



November 16, 2023

Kate Greene
Director, Regional Planning
Halifax Regional Municipality
PO Box 1749
Halifax, Nova Scotia B3J 3A5

Dear Ms. Greene:

Thank you for providing an opportunity for East Hants to comment on the Draft Regional Plan for HRM. As mentioned in your letter, some of the proposed region-wide planning policies outlining where, when, and how future growth and development should take place in Halifax, may impact residents in East Hants. We have reviewed the Draft Regional Plan and have identified a few items that we would like to bring to your attention to help you and your staff better understand how the policies in the Draft Regional Plan will impact East Hants.

Enfield - Rural Growth Centre and East Hants Source Water Protection

Section 10.5.3 Source Water Protection of the Draft Regional Plan recognizes Grand Lake as a water supply area for East Hants. Through the Plan, HRM indicates that it *“intends to comply with the Provincial Statement of Interest in Drinking Water to help ensure the long-term sustainability of Grand Lake by creating regulations that protect the watershed from contaminants which may jeopardize the health of residents in the neighbouring municipality.”* Through the Regional Plan, HRM further indicates that *“Consideration may need to be given to adopting municipal measures to protect these water supplies as well as future water supplies.”*

East Hants welcomes the recognition of Grand Lake as a regional water supply for East Hants but asks that HRM consider further policies in regard to the water utility. Through the initial development of the East Hants Regional Water Utility Protection Plan, which was adopted over 15 years ago, staff have provided HRM Council and staff with information concerning the protection of our water utility. East Hants has long requested that HRM assist in protecting the East Hants water resources, to ensure the long-term health of the water utility. We continue to ask for HRM's

assistance by requesting that a policy be added to the Draft Regional Plan that recognizes the area that drains directly into the Shubenacadie River, upstream to our water intake for the Regional Water System, as an area where only low-density, single-unit development is permitted. Enclosed is a map showing the location of the East Hants Source Water Protection Near Zone in relation to the Enfield Rural Growth Centre. A digital version of the area is available upon request.

Under Section 3.5.4 Planning for Rural Centres and Table 3-5 of the Draft Regional Plan, Enfield is identified as a Rural Growth Centre which may permit the following:

- Mix of housing types, including ground-oriented and small apartments
- Mix of commercial retail, institutional and recreational uses
- Opportunity for rural express transit and park & rides

East Hants requests that the Draft Regional Plan be further refined to only encourage growth on the east side of Highway 102. Drainage on the east side of Highway 102 does not impact the intake for our water utility and therefore the potential of land use conflicts would be greatly reduced.

Transit

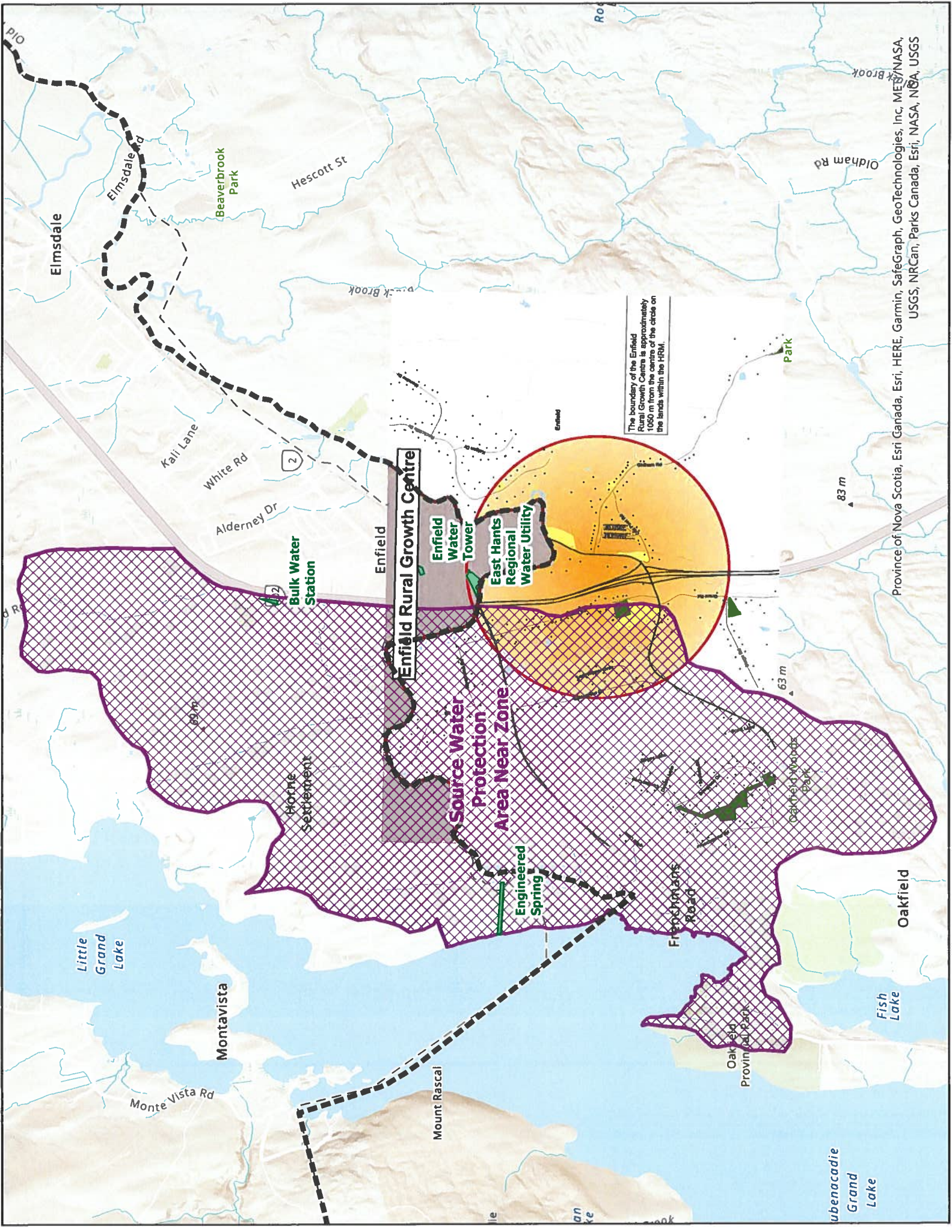
The Draft Regional Plan identifies the opportunity for rural express transit to service Enfield. Although East Hants does not have a transit system at this time, we would be interested in having discussions on how a future East Hants transit system may connect to the Halifax route. We are encouraged that HRM is considering the possibility of increasing transit options and reducing automobile reliance through its planning documents.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Regional Plan, I look forward to speaking with you about the items identified in this letter. I may be contacted at jwooford@easthants.ca or by calling 902-883-6120.

Sincerely,



John Woodford,
Director of Planning and Development



The boundary of the Enfield Rural Growth Centre is approximately 1050 m from the centre of the circle on the lands within the HRM.

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