

Halifax West Public Forum February 3/2005

130 Residents

(Councillors Fougere, Meade, Wile, Mosher and Walker in Attendance)

Questions & Comments:

- I live in White's Lake, and I see it is labelled as a Local Centre on your map. What would that mean for my community?
- Is this plan contemplating tax breaks for heritage buildings, or policy to deal with this issue in St. Margaret's Bay, and if so, what?
- How can active transportation be encouraged in this plan?
- I notice you have a proposed express bus from Exit 5 on Highway 103 that runs through Hubley. When will we see this implemented? We need this service due to rapidly growing population in the Tantallon area.
- Where does HRM think they are going to come up with the money to put services in these Rural Commuter Centres, Local Centres and District Centres, when you have communities competing against each other and it will cost hundreds of millions of dollars? I would like to know where it is going to come from?
- What if the community doesn't want to grow or have these services in their area?
- Where does the Mulgrave Plateau initiative lie today and how will it be integrated into the Regional Plan?
- How do we put teeth in the HRM Active Transportation Plan?
- How do we get Regional Council to approve development that Regional Planning recommends through the Regional Plan?
- I feel like it is not much of an initiative to paint bicycles on pavement and call it a bike lane, (e.g.) Lacewood. It was great what they did on Brunswick Street to create a bicycle lane. Is it true they are turning Brunswick Street back into a 4-lane street? Do you bicycle in the city Roxane?
- I live in White's Lake and I work in Dartmouth. We don't have a great plan to get people around this city. If you want roads to get people around you can't slow them down with traffic lights at every intersection. We need a ring road around this city. Ferries and the BRT are

great, but the car isn't going away in the near future. Getting on and off the peninsula is getting crazy. Are you going to do anything about this?

- Roundabouts replace 4-way stops and they get people around cities much more efficiently. Putting lights on a road just isn't going to cut it.
- Can we trust this Regional Plan? What is going to make the water and sewer projects happen in this plan when they haven't happened in the past? Tell me why I should trust you now?
- I have a problem with you guys drawing lines on a map, trying to decide who will be the rich and who will be poor.
- With this Regional Plan, housing density will be increased in the serviced areas, and I see that as apartment buildings in the suburbs, but residents of these areas don't like change. What will you do outside the service boundary? Will you go back to a moratorium approach for growth? And what type of development will we see in the suburbs? High density?
- I think your map on wilderness corridors is a great step in preserving our natural areas. How will HRM continue to protect the wilderness corridors in the future?
- Our area plans and district plans were a lot of work and there was a lot of consultation done in the past to get these right. These plans represent the visions of the areas. What will happen to these important plans with the implementation of the Regional Plan?
- Are Park & Ride facilities (i.e. BRT parking lot) safe to leave your cars when you go to work? Will there be security patrolling these lots?
- We have tried to keep our areas as natural as possible, without the encroachment of unsightly development. What do we have to do to keep development compatible with the area residents live in, with respect to height and design? I would like to see some regulations on this issue.
- Is there anything in the Regional Plan to divert the truck traffic from the general traffic that carries the containers from the ports? The truck traffic is awful on the peninsula, carrying these containers around!
- I can't understand why they don't widen the roads to accommodate growth in this plan. North-west Arm Drive should have been widened years ago. The rotary is horrendous. People aren't going to take the fast ferry from Purcell's Cove, they want the convenience of their cars downtown. I would like to hear a solution on how we can get more cars onto the peninsula. The only solution is a North-west Arm Bridge.
- Why are piped services so important? I lived on it for years before I moved out of the serviced area and I prefer my own un-serviced water and septic actually. The water quality is much better.

- How can this plan accommodate the needs of commuters (wanting wider streets) as well as pedestrians (requiring safety) at the same time? Lacewood is a good example where it is not safe for children ever since it was widened. Is the Halifax Regional School Board part of this plan as far as growth centres and where schools will be built?
- Are there any short-term solutions to provide bus service to get these students to school safely?
- Halifax has clearly outgrown its trunk roads. Coming from larger metropolitan areas, the one major difference I see with respect to transportation is the lack of grade separation. Underpasses may help get people on and off the peninsula. Is this part of the Regional Plan?
- Are there plans for indoor facilities that are accessible to the public year round (not just for the 6 winter months), mainly for those who walk to work 12 months of the year? (e.g. recreation facilities). These facilities may lead to economic spin-offs such as a stadium and a CFL team in Halifax.
- Are you going to put regulations in place to protect people in this municipality from tainted well water? You're here tonight talking about the future, but what about the people who live with these wells today?
- How will HRM support a new ferry terminal in Purcell's Cove when the area hasn't been identified as a growth centre?
- What happened to the idea of making a grade separation in the rail cut for bus only lanes or other modes of transportation to get downtown?

Notes from Tables

Settlement & Transportation

- We need an integrated master plan for walking/biking trails within HRM, especially in the urban/suburban core
- Connect neighbourhoods
- Connect people with nature
- Provide for an active transportation network
- Similar to Beechville Estates, no way to develop a community (referring to picture of Beechville townhouses)

Open Space

- From December - April (May at times). The ability to engage in outdoor activities is limited. To promote public accessibility to exercise I believe indoor facilities should be constructed in Mainland Commons and where new high school on the Commons. A facility such as a track & field configuration that can serve walking awareness and sport teams for simple exercise and off season training. This would create facilities that can attract track & field events thus adding to people coming to the area, provide a proper environment for all types of sports teams to cross train , promote healthier living to address the unhealthiest place in Canada. We need to go beyond advising healthier lifestyles. We need proper facilities to do so. Not everyone can afford Nubody's! This community needs the tools to change for the long term. Please consider this not only for athletes but for regular people who can't or are afraid to walk on our treacherous sidewalks. Furthermore to attract a CFL team would only be possible if such facilities are provided.

Harbour

- How many cities have the opportunity for round-the-harbour/basin trails? Let's not blow it!
- Public access to waterfront very important!!
- Make sure people can see the harbour
- Ferries/buses/commuter rail - all of the above!
- LRT please
- Protect and maintain natural areas
- Re-locate Halterm, not only the trucks!!
- More green space!
- More small-craft launch sites!