

February 26, 2009

I am writing with an update on provincial work to the intersection of Northwest Arm Drive and Walter Havill Drive.

As you know, a considerable amount of work has been done at the intersection over the past two years. The purpose of the work was to make the intersection safer.

On November 26, 2008, I wrote to the Minister of Transportation, asking him to build an acceleration lane for vehicles turning right from Walter Havill Drive onto Northwest Arm Drive. A number of people in the Stoneridge subdivision have mentioned to me that they find this turn difficult and dangerous, especially if vehicles are coming too fast around the curve on Northwest Arm Drive.



On January 21, 2009, the new Minister replied. A copy of his reply is on the reverse. As you will see, the Minister is not yet persuaded that a northbound acceleration lane is necessary.


Please call me (453-5556) or send an e-mail (graham@grahamsteele.ca) if this is an issue that you still want me to pursue. Also, I would welcome any comments you have about how well the intersection is working, now that at least some safety improvements have been made.

Yours sincerely,

Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview

January 21, 2009

Mr. Graham Steele, MLA
Halifax Fairview
7071 Bayers Road, Suite 319A
Halifax, NS B3L 2C2


Dear Mr. Steele

Thank you for your letter of November 26, 2008, to my predecessor, the Honourable Murray Scott, regarding the need for a northbound acceleration lane from Walter Havill Drive onto North West Arm Drive.

There appeared to be a higher than normal accident rate involving specific traffic movements at the intersection of North West Arm Drive (NWAD) at Walter Havill Drive and Albert Walker Drive which prompted a review by our Highway Engineering division. The review identified changes which could be made to address operational issues in this area. This review resulted in a series of phased improvements being undertaken.

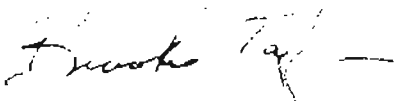
Phase 1 improvements which were completed in 2007 included re-establishing sight lines on the southerly approach to the intersection and the complete replacement and upgrading of the traffic signal system which incorporated into the design protected left turn movements from NWAD. The second and final phase of the planned improvements was completed in December (save for the line painting which will be completed as weather conditions permit) and included modifications to the curb radii for smoother ingress and egress as well as the construction of a right turn lane for the full length of Albert Walker Drive from Trunk 3 to NWAD including an acceleration lane for right turning vehicles onto NWAD.

Together, these improvements will address the operational issues that were identified by the review. The review considered functionality and operation of the right turn lane from Walter Havill Drive onto NWAD. Traffic volumes are significantly lower as are operating speeds for vehicles exiting the subdivision and there is no collision history for this particular turning movement. The review determined that improvements in this quadrant of the intersection were not warranted at this time and construction of a northbound acceleration lane from Walter Havill Drive onto NWAD was not recommended.

Now that these improvements have been completed, we will revisit the operation of the intersection in the Spring of 2009 to ensure that it is functioning smoothly in all respects including the acceleration lane referred to in your letter.

Thank you for bringing these concerns to my attention.

Sincerely,



Brooke Taylor
Minister