

# Councillor Kathryn Morse

HALIFAX – BEDFORD BASIN  
WEST

DISTRICT 10  
NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2025



## MAJOR UPGRADE FOR DUTCH VILLAGE RD



Dutch Village Road is halfway through a \$10 million redevelopment aimed at improving accessibility and safety for all users. This project is necessary to maintain and improve stormwater pipes, to install a much-needed sidewalk on the west side, and to correct outdated (and illegal) perpendicular parking spots. Once the existing parking spots have been converted to parallel parking spots, drivers will no longer have to back out into oncoming traffic, reducing the hazards for everyone using the street.

Other changes include: pedestrian-friendly “bump outs” at Rufus, Frederick and Deal; new crosswalks and RRFBs (flashing lights) at Frederick and Sunnybrae; removal of the concrete island on Dutch Village at Sunnybrae; installation of concrete pads at bus stops; and street lighting upgrades for better visibility. Separated bike lanes will also be added. The new design will have the same lane configuration as before, however at the Shoppers Drug Mart end of Dutch Village Road there will be one lane to enter and three to exit, instead of two in and two out.

Once construction is completed on the west side of Dutch Village Road, crews will start working on the east side. One way traffic will move to the opposite side of the street and will switch direction, likely in late August. Dutch Village Road is a very old street that needed a great deal of work. The project is progressing well and residents’ continued cooperation is appreciated. The target date to have Dutch Village Road rebuilt, repaved, and fully reopened is mid- December.

In the meantime, detours and updates are available on Bluesky, HRM’s website and my Facebook post.

## CONTACT ME

You can reach me at 902.497.7278 or by email at [kathryn.morse@halifax.ca](mailto:kathryn.morse@halifax.ca)  
Mailing Address: PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

## CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, you can also contact my Constituency Coordinator, Kate Richardson, by email at [richark@halifax.ca](mailto:richark@halifax.ca) or by calling 902.490.4090.

## OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050

Police, Fire & Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): 902.490.5020

Fire (non-emergency): 902.490.5530

Halifax Water: 902.420.9287

Halifax Water Emergency: 902.490.6940

NS Power Outage Line: 877.428.6004

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team: 888.4298167

## 311 DETAILS

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit [halifax.ca/311](https://www.halifax.ca/311) to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year’s Day.

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(<https://www.facebook.com/MorseDistrict10/>)  
or email  
[richark@halifax.ca](mailto:richark@halifax.ca) to subscribe to my monthly  
newsletter.***



## PROPOSED CHANGES ON FLAMINGO DRIVE

I have been working with HRM traffic safety team on a solution to a long-standing problem at the intersection of Flamingo and Meadowlark. Drivers often come to a rolling stop at this intersection or don't stop at all. Parents are especially concerned because the 3-way stop is located next to DJ Butler Park and playground.

The solution involves three measures that would happen at the same time. The first measure would be to remove the two stop signs on Flamingo Drive while maintaining the stop sign on Meadowlark. The second measure would be for HRM to install a pedestrian-activated RRFB (Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon) at the crosswalk on Flamingo. The third measure would be for HRM to install speed cushions which are a new traffic calming measure being used in HRM (as on Willett Street). Speed cushions are designed to slow cars but not fire trucks.

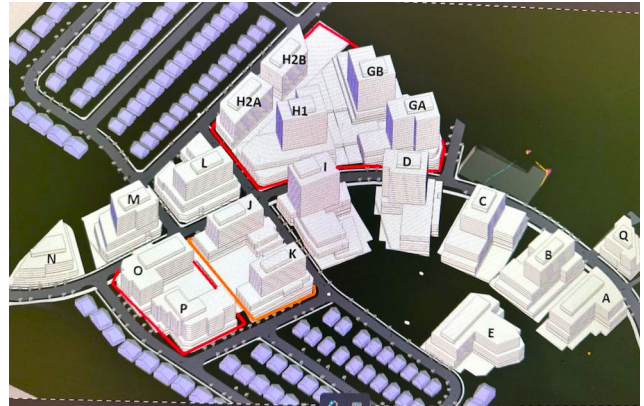
A bit of history: the all-way stop signs at Flamingo and Meadowlark were originally installed under an old HRM policy aimed at reducing shortcutting through residential areas. This approach is no longer used because stop signs that aren't warranted by traffic volumes or traffic conditions are proven to have low driver compliance which leads to other safety concerns.

Data collected by HRM confirmed this all-way stop is unwarranted with many drivers on Flamingo Drive not stopping properly. Maintaining the all-way stops is providing little benefit and it limits HRM's ability to install other safety measures. For example, Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacons (RRFBs) are not permitted to be used at signalized or stop-controlled crosswalks like those at Meadowlark and Flamingo.

If approved in next year's budget, the changes on Flamingo could be implemented in 2026.



## SETON RIDGE UPDATE



The Lacewood end of Seton Road is taking shape as construction continues on this access road for the Seton Ridge development. Developer Southwest plans to have this new section of Seton Road paved by the end of 2025. Once paved, Seton Road will be used mainly by construction vehicles for the next few years. It will also ensure the Sisters of Charity have a second entrance and exit during construction.

Meanwhile, blasting continues for roads and underground utilities. Blasting will also be done for underground parking garages for 13 residential/commercial buildings ranging from 6-16 storeys. Blasting for the underground garages will continue until late 2026. Construction is expected to start in 2027. The larger buildings will be surrounded by 175 single family homes and townhouses, for a total count of about 2400 housing units. The entire project is expected to take 10 years to complete.

## CHARGE IT AT CANADA GAMES CENTRE

HRM's first public EV fast charger is available at the Canada Games Centre, located in the south west corner of the parking lot. More fast chargers are planned in public places across HRM to reduce "range anxiety" (fear of running out of battery power) and to encourage more residents to make the switch to electric vehicles. The cost to HRM of installing the chargers will be recovered in charging fees.

There are also four Level 2 chargers at Canada Games Centre. They've been in operation since December. The slower Level 2 chargers are intended to provide opportunities for "top ups" rather than full charges. The fee for the fast charger is \$45/hr and the fee for the Level 2 chargers is \$1.80/hr. Drivers can pay with Visa, Mastercard or the SWTCH app.



## VETO POWERS FOR MAYOR?

As you may have heard, the provincial government is considering bringing in Strong Mayor powers in HRM, possibly this fall. At the July 10 meeting, Regional Council voted in favour of a motion requesting consultation from the Province of Nova Scotia if it considers introducing Strong Mayor powers in Halifax or other municipalities, and a staff report on how Strong Mayor powers have been implemented in other Canadian jurisdictions.

Strong mayor powers vary depending on provincial legislation but could include authority over hiring senior staff, preparing budgets, or vetoing council decisions. How such powers would apply in Nova Scotia would be determined by the Province.

I hope District 10 residents will stay informed about this important issue.

## NEW HRM GRANT FOR BASEMENT & BACKYARD SUITES

Through funding from the federal government's Housing Accelerator Fund, HRM has set up a new grant program to help home owners build basement suites, backyard suites and duplex conversions. The Second Unit Incentive Program offers financial grants of up to \$12,000 to help offset costs associated with building secondary units. Eligible residents can receive grants to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater. HRM is accepting applications until June 1, 2026, or until funding is fully allocated. More information and application details are available on HRM's website.

## SOLAR POWERED ELECTRIC BUSES

HRM's battery-powered electric buses are now in use. The electric buses are Canadian-made and powered by a huge array of solar panels on the roof of the Ragged Lake Transit Centre, near Bayers Lake. With 60 electric buses, HRM has the largest electric fleet in Atlantic Canada.

The previous Regional Council got the project rolling in 2021 and it was funded by all three levels of government.

Member of Parliament for Halifax Shannon Miedema helped advance the electric bus project as former director of HRM's climate action team, a position she held before she became MP. The new electric buses can carry the same number of passengers as HRM's regular diesel buses, but they are better because they provide a cleaner and quieter ride.

## KEARNEY LAKE SPECIAL PLANNING AREA UPDATE

The Larry Uteck/Kearney Lake area continues to grow. There are large housing developments planned for the former quarry site at 209 Kearney Lake Road. This development (Case 24602) will have 5-6 multiunits ranging in height from 6-12 storeys for a total of 642 units. Closer to the highway at 189 Kearney Lake Road, there are plans for a 9 storey residential building with 105 units as well as five single family houses. Neighbours will receive an HRM mailout with details over the summer.

Both 189 and 209 Kearney Lake Road are part of the Bedford West 10 Special Planning Area, designated by the Houston government. When completed this Special Planning Area is expected to have 1,300 units of housing, mostly apartments. There are 16 Special Planning Areas in HRM like the one at Kearney Lake. Developments in Special Planning Areas will be approved by the provincial Minister of Housing not HRM Council. By order of the provincial government, HRM Regional Council is not permitted to hold public hearings at City Hall or approve developments in Special Planning Areas.

## ONE MILLION HALIGONIANS

In June, Regional Council passed an updated Regional Plan and blueprint for development that will guide growth in HRM in the years ahead. The update was needed because the previous 2014 plan did not anticipate the level of growth HRM is now seeing. If recent rates of growth of 2-4% continue, HRM could have a population of one million residents by 2050. This level of growth requires new thinking, new infrastructure and new ways of doing things. The challenge is to grow in ways that are financially and environmentally sustainable, respectful of the heritage and diversity of our city, and improve the quality of life for residents.

To prepare for a much higher potential population, Regional Council and HRM staff are working on multiple plans at once: for housing, for transit, for roads and infrastructure, and for parks and environmental protection. One of the longer-term goals is to have higher density housing built along transit corridors that provide rapid and frequent bus service. This will make transit a more attractive option, reduce congestion on our roads, and reduce housing and transportation costs for residents. Through HRM's Integrated Mobility Plan, Council is working to give residents many options to get around the city affordably, conveniently, and safely: whether it's by bus, by ferry, by bike and e-bike, by foot or by car.





## HELPING NEWCOMERS

The volunteer-run Nova Horizons centre opened last winter at 380 Bedford Highway (just past Kearney Lake Road). From their lovingly-converted garage, the Nova Scotia Resettlement Society offers free furniture and household items to newcomer families displaced by war or natural disasters. The Society is supporting families from Ukraine, Sudan, Afghanistan, Syria, Turkey, Morocco, Haiti, Palestine, Israel. Many newcomers arrive here with just one bag of belongings.

If you'd like to help, the Society is requesting donations of gently-used furniture along with basic items such as dishes, pots and pans, cooking utensils and small kitchen appliances in good condition. Please call 902-890-1009 to donate or arrange furniture pick-up. If you'd like to volunteer please email [nsrshalifax@gmail.com](mailto:nsrshalifax@gmail.com).

## BLUESKY FROM NOW ON

HRM has launched six accounts on Bluesky, a social media platform where users can share short posts containing text, images and videos. The municipality ended the use of X (formerly Twitter) in mid-July, replacing it with Bluesky. One benefit of the change is anyone with internet access can view content on Bluesky and an account is not required. Regional Council requested this change, which was made considering public feedback, trends in other jurisdictions and input from partner organizations.

The following municipal accounts are now active on Bluesky:

**Main account:** [@hfxgov.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfxgov.bsky.social)  
**Halifax Transit:** [@hfxtransit.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfxtransit.bsky.social)  
**Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency:** [@hfx-fire.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfx-fire.bsky.social)  
**Halifax Events:** [@hfxevents.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfxevents.bsky.social)  
**Halifax Parks & Recreation:** [@hfxrec.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfxrec.bsky.social)  
**Halifax Planning & Development:** [@hfxplanning.bsky.social](https://bsky.app/profile/hfxplanning.bsky.social)



### Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.

## DISTRICT 10 VOLUNTEER AWARD WINNERS



Congratulations to Peter Bonner, Curtis Hunter and Harold Smith, this year's HRM Volunteer Award winners for District 10. Peter is a long-time volunteer with Knights of Columbus; Curtis is a dedicated volunteer at Mission Mart; and Harold has coordinated the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank in Fairview for more than 30 years.

Peter, Curtis and Harold (left to right in the photo) were three of almost 100 volunteers celebrated at HRM's 2025 Volunteer Awards ceremony in April.

## IN THE COMMUNITY



Supporting Halifax West's bleacher project with Principal Lee Anne Amaral (far left) and Councillors Nancy Hartling and Janet Steele.