

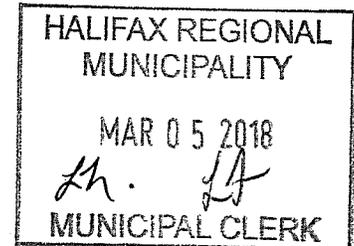
Rai, Phoebe

From: Smith, Joanne E [REDACTED] on behalf of Bond, Paula
Sent: March-05-18 2:45 PM
To: Office, Clerks
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: NSHA in response to Halifax Transportation Committee recommendations
Attachments: Letter dated March 0518 Office of the Municipal Clerk.pdf

Please see attached a letter from the Nova Scotia Health Authority in response to the Halifax Transportation Committee Recommendations.

Many thanks.

Paula Bond



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MUNICIPAL CLERKS OFFICE
Date Distributed: March 6, 2018

- ✓ Councillors Meeting: Regional Council
- ✓ Mayor
- ✓ CAO Meeting Date: Mar 6/18
- ✓ Solicitor Item Number: 14.3.2
- ✓ Communications
- ✓ Public Affairs
- ✓ Gov. Relations
- ✓ Other: B. Zvaniga, M. Nener.



March 5, 2018

Office of the Municipal Clerk

PO Box 1749

Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

Dear Your Worship and Council,

This letter is in response to the Halifax's Transportation Committee's recommendation to Halifax Regional Council to approve the installation of 1.2 km of protected bicycle lanes, which will eliminate 50 parking spaces on South Park Street to create dedicated bike lanes. First of all we want to congratulate the city on the integrated mobility strategy as one that is progressive and is aligned with our organizational vision of Health People, Healthy Communities - for Generations. However, we would like to formally recognize the challenges that eliminating this parking may create for the patients coming to the QEII Health Sciences Centre VG site. We kindly ask that HRM work with Partners for Care (the auxiliary responsible for the QEII Health Sciences Centre's parking lots) and Nova Scotia Health Authority in implementing the Integrated Mobility Plan to ensure the impact to patient access to the VG site's services is considered while implementing this plan.

The QEII Health Sciences Centre is a very busy place.

On any given day, there are about 950 inpatients receiving care, with another 3,800 patients visiting a clinic, 118 having surgery and 200 seeking treatment at the emergency department. In total, there are more than one million visits to the QEII Health Sciences Centre every year. People come from across Nova Scotia and indeed, Atlantic Canada, for life-changing and life-saving care. In addition to the thousands of patients seen on a daily basis, there are 7,000 staff, 700 physicians, 1,200 volunteers and thousands of researchers, residents and learners spread throughout the centre's 10 buildings and two sites every day.

Whether it is coming for care or coming for work, we know the majority of those who arrive at the QEII Health Sciences Centre do so by car. In November, NSHA surveyed patients and staff/physicians to learn more about how they get to the QEII. The results showed us that over 70 per cent of physicians and staff drive to work and over 90 per cent of patients either drive (or are driven) to the QEII for their appointments.

We also know that our on-site parking fails to meet the needs of our patients and visitors and is regularly overcapacity, especially at the VG site, during peak clinic hours from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. At the VG site, where the majority of patients receive their outpatient care, there is only space for 700 patient parking spaces despite the thousands who arrive there every day for clinic appointments. These patients rely on street parking when visiting the hospital and removing 50

on-street parking meters will increase patient's existing parking frustrations. To demonstrate the impact: 50 spaces over the course of an 8 hour day can provide parking for around 200 patients (based on an average two-hour stay).

In addition to the daily parking challenges at the hospital, right now, the QEII Health Sciences Centre is also the future site of the largest health care infrastructure project in the province's history. The redevelopment project will move services out of the aging Victoria and Centennial buildings of the QEII and demolish them. To successfully demolish the buildings, NSHA is planning on moving some services to Hants Community Hospital, Dartmouth General Hospital and Bayers Lake, but the majority of these services will reside in new construction at the Halifax Infirmary site.

As a result of the upcoming construction, we know that our current parking supply will be further impacted as limited surface parking gives way to build space. During this period of heavy construction, which is anticipated to begin in 2019, NSHA will need to work with Halifax to source more interim parking for patients and staff/physicians. As such, the proposal to eliminate 50 metered spaces - and the suggested timeline to remove them - directly coincides with an anticipated greater parking shortage - an impact that will be borne by our patients arriving for care.

We hope to work directly with you to create a mutually beneficially solution in implementing this plan - one that increases active transportation opportunities within the city, while also maintaining better patient access to parking and, as a result, health care.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Paula Bond
VP Integrated Services, Program 1
Nova Scotia Health Authority