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Item No. 12.2.1
Transportation Standing Committee
June 7, 2017

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Ben Buckwold, Chair, Active Transportation Advisory Committee

DATE: September 22, 2016

SUBJECT: Willow Street Local Street Bikeway

ORIGIN

Motion passed by the Active Transportation Advisory Committee at a meeting held on September 15, 2016.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Mandate of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee – ‘To advise the Transportation Standing Committee on all matters relating to active transportation in Halifax Regional Municipality, using the Active Transportation Plan as a guide.

RECOMMENDATION

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on adding a new corridor connecting candidate Local Street Bikeway routes Charles Street to Allan/Oak Street to the Active Transportation Priorities, as presented at the September 15, 2016 meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

BACKGROUND

At the September 15, 2016 meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee the Committee discussed a proposal for a new Local Street Bikeway. The new corridor would start at Charles Street, head north on Clifton, Street, west on Willow Street and south on Harvard Street, ending at the four-way stop at Allan and Oak Streets; and a greenway would be built connecting Willow to Harvard (at Chebucto) through the Oxford Street School property.

DISCUSSION

The Committee discussed the bikeway corridor and was supportive of the proposal based on the following factors:

- The route would fill a missing link between the Agricola Street retail area and the Quinpool Road District.
- All of the streets are local in nature and have low traffic volumes.
- Anecdotal observation indicates that parts of this route are already used commonly by people bicycling
- It would provide an alternative route for less experienced riders and families who would want to avoid North Street and parts of Windsor Street, particularly the Windsor/Chebucto/Cunard intersection.
- There are marked crosswalks at Agricola, Robie, Windsor, and Chebucto and there are no traffic lights along the route.
- The small greenway required to connect Willow Street and Harvard Street would be short and easy to build and it would run behind Oxford Street School on an underused portion of the property and this would provide safe access for children biking to school from the south and east.

The Committee passed a motion recommending that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report on the proposal.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications have not been identified. Any financial implications associated with this request would have to be identified in a future staff report.

RISK CONSIDERATION

Risk considerations have not been identified. Any risk considerations associated with this request would have to be identified in a future staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Active Transportation Committee is comprised of four members at large, one representative from the following organizations: Halifax Regional Trails Association, Halifax Cycling Coalition, Province of Nova Scotia, Bicycle Nova Scotia, Ecology Action Centre, Advisory Committee on Accessibility in HRM; and three Councillors. Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public and agendas and minutes can be viewed online at www.Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ALTERNATIVES

The Committee did not provide alternatives

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Diagram - Proposed Willow Street Local Street Bikeway

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/commcoun/index.php> then choose the appropriate Community Council and meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

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WILLOW STREET LOCAL STREET BIKEWAY



- New local street bikeway on Clifton-Willow-Harvard
- Short greenway required through Oxford Street School
- Connects Quinpool District to Agricola Street
- Low traffic volumes
- Marked crosswalks exist at all major street crossings
- Connections north via Clifton/Windsor/Dublin



Satellite imagery from Google Earth. Visual editing and photograph by David Jackson.