

July 26, 2023

I am writing MEH Council to request expedited construction of a secondary access and exit lane into Elmwood Subdivision.

Recent flooding events, not to mention Hurricane Fiona and fires that ravaged this province in May, underline more than ever the need for what I believe to be a basic requirement within developments and residential neighborhoods – the ability to exit and enter in two ways in case of emergency.

There are many examples within the Corridor area where the lack of this basic two exit requirement comes to mind – Sobeys' Plaza and the Industrial Park are two major ones. I am at a loss as to how the one exit in each conforms to basic requirements needed for construction/development?

As a long-time resident of East Hants, I've heard many times from the Municipal Planning department that the second exit is being 'looked at', and that long term planning incorporates the necessary two exits for 30+ year old Elmwood Subdivision. The plan for hundreds of houses to be built eventually connecting the Vernon Court area via Elmwood Drive is not quick enough -- and it is not acceptable to play with potential emergency needs within the subdivision, given recent events of Fiona, fire and floods.

I believe we are way beyond conversation about someday having a second exit, and now have to get to construction. Flood waters on Saturday, July 22 rose to the extent our one exit on Elmwood Drive was flooded with water. No one believes these weather events are 'one off' events anymore. Weather disturbances are the new norm, and MEH has to bring up standards within to ensure the safety of our residents.

Prime hurricane season arrives in NS in September in just a little over a month's time We all remember Fiona and the horrendous impact it had and still has on this province.

Please give your attention to creating a second exit/entrance to Elmwood subdivision NOW.

Sincerely,

Cathy MacDonald

