



Municipality of East Hants

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East Hants Municipal Council has approved a motion directing staff to give detailed consideration to the opportunity for the development of an inland port at Milford Station, recognizing that it could have substantial economic benefits for the community. Council also stressed the importance of community involvement as they move forward.

"The potential development of an inland port at Milford Station would be an excellent opportunity for the people of East Hants," said Warden John Patterson. "This is just a concept in the very early stages, but we want input from the community so we have a proposed design that benefits everyone."

The Municipality of East Hants hired the Chris Lowe Group and Prime Focus LLC to prepare a report that looked at opportunities for East Hants to benefit from the Atlantic Gateway Initiative.

The report, called "Atlantic Gateway Strategic Opportunity Assessment" concluded that "there is an immediate opportunity to commence the planning for a new intermodal logistics centre along CN's mainline at an inland location that offers a rural setting in close proximity to Halifax with the potential to assemble large tracts of land."

The report indicated that Milford Station, in the Municipality of East Hants, is an ideal location for a new intermodal logistics centre, which could be an inland port for the Port of Halifax.

An inland port is a location where facilities are developed to help with the movement of goods from one form of transportation to another. This is done by connecting different modes of transportation (air, land and rail), referred to as multi-modal or intermodal transportation. Inland ports often attract large distribution and manufacturing centres to the area.

"This is the kind of opportunity that doesn't come around very often, and it's one that we feel we need to explore with the community," said Ian Glasgow, CAO, Municipality of East Hants. "The benefits to the residents of East Hants could be huge".

"These types of facilities, and the manufacturing and distribution centres that locate around them, can mean new jobs as well as significant new tax dollars for the municipality. That would make a big difference in terms of the services that we could provide to our residents", said Mr. Glasgow.

Milford Councillor, Willy Versteeg, says, "It is important that we carefully consider all opportunities and impacts for our community. To do anything else would be irresponsible", he said.

A public information session will be held next month. The meeting is open to everyone, and will give the community a chance to learn more about the concept of an inland port in Milford Station, to talk about opportunities and challenges, and to establish a community advisory group for the proposed project.

More detailed information, including the consultants' report, can be found on the Municipality of East Hants website at www.easthants.ca, at the Colchester/East Hants Regional Library, or by calling 1-888-883-4355.

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