

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: May 22, 2018

Subject: Councillor Austin – Lancaster Woodland Intersection

Motion for Council to Consider:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the CAO to work with staff of the Nova Scotia Department of Transportation and Infrastructure to:

1. Develop a functional plan for improvements (including consideration of a roundabout) to the intersection of Woodland Avenue, Highway 118, Lancaster Drive and Micmac Boulevard,
2. Transfer of a portion of provincial Highway 118 southwest of the intersection to Halifax Regional Municipality, and
3. Report back with recommendations to Halifax Regional Council

Reason:

The intersection of Lancaster Avenue, Woodland Avenue, Mic Mac Boulevard and Highway 118 is an area of shared jurisdiction. HRM owns Lancaster and Mic Mac Boulevard, while the Province owns the Woodland 118 corridor all the way to Ryland Avenue (see attached map).

When the Circumferential was built in the 1960s, the Ryland Avenue boundary made sense because it was the edge of the urban area, but the intervening years have changed things significantly. The streets have taken on a more urban character as residential and commercial development filled in formerly vacant lands. Patterns of traffic have changed as a result with more pedestrians crossing Woodland (to and from Mic Mac) and with the addition of transit service. The boundary between HRM and the Province no longer reflects how the road network in the area operates and it will continue to evolve in the future as the last remaining vacant lands are developed. The Integrated Mobility Plan also identifies Woodland Avenue as a transit priority corridor.

Growth in the area and beyond in Dartmouth Crossing and the suburban areas that feed into Highway 118 has meant a steady increase in traffic volume. Data from HRP indicates that speed is a concern on Woodland Avenue and varies considerably depending on whether the light at the intersection for inbound traffic is green. Motorists encountering a green light often

don't adjust their speed to city conditions until they're well down Woodland Avenue. There have been frequent accidents at the intersection (60 from 2010 – 2014) and pedestrian access across is problematic.

The Province identified a roundabout as a potential solution several years ago, but work never proceeded due to competing priorities and because of the complexities over shared jurisdiction. Any solution to address this problematic section of road needs to be a shared project between HRM and the Province.

Outcome Sought:

Staff recommendation report

Councillor
Sam Austin

District
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