

Neate, Leslie

From: O'Toole, Cathie
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:55 PM
To: Office, Clerks
Cc: Christie, Sally; Traves, John
Subject: FW: Coburg Rd. Letter
Attachments: Coburg Rd Letter __ July 2024.pdf

Hello - Please share the attached letter and response with Mayor and Council, as part of the next correspondence package.

Thank-you,
Cathie O'Toole

CATHIE O'TOOLE MBA, FCPA, ICD.D
SHE/HER

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CAO BUSINESS UNIT

HALIFAX



The municipality is proud to be recognized as one of Canada's Top Employers for Young People, Atlantic Canada's Top Employers and Nova Scotia's Top Employers for 2023.



The Halifax Regional Municipality is located in Mi'kma'ki, the ancestral and traditional lands of the Mi'kmaq people. The municipality acknowledges the Peace and Friendship Treaties signed in this Territory and recognizes that we are all Treaty People.

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From: O'Toole, Cathie
Sent: Wednesday, July 17, 2024 2:53 PM
To: Fillmore, Andy - M.P. <Andy.Fillmore@parl.gc.ca>
Cc: M Barnard
Subject: RE: Coburg Rd. Letter

Dear Mr. Fillmore –

Thank-you for your letter regarding the planned active transportation path on Coburg Road.

Your letter, as well as some feedback from residents, have identified a few considerations for traffic flow during construction that can likely be mitigated, such as the at the Waegwoltic Club during drop off and pickup hours for youth day-camps.

With respect to concerns regarding whether or not the road will be too narrow, the design of the public street right of way and infrastructure within it meets all of the standards required to provide for safety and functionality.

I recognize the gap between the initial consultation and 2018 on the Halifax Urban Greenway project until now may seem significant, however the project has never paused, but has progressed slowly. As noted in information provided to you, some segments were constructed, and negotiation with property owners for remaining segments have been complex.

Additionally, to ensure best value for taxpayers, this is an integrated project, meaning that some Halifax Water work, the multi-use pathway, and street reconstruction are occurring at once. This provides value to taxpayers as it allows for sharing of some common costs with Halifax Water and reduces the construction impact on the community that would be caused by separate projects at different times.

Best value is also ensured through a public procurement process and award of a tender to the best value proponent, which in this case was also the lowest cost proponent.

The project has been approved by Mayor and Council, in alignment with the municipality's strategic plans, meets all required engineering standards for the roadway (including suitable width for traffic and emergency vehicles) and was tendered and awarded properly in accordance with our public procurement policy. As a result, the municipality now has a contractual commitment to carry out the work.

Pausing the project is not in the best interest of the municipality or the residents, as this work ideally should be completed during the summer construction season to minimize impact in the Fall when school and universities are open and traffic volumes in this area increase.

The scope of work includes:

- Replacing the existing south sidewalk with a multi-use-path to provide a larger facility shared by pedestrians and cyclists. The sidewalk on the north side will remain. (Oxford to CN Bridge)
- Road narrowing by just over 1 m (varying slightly along the segment). (Oxford to CN bridge)
- Street Recapitalization (Oxford – End)
- Halifax Water watermain replacement (CN bridge to End), and sewer spot repairs.
- Loss of approximately 14 younger trees. None of the existing mature trees on Coburg will be impacted by the project.
- Tree compensation in the neighbourhood of approximately 20 new trees, located as per HRM Urban Forestry.

- There is no current plan to remove on-street parking. However, ongoing traffic monitoring will take place and parking restrictions may be adjusted as required.

In addition to providing an active transportation corridor that will support the current and future movement of residents and users of local facilities, the Halifax Water component of this project will result in a new water main and sewer spot repairs, both of which increase the resiliency of that infrastructure and reduce risk of service disruptions to homeowners in this area.

The correspondence you sent, along with this response will be shared with Mayor and Council for their awareness.

CATHIE O'TOOLE MBA, FCPA, ICD.D
SHE/HER

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER
CAO BUSINESS UNIT



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From: Fillmore, Andy - M.P. 
Sent: Tuesday, July 16, 2024 7:43 PM
To: O'Toole, Cathie 
Cc: M Barnard 
Subject: [External Email] Coburg Rd. Letter

[This email has been received from an external person or system]

Hello Ms. O'Toole,

Please find the attached the letter regarding construction on Coburg Road on behalf of Andy Fillmore.

Thanks,
MacKenzie

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Office of Andy Fillmore
Member of Parliament for Halifax
o. 902-426-8691
andyfillmoremp.ca

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Andy Fillmore, MP

Halifax

July 16, 2024

Cathie O'Toole
Chief Administrative Officer
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Re: Planned Active Transportation Path on Coburg Rd

Dear Ms. O'Toole,

Thank you very much for our conversation yesterday regarding the Coburg Road Halifax Urban Greenway project, and for subsequently sending along the briefing note.

As we discussed, a number of constituents have reached out to my office on this matter. As well today, I met onsite with a large number of people interested in this issue. The reactions range from confusion about why the project is necessary in its currently planned form, to disappointment that the design to be built is different from the design that residents saw during consultation, to concern about its cost. They propose that construction on the bike lane portion of the project be paused so that the issues with community consultation and bike lane design can be addressed - a proposal I support.

Public consultation for this project happened in 2018, and only now is construction underway. In the intervening six years, the traffic load and traffic patterns in the area surrounding the project have changed significantly. For instance, the

Waegwoltic Club now hosts youth day-camps for 500 children, each needing to be dropped off and picked up, and Armbrae Academy has added the Coburg Campus which has also brought significant pick-up/drop-off activity.

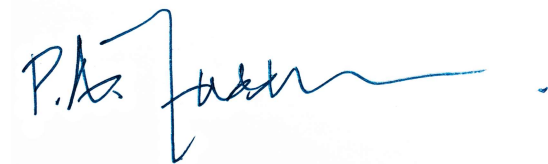
This gap between consultation and construction diminishes the value of the original consultation process, and raises important questions like, will the road be too narrow for today's traffic loads, especially in cases where emergency vehicles need to pass-through? Is this particular active transportation connection really a priority ahead of other more significant gaps in the city's AT network? Is the value to users of the planned project commensurate with its cost or is a lower cost option more appropriate?

It's doubtful that these questions can be answered adequately with data gathered in 2018. All of this points towards the need of a new design brief that reflects the changed conditions, and that answers these key questions that residents are asking.

I therefore support the request of residents that HRM pause construction on this project and take the time to re-evaluate the design of the project to ensure any negative impacts are adequately mitigated, and that the benefits of the project justify the costs.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Should you have any questions for me, please do not hesitate to reach out directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "P. A. Fillmore". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Andy Fillmore, MP
Halifax

cc. Dr. Magda Barnard