lands being purchased are detailed on the reverse.

Once the purchase is finalized, we will begin working with the community to determine how to use this corridor as an Active Transportation Trail that will connect existing regional trails to future planned ones. An Active Transportation Trail is one that supports non-motorized travel only.

There are still a number of issues to be resolved related to how the trail is built, how it is maintained, and how it is policed. Decisions on things like trail surface, lighting, fencing, safety, etc, must still be discussed and resolved. It is our intention to establish a citizen's committee through the Chebucto Community Council to deal with these important issues. This committee will seek ongoing input from the community.

There may be excess parcels of land offered for sale to abutting property owners. To date the exact parcels and area has not been decided but should parcels become surplus the adjacent property owners will be notified.

At a future date a request for expressions of interest from members of the public will be listed on the HRM website: www.halifax.ca and individual Councillor websites: www.lindamosher.ca and www.halifax.ca/district15

Thank you for taking the time to provide input into this important municipal active transportation corridor.

Sincerely,

Russell Walker, Councillor
District 15 - Fairview

Linda Mosher, Councillor
District 17 - Purcell's Cove - Armdale

cc David McCusker, Manager, Transportation Planning