

August 23, 2007

Hon. Angus MacIsaac
Minister of Transportation & Public Works
PO Box 186
Halifax NS B3J 2N2

Dear Minister:

Northwest Arm Drive is a provincial highway in my constituency that is built to the standard of the 100-series highways. With ever-increasing development in the Fairmount, Stoneridge and Stanley Park subdivisions (all in my constituency, and all on the east side of Northwest Arm Drive), the issue arises about “the rules” of any decision-making process for the construction of additional interchanges onto Northwest Arm Drive.

Some residents who favour a connector between the Fairmount subdivision and Northwest Arm Drive have apparently been told by the city that it is up to the Province as to whether such a connector would be built. I believe I was verbally advised by departmental staff, when I last raised this issue a number of years ago, that the decision on whether to build a connector really rests with the municipality and/or the developer, and that the Province’s “approval” extends only to the technical feasibility and safety aspects of a connector, rather than to its desirability from the point of view of traffic flow, short-cutting or other community considerations.

I would be obliged if your department could clarify exactly what the Province’s role would be in any decision as to whether or not to build new interchanges onto Northwest Arm Drive. For example, if the municipality asked for an interchange, and it was technically feasible, would the Province’s approval be essentially automatic?

I would like to stress that I am not, in any way, asking for or advocating for a connector from the Fairmount subdivision to Northwest Arm Drive. I am only seeking clarity about “the rules.”

Yours sincerely,

Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview