

## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council  
**FROM:** Will Balsler, Junior Planner, Development Officer  
**DATE:** June 2, 2021  
**RE:** **Second Reading of Public Highway Signage Bylaw**

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**Background:** In May of 2018, The Nova Scotia Border Committee requested a bylaw to control signage on Highway 2 between the Tourist Bureau and the Amherst Town Boundary in an effort to improve the appearance of this key access point to all of Cumberland County. Two open houses were held in Upper Nappan on June 18th and July 24th, 2018 to give the public, land owners, and business owners an opportunity to voice concerns, and provide input. Advertising for the open houses included two newspaper ads, door hangers to every business along Route 2, phone calls to all sign owners, and the Municipality of Cumberland's Facebook page, website, and newsletters. Most feedback received was regarding design standards, placement, and number of signs, and was overall supportive of the regulations.

The Municipal Government Act gives Municipalities the authority to regulate signage within their jurisdiction. However, this authority does not extend to land next to public roads. Section 49 of the Public Highways Act applies to public highways vested in the Crown. Under the Public Highways Act, the Province can delegate its authority over signage in areas of provincial jurisdiction to municipalities. Municipalities may develop by-laws to prohibit or regulate signage on any part of a highway that is within their boundary and designated in the by-law, (excluding controlled access highways).

Municipalities that wish to regulate signage along provincial roads must submit a proposed bylaw to the Minister of the Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal. The Minister may approve some or all of the by-law, attach conditions, or approve it with changes. The Minister may also revoke or vary the by-law.

The Town of Amherst passed a motion of support for the bylaw on February 24, 2020.

The By-Law and Policy committee recommended that Council approve the Bylaw on March 12, 2021.

**No submissions were received for the public hearing.**

**Recommendation:** Second Reading to the Public Highway Signage Bylaw.

**Next Steps:** Staff will prepare advertisements notifying the Public of Council's Decision.