

HALIFAX | Transit Priority Corridor: Gottingen Street



Transportation Standing Committee
July 26th, 2018

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Background

The Council approved Moving Forward Together Plan (MFTP) (April 2016)

- Identifies Gottingen Street as a critical choke point for transit service that requires transit priority.
- The MFTP recommends investment in transit priority measures that provide priority to the movement of buses over general traffic.

These recommendations have been further reinforced by policy direction in the Council approved Integrated Mobility Plan (December 2017)



Background

In May 2017 a consultant was hired to complete a functional design study for the Gottingen Street transit priority corridor.

The functional design study was completed in January 2018 and considered multiple design options for the Gottingen Street corridor.

Based on the findings from the study and input from the public and stakeholders, staff recommended the preferred concept – a dedicated, continuous northbound bus lane on Gottingen Street – be advanced to detailed design and implementation.



Motion Tasks



Completed Detailed Design for a continuous peak hour northbound bus only lane



Completed a Parking Loss Mitigation Plan, including public and stakeholder engagement



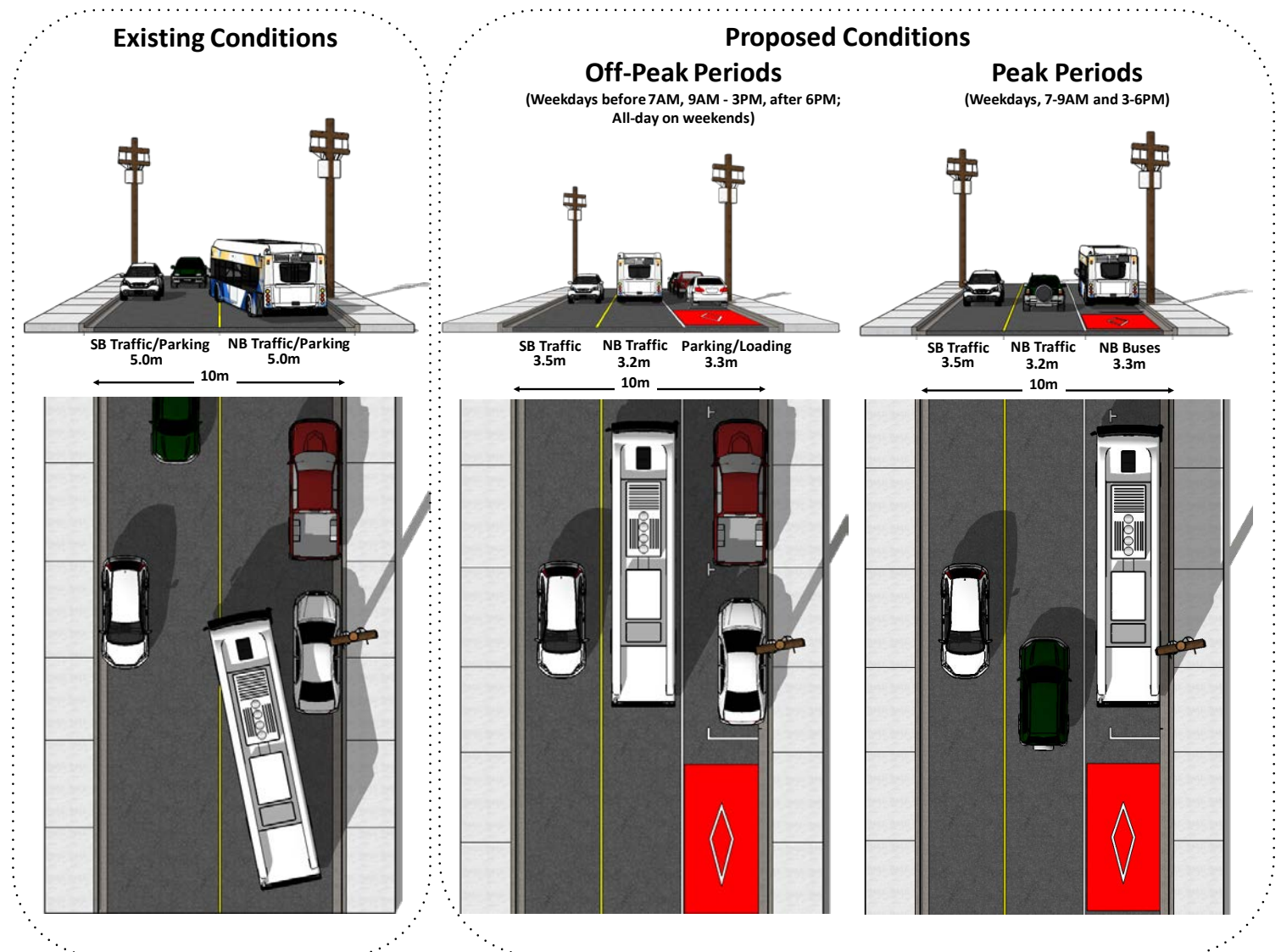
Developed a Monitoring & Evaluation Plan



Supplementary Report: Potential to move northbound express buses off Gottingen Street to alternate routes



Proposed Street Configuration



Parking Loss Mitigation

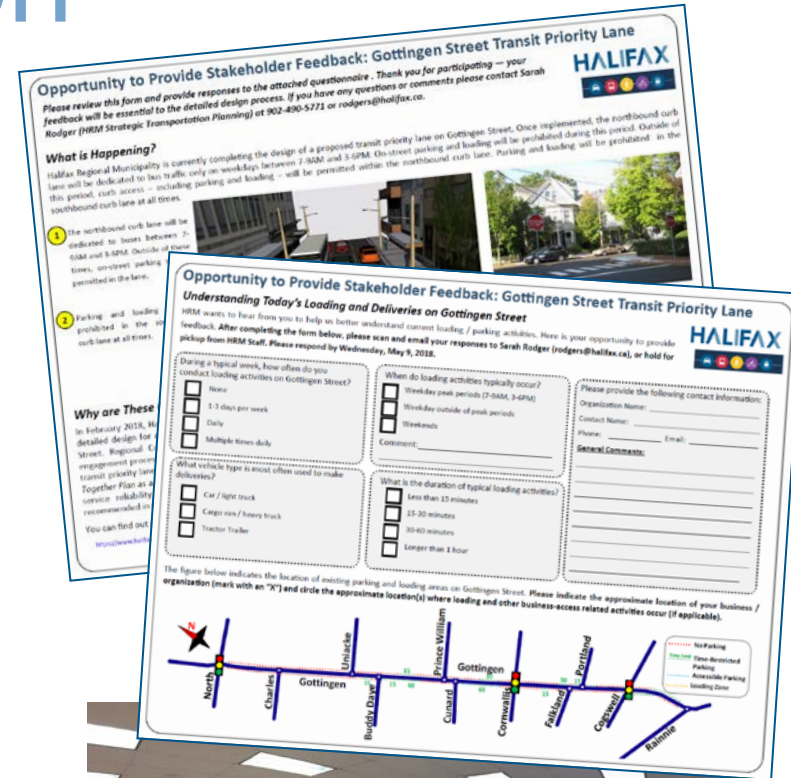
		# of On-Street Off-peak Parking Spaces		
		Existing	Proposed	Net Change
North Street to Uniacke Street	East Side	0	6	+6
	West Side	0	0	-
Uniacke Street to Prince William Street	East Side	6	15	+9
	West Side	15	0	-15
Prince William Street to Cornwallis Street	East Side	7	9	+2
	West Side	12	0	-12
Cornwallis Street to Portland Place	East Side	7	10	+3
	West Side	1	0	-1
Portland Place to Cogswell Street	East Side	4	4	-
	West Side	0	0	-
Total		52	44	-8



Stakeholder & Public Consultation

Stakeholder/Community consultation activities included:

- Parking / Loading Questionnaire
- On-Street Pop-up Engagement Sessions
- NEBA Stakeholder Meeting (May 14th, 2018)
- Public Open House (May 17th, 2018)
- Online Engagement (Shape Your City)



Public & Stakeholder Engagement

Feedback from consultation was mixed. **Many agreed that transit priority is needed, however common concerns included:**

- Potential loss of on-street parking and loading
- Comfort and safety with the addition of a third traffic lane
- Volume of buses using Gottingen Street, lack of consideration of alternatives that would reduce transit routing to Gottingen



Public & Stakeholder Engagement

Potential complete streets enhancements were an important focus of engagement efforts for the project. There was **strong support** for several complete streets improvements including:

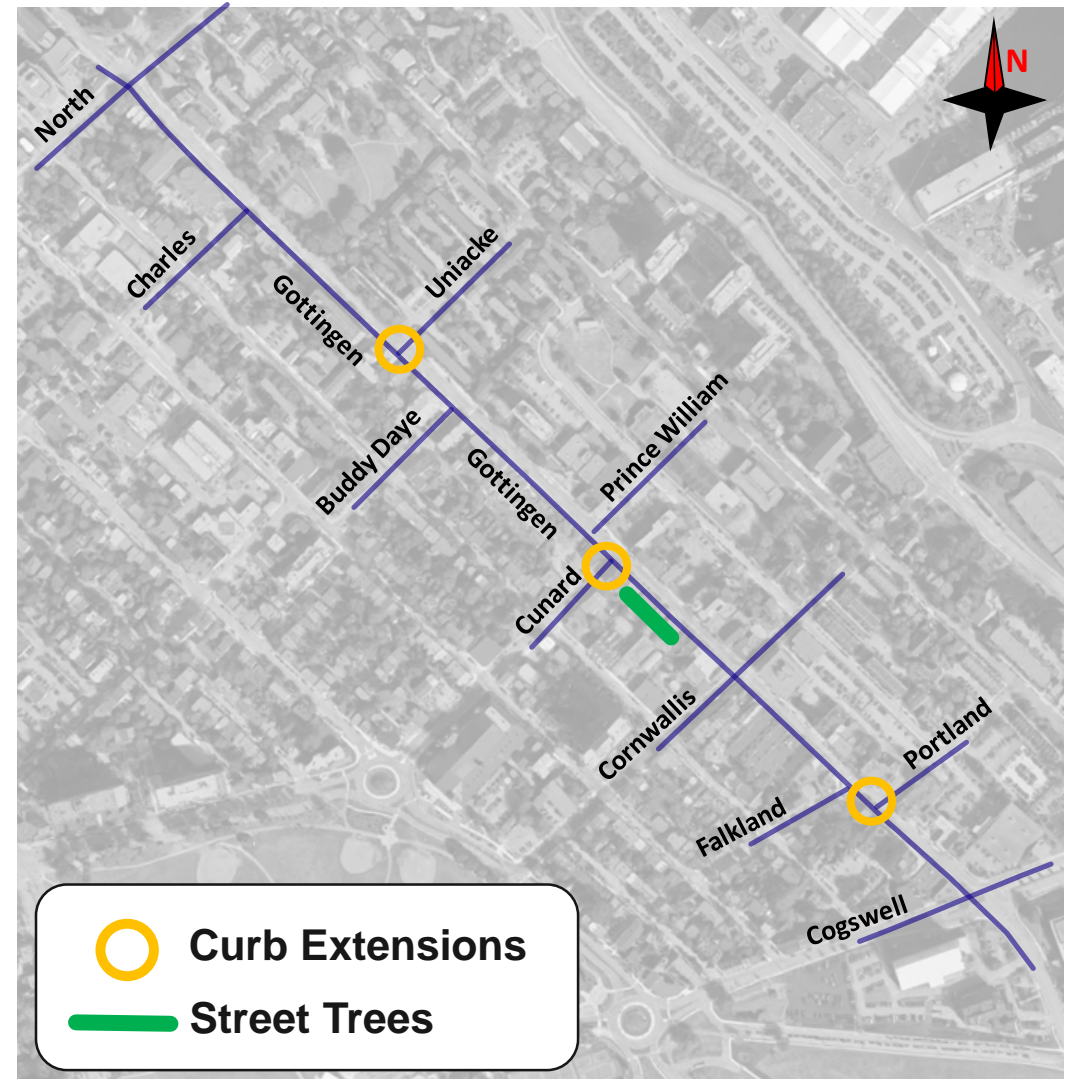
- Trees & Planters
- Garbage Cans
- Bicycle Parking
- Benches
- Curb & Sidewalk Improvements



Complete Streets Elements



NACTO Urban Street Design Guide



Monitoring & Evaluation Plan

Primary Objective

To measure the extent to which the project is successful using predefined metrics.

Deliverable

Staff report to Regional Council, one year after project implementation, that will:

- present the monitoring and evaluation results
- identify any areas for improvement
- recommend suitable design refinements.



Evaluation & Monitoring Plan: Metrics

- Public Experience
- Change in number and severity of collisions
- Change in how people are accessing the street
- Change in 85th percentile speed
- Number of installed streetscape elements
- Non-adherence of transit lane
- Parking utilization
- Cross section allocation
- Change in total person throughput
- Change in number of transit related collisions
- Change in average transit travel time & variability
- Rider experience
- Transit operator experience
- Change in ridership



Next Steps

- Transportation Standing Committee Approval (July 26th, 2018)
- Regional Council Approval (August 14th, 2018)
- Collection of baseline evaluation and monitoring data (June - September 2018)
- Construction Tender Award (September 2018)
- Moving Forward Together Plan Corridor Route Review / Macdonald Bridge Ramp / Express Route Review Supplementary Reports to TSC (Fall 2018)
- Implementation of the Transit Priority Corridor & Complete Street Elements (Fall 18)
- Collection of post-implementation evaluation and monitoring data (Fall 18 to Fall 19)
- Monitoring & Evaluation Plan report to Regional Council (Fall 2019)



Recommendation

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- 1. Approve detailed design as shown in Attachment B of the staff report dated June 21, 2018.**
- 2. Approve the parking loss mitigation plan as described in Attachment C of the staff report dated June 21, 2018.**
- 3. Direct staff to proceed with implementation of a peak period (7am-9am and 3pm-6pm, Monday to Friday) northbound bus lane on the Gottingen Street corridor.**
- 4. Approve the evaluation methodology as per Attachment E of this report through which the Gottingen Street peak period northbound bus lane will be measured and evaluated one year after implementation.**



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