



Special Committee of the Whole Planning Meeting

Thursday, October 22, 2015

1:30 p.m.

Council Chambers, Town Hall
359 Main Street

Agenda

1. Approval of the Agenda
2. Approval of Minutes:
 - a. Committee of the Whole Minutes, October 6, 2015
3. Planning Meeting (1:30pm – 3:00pm)
 - Gordon Smith, Provincial Director of Planning at the Province of Nova Scotia
 - Mark Peck, Municipal Advisor at Service Nova Scotia and Municipal Relations
4. RFD 057-2015: Core Area Traffic Study
5. Question Period

Procedure: A thirty minute time period will be provided for members of the public to address Council regarding questions, concerns and/or ideas. Each person will have a maximum of two minutes to address Council with a second two minute time period provided if there is time remaining within the thirty minute Public Input/Question Period timeframe.
6. Regular Meeting Adjourned



SUMMARY

Core Area Traffic Study

WSP Canada was retained to complete a traffic study in Wolfville's downtown core. The study assessed existing and projected traffic operations to identify deficiencies in the transportation network, conduct a pedestrian crosswalk review to determine appropriate levels of crossing control and prepare functional plans and cost estimates for the proposed improvements.

DRAFT MOTION:

Move that Council accept the Core Area Traffic Study as presented and authorize staff to proceed with implementation of recommendations contained in the Study based on budgetary approval.

REQUEST FOR DECISION #057-2015

Core Area Traffic Study

Date: 2015 08 21

Department: Public Works



1) CAO Comments

The CAO supports the recommendations of staff.

2) LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

N/A

3) STAFF RECOMMENDATION

Staff recommends that Council accept the Core Area Traffic Study as presented and authorize staff to proceed with the recommendations contained in the Study. A number of the recommendations will require capital funding and these will be brought to Council for consideration as part of future capital budgets.

4) REFERENCES AND ATTACHMENTS

- Traffic Impact Study – Railtown Development
- Transportation Study
- Active Transportation Plan
- Main Street Crosswalk Review
- June 23rd, 2015 Core Area Traffic Study and Active Transportation presentation.

5) PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report is prepared for Council to approve the Core Area Traffic Study recommendations.

6) DISCUSSION

The core area traffic study was prepared to assess existing and future projected traffic operations including crosswalks in the downtown core and make recommendations with respect to the safe and efficient movement of vehicles, pedestrians and bicycles within the study area. The Study Area is Main Street between University and Willow and from Front St to Acadia St.

The core area traffic study is intended to address a number of key transportation issues within the downtown core;

- Safe and efficient movement of vehicles, pedestrians and cyclists
- Peak hour traffic congestions
- Impact to pedestrians & vehicles of the existing number & location of pedestrian crossings
- Operational performance of the Main St/Harbourside and Main St/ University intersections
- Effect of proposed one way conversions on Main St, Front St, and Acadia St.
- Effect of closing Central Ave to vehicle traffic except local deliveries.

The recommendations contained in the report are as follows;

1. Install traffic signals and realign the intersection at Main St and University Ave

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2. Install a westbound turn lane on Main St at Highland Ave
3. Install an eastbound turn lane on Main St at Elm Ave
4. Install traffic signals at the intersection of Main St and Gaspereau/Harbourside
5. Maintain the existing two way traffic on Main Street and Front Street
6. Consider conversion of Acadia St to one way eastbound between Highland Ave and Linden Ave
7. Closing Central Avenue to motorized vehicles can be implemented without negative impacts to the surrounding network.
8. Recommended Crossing Control at the Study Area intersections, based on the TAC Pedestrian Crossing Control Guide, is as follows:
 - a) Main Street at University Avenue – Upgrade to Signalized Intersection
 - b) Main Street at Highland Avenue – Upgrade to standard RA-5 Special Crosswalk
 - c) Main Street at Elm Avenue – Ground Mounted (closer to intersection)
 - d) Main Street at Linden Avenue – Ground Mounted (curb bulb out)
 - e) Main Street at Central Avenue - Ground Mounted (curb bulb out)
 - f) Main Street at Locust Avenue – Ground Mounted
 - g) Main Street at Willow Avenue – Upgrade to standard RA-5 Special Crosswalk
 - h) Harbourside Drive at Front Street – Maintain Marked Crosswalk
 - i) Elm Avenue at Front Street – Maintain Ground Mounted
 - j) Highland Avenue at Acadia Street – Upgrade to standard RA-5 Special Crosswalk

7) FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

A number of the recommendations have financial implications that will have to be included and considered as part of the Capital Investment Plan. Recommendations 1 through 4 will require capital funding and should be considered in conjunction with the proposed Main Street upgrade between Locust Ave and Westwood Ave currently being designed. The capital investment plan will be adjusted to reflect these recommendations for Council's consideration and approval.

Recommendations 5-7 have no capital cost associated but will require communication with residents and businesses on affected streets before proceeding.

Recommendations 8. a), b), g) & j) will require capital funding and will be included in the capital investment plan for Council's consideration and approval.

8) REFERENCES TO COUNCIL STRATEGIC PLAN AND TOWN REPORTS

Strategic Direction #1: - Well Maintained and Sustainable Public Infrastructure - The movement of traffic flow in the downtown is effective and efficient

Strategic Direction #4: - A Robust Active Living and Cultural Community - Active living components are integrated into the infrastructure plan of Wolfville and neighbouring communities

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9) COMMUNICATION REQUIREMENTS

Proposed changes on Main Street will be discussed with all affected organizations such as NSTIR as the road authority for Route 1 (Main Street), Acadia University, WBDC, Kings Transit and any other interested party prior to implementation. The public will be advised of proposed changes and provided updates as changes are implemented.

10) ALTERNATIVES

- Accept all recommendations as presented in the Core Area Traffic Study
- Accept specific recommendation only or no recommendation presented in the Core Area Traffic Study