

HALIFAX REGIONAL COUNCIL AGENDA

Tuesday, July 8, 2025, 10:00 a.m.; Reconvene 6:00 p.m.
Council Chamber, 3rd Floor City Hall, 1841 Argyle Street, Halifax

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In-person Public Hearings and How to Participate - Frequently Asked Questions

PLEASE NOTE : All Regional Council meetings will be audio and/or video recorded for the purpose of creating a record of the proceedings. If you do not wish to be recorded, do not sign up to speak; you can provide a written submission via clerks@halifax.ca.

1. CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT
2. SPECIAL COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS
3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES - June 19, 2025 Regional Council Special Meeting & June 24, 2025 Regional Council
4. APPROVAL OF THE ORDER OF BUSINESS AND APPROVAL OF ADDITIONS AND DELETIONS
5. CONSENT AGENDA
Motion:
That Halifax Regional Council approve recommendations in the following items: 15.1.4, 15.3.1, 15.3.2.
6. BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES
7. CALL FOR DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTERESTS
8. MOTIONS OF RECONSIDERATION
None
9. MOTIONS OF RESCISSION
None
10. CONSIDERATION OF DEFERRED BUSINESS
None
11. NOTICES OF TABLED MATTERS
None
12. PUBLIC HEARING
6:00 p.m.
 - 12.1 2025-00656: Amendments to the Suburban Housing Accelerator Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law for 174 Main Street, Dartmouth
Motion:
That Halifax Regional Council adopt the amendments to the Suburban Housing Accelerator Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law set out in Attachments 1 & 2 of the staff report dated April 23, 2025.
 - 12.2 Proposed Administrative Order SC-108, Respecting Closure of Ryan Gate, Dartmouth
Motion:
That Halifax Regional Council approve Administrative Order SC-108, as set out in Attachment G of the staff report dated April 9, 2025, to officially close the Ryan Gate right-

of-way shown as 'Parcel RG'.

13. CORRESPONDENCE, PETITIONS & DELEGATIONS

13.1 Correspondence

13.2 Petitions

14. INFORMATION ITEMS BROUGHT FORWARD

None

15. REPORTS

15.1 CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

15.1.1 Options & Considerations For 2026-2027 Budget & Business Plan

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return to Council with a proposal for a comprehensive service review framework, including a classification model for core and non-core services, and options for internal or consultant-led execution.
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to return with a corporate user fee policy and pricing strategy, including cost-recovery guidelines, inflation adjustment protocols, and fee exemption criteria.
3. Direct the Mayor to write to the Province of Nova Scotia requesting a formal review of service exchange and mandatory contributions as well as a funding agreement that provides HRM with a share of HST revenue or equivalent ongoing funding, in recognition of the Municipality's investments in capital infrastructure and economic development.
4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare the 2026/2027 budget in accordance with the timeline as outlined in the staff report dated June 10, 2025.
5. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to reprioritize the capital plan as well as any new capital asks for the 2026/27 four-year period to ensure that projects advancing in the plan reflect infrastructure investments that deliver the greatest long-term cost savings or cost avoidance for taxpayers, specifically in support of existing municipal core services. This reprioritization is to be undertaken in alignment with the existing capital prioritization framework.

15.1.2 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 2022-008-ADM, the Rural Sidewalk Area Rates Administrative Order

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 2022-008-ADM, the Sidewalk Area Rates Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment B to the staff report dated June 27, 2025.
2. amend the rural sidewalk area rate for the community of East Preston approved on July 11, 2023, to \$0.021 per \$100 of taxable property value to all residential, resource, and commercial properties located within the Tax Area Rate Boundary Map as set out in Attachment C to the staff report dated June 27, 2025, and;
3. adopt the Resolution for Approval of the Area Rate for East Preston for fiscal year 2025/2026 as set out in Attachment D to the staff report dated June 27, 2025.

15.1.3 Recommendation Report – Windsor Street Exchange Project Update and Construction Approval

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend the rules of procedure under Schedule 7, the Transportation Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order One, the Procedures of the Council Administrative Order.

It is further recommended that Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Proceed with the Windsor Street Exchange project in accordance with the current funding agreement and Progressive Design-Build contract, using the existing functional design as an initial phase of the final overall project. This phase shall include design and construction of new structures and design elements to support potential future enhancements, such as additional dedicated transit lanes and separated pedestrian and cycling facilities.
2. Provide bi-annual updates to Regional Council on the progress of the Windsor Street Exchange project. Provide updates to the capital budget through the Capital Planning process.
3. Continue development and evaluation of the future design scenarios outlined in the staff report dated June 27, 2025 and the confidential and private report dated June 17, 2025, and prepare a report to recommend a final concept design, including property acquisition needs, schedule for design and construction, capital budget estimates, external funding opportunities, and resourcing requirements for Regional Council's consideration.

15.1.4 Community Mediation Pilot*

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer, or their designate, to approve and execute a Contribution Agreement with the United Way Maritimes on terms and conditions substantially similar to the Contribution Agreement shown in Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 17, 2025.

15.1.5 Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 2014-015-ADM, Respecting Reserve Funding Strategies - Sustainable Funding and HRM's Reserves

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Suspend Schedule 2, the Audit and Finance Standing Committee Terms of Reference, of Administrative Order Number One, The Procedures of the Council Administrative Order.

It is further recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the amendments to Administrative Order 2014-015-ADM, the Financial Reserves Administrative Order, as set out in Attachment 2 to the staff report dated June 10, 2025.
2. Repeal and replace the Reserve Business Cases as set out in Attachment 3 to the staff report dated June 10, 2025.
3. Approve the creation of the Police Extraordinary Investigation Reserve as outlined in the Reserve Business Case as set out in Attachment 4 of the staff

report dated June 10, 2025.

4. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to consider, in preparing the 2026/2027 Budget and Business Plan, the following reserve contributions:

a) \$5 million to the Capital Fund Reserve (Q526); and

b) Allocating all Deed Transfer Tax revenues exceeding \$60 million to the Strategic Initiative Capital Reserve (Q666).

5. Direct the CAO to change the name of the Climate Action Tax to Strategic Infrastructure Funding as part of the 2026/27 Budget and Business Planning process.

6. Direct the CAO to consider and prepare the following reserve reallocations as part of the 2026/2027 Budget and Business Plan:

a) Defunding the Master Plan Reserve (Q556) and transferring funds to the Options reserve (Q421); and

b) Defunding the Strategic Initiative Operating Reserve (Q667) and allocating \$4.8 million to the Capital Fund Reserve (Q526) and \$2 million to the Police Extraordinary Investigation Reserve.

7. Direct the CAO to direct staff to prepare a staff report considering the potential of hiring a consultant to develop a comprehensive forecast of land sales in business parks, including estimates of future sales volumes and market pricing, and return to Audit and Finance Standing Committee.

15.1.6 Peninsula South Complete Streets Project: Potential Alternatives for Morris Street East Connection

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

1. Initiate additional functional planning and engagement for alternative cycling connections for the East Connection on Morris Street between University Avenue and Lower Water Street as described in the Discussion section of the staff report dated June 13, 2025; and

2. Return to Regional Council with a recommendation on the preferred alternative cycling connection.

15.2 COMMUNITY PLANNING AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STANDING COMMITTEE

15.2.1 Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan 2030 Update

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. endorse the Halifax Regional Integrated Tourism Master Plan 2030 (ITMP 2030) (Attachment 1 of the staff report dated June 5, 2025) including consideration for the Municipality's related initiatives as set forth in the ITMP 2030 and as also detailed in the Discussion section of the staff report dated June 5, 2025; and

2. direct the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to work with Discover Halifax to provide annual updates to Regional Council regarding the ITMP 2030.

15.3 HERITAGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

15.3.1 HRTG-2024-01522: Request to include 2316 Maynard Street, Halifax in the

Registry of Heritage Properties for the Halifax Regional Municipality*

Motion:

that Halifax Regional Council set a date for a heritage hearing to consider the inclusion of 2316 Maynard Street, Halifax in the Registry of Heritage Property for the Halifax Regional Municipality as shown on Map 1 of the staff report dated May 6, 2025.

15.3.2 HRTG-2025-00279: Substantial Alteration to the Municipally Registered Heritage Property at 5492 Inglis Street, Halifax*

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council approve the proposed substantial alteration to the municipally registered heritage property 5492 Inglis Street, Halifax, as set out in the staff report dated April 2, 2025.

15.4 MEMBERS OF COUNCIL

15.4.1 Councillor Hartling - Access-A-Bus Access in Communities that Currently Lack Transportation Options

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to provide a staff report on the feasibility and cost implications of expanding Access-A-Bus service to include communities outside the Halifax Transit service boundary and lack other rural transit service providers.

15.4.2 Councillor Hinch - De-designation of Cogswell Park Encampment Site

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report to be delivered in August 2025 outlining when Cogswell Park can be de-designated as an HRM encampment location and request that the CAO direct staff to begin the process of closing the encampment and remediating the site back to a park as soon as possible.

15.4.3 Councillor Austin - Strong Mayor Powers

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council directs:

1. The Mayor to write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs John Lohr requesting that if the Province is considering Strong Mayor Powers that the Province engage in consultation and discussion with HRM and Nova Scotia's other municipalities prior to making any legislative changes
2. The Mayor to write a letter to the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities Board encouraging the Federation to adopt a similar position, that any changes should first involve consultations with the Province's municipalities
3. That both letters be sent by end of day July 22 and copies of the letters and any response be circulated to Council
4. The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) to provide a staff report on how strong mayor powers have been implemented elsewhere in Canada and what lessons can be learned from that experience

16. MOTIONS

16.1 Councillor Cuttall

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare staff report to consider renaming and renumbering Mansion Avenue from civic 11 to 27, and that Mansion Avenue from civic 38 to 94 remain as Mansion Avenue and be renumbered as

required by civic addressing.

16.2 Councillor Kent

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council request a staff report and recommendations for potential amendments to HRM Bylaw T-1000, Respecting the Regulation of Taxis, Accessible Taxis, Limousines and Transportation Network Companies to create a new category providing legislation that relates to the tourism industry, operating passenger vehicles, with a maximum seating capacity of eight passengers within the Halifax Regional Municipality.

17. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE)

Council may rise and go into a private In Camera session, in accordance with Section 19 of the Halifax Regional Municipality Charter, for the purpose of dealing with the following:

17.1 In Camera (In Private) Minutes - June 10 & 24, 2025

Motion:

That the In Camera (In Private) minutes of June 10, 2025 and June 24, 2025 be approved as circulated.

17.2 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated June 27, 2025; and
2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated June 27, 2025 be maintained private and confidential.

17.3 CONTRACT NEGOTIATIONS - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to contract negotiations and legal advice.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated June 25, 2025; and
2. Release the private and confidential report dated June 25, 2025 to the public once the conditions as outlined in the report have been met.

17.4 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council convene to in camera (in private) to discuss the matter.

17.5 INTERGOVERNMENTAL RELATIONS - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to any subject, the discussion of which could, violate the confidentiality of information obtained from another body of government, or a public body.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated July 8, 2025; and

2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated July 8, 2025 be maintained private and confidential.

17.6 PROPERTY MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to providing instruction and direction to officers and employees of the Municipality pertaining to the acquisition / sale of land.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated July 8, 2025; and

2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated July 8, 2025 be maintained private and confidential.

17.7 PERSONNEL MATTER - Private and Confidential Report

A matter pertaining to an identifiable individual or group, including Code of Conduct complaints against Elected Officials.

Motion:

That Halifax Regional Council:

1. Adopt the recommendations as outlined in the private and confidential report dated June 20, 2025; and

2. Direct that the private and confidential report dated June 20, 2025 be maintained private and confidential.

18. ADDED ITEMS

19. NOTICES OF MOTION

20. ADJOURNMENT

21. INFORMATION ITEMS

- 21.1 Memorandum from the Municipal Clerk dated July 2, 2025 re: Requests for Presentation to Council - None**
- 21.2 Memorandum from the Chief Administrative Officer dated June 2, 2025 re: Update on Implementation of the HRM Auditor General's Recommendations**
- 21.3 Memorandum from the Chief Administrative Officer dated April 9, 2025 re: Year 4 Immigration Strategy Update**

22. IN CAMERA (IN PRIVATE) INFORMATION ITEMS

- 22.1 Private and Confidential In Camera (In Private) Information Report re: Intergovernmental Relations**