



P.O. Box 1749  
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**Item No. 4**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**June 7, 2019**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

Original Signed

**SUBMITTED BY:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Julia Bremner, Chair, Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM

**DATE:** June 4, 2019

**SUBJECT:** Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw  
(Package A)

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**ORIGIN**

- May 22, 2019 meeting of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM, Item No. 9.1.2.
- June 3, 2019 Special Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM, Item No. 2.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order 2017-005-GOV, respecting the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in the Halifax Regional Municipality section 6 (a):

**Duties of the Committee**

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to persons with disabilities as follows:

(a) review and monitor existing and proposed Municipal by-laws to promote full participation of persons with disabilities.

**RECOMMENDATION**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee recommends that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated April 3, 2019.
2. Adopt the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B of the staff report dated April 3, 2019 with consideration to the following:
  - establishing an inclusive definition of the term pedestrian that includes users of wheel chairs, mobility scooters, assistive devices, and infant strollers

## **BACKGROUND**

A staff report dated April 3, 2019 pertaining to the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw (Package A) was before the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM at its meeting held on May 22, 2019. Staff provided a presentation on the April 3, 2019 staff report at its meeting held on May 22, 2019. The Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM requested that a special meeting be held on June 3, 2019 to provide its membership with more time to review the report.

For further information, please refer to the attached staff report dated April 3, 2019.

## **DISCUSSION**

In its review of the April 3, 2019 staff report and presentation, the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM identified the following accessibility considerations for the Executive Standing Committee to consider when evaluating the proposed Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw (Package A):

- The importance of integrating affordable housing units and recognizing the impact of the Centre Plan on diverse communities;
- The inclusion of accessibility features, equipment and upgrades to new and existing housing units within the Density Bonusing program;
- Ensuring that the Bonus Zoning program includes provisions for accessibility features within the public benefit such as barrier free access, elevated seating with support handles, etc.;
- Consideration to accessibility when regulating landscaping, parking, and sign requirements;
- A consistent definition of the term “built form” which is compatible with the terminology being considered in provincial legislation;
- The use of plain language in the development of a user guide for the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use Bylaw.

In forwarding its recommendation to the Executive Standing Committee, the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM proposed an amendment to establish an inclusive definition of the term pedestrian which will be compatible with upcoming provincial accessibility legislation.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the attached staff report dated April 3, 2019.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

As outlined in the attached staff report dated April 3, 2019.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Meeting of the Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM are open to public attendance. The agenda, reports and minutes of the Community Planning & Economic Development Standing Committee are posted on Halifax.ca.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

As outlined in the attached staff report dated April 3, 2019.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Advisory Committee for Accessibility in HRM did not discuss alternative recommendations.

**ATTACHMENTS**

1. Staff report dated April 3, 2019
2. Staff presentation dated June 3, 2019.

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by:       Liam MacSween, Legislative Assistant, 902.490.6521

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**HALIFAX**

# **Centre Plan “Package A”**

Accessibility Advisory Committee

June 3, 2019

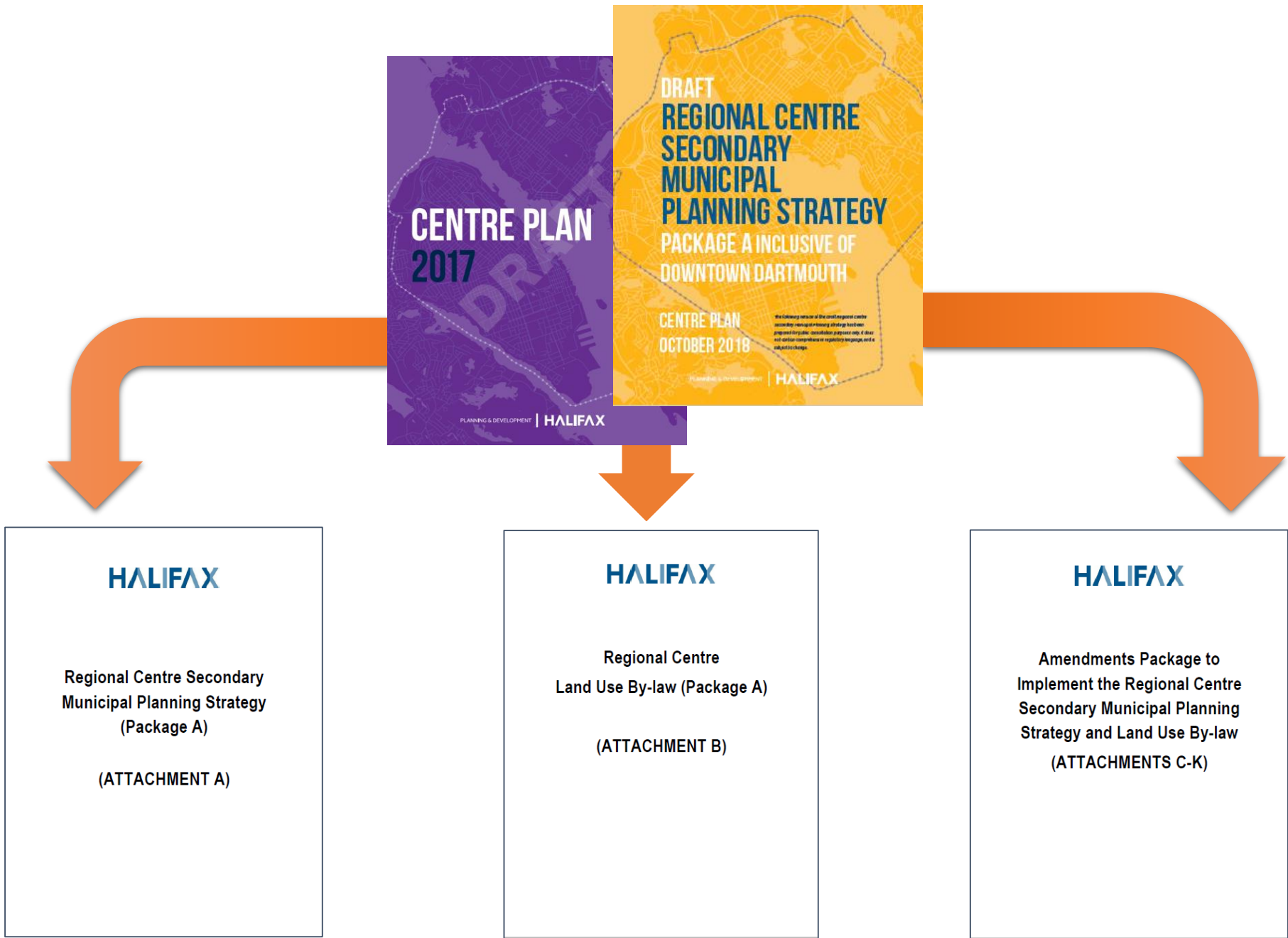
# Purpose

- Present supplementary information on Centre Plan Package 'A'
- Highlight how the principle of accessibility has been addressed in the process, policies and recommendations
- Receive AAC's recommendation to the Executive Committee

# The Regional Centre

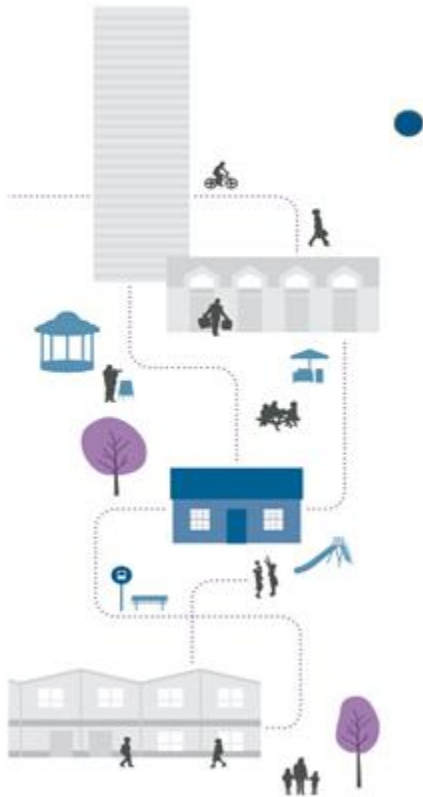


# Draft Documents

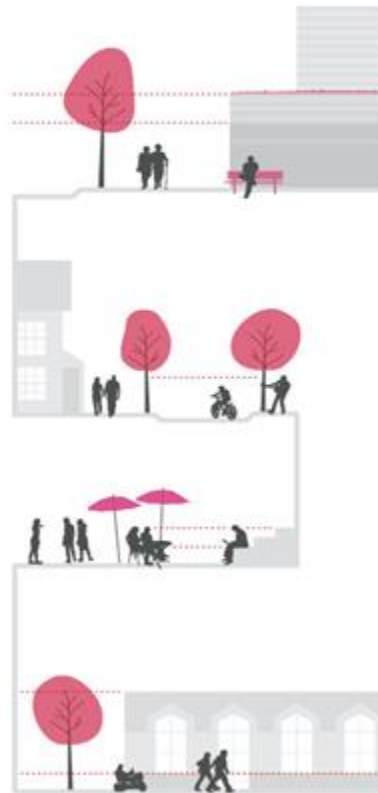


# Core Concepts

## COMPLETE COMMUNITIES



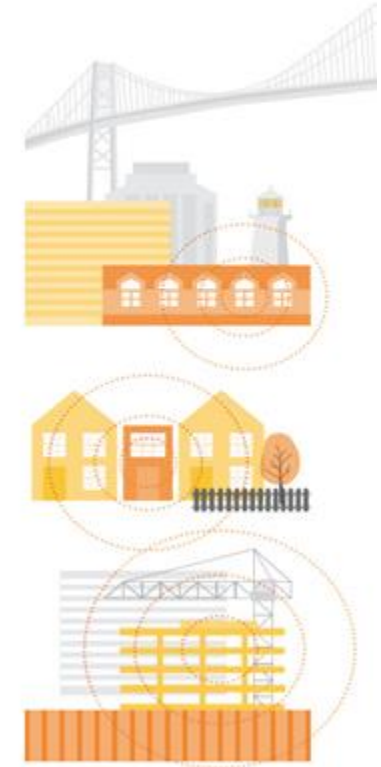
## HUMAN SCALE



## PEDESTRIAN FIRST



## STRATEGIC GROWTH





# “Pedestrian First”

- A pedestrian is a person travelling on foot, along a road or in a developed area.
- In recent years pedestrian mobility in the context of “complete streets” also means mobility for all ages and abilities, including assisted devices such as roller skates, skateboards, scooters, and wheelchairs (e.g. *Step Forward Pedestrian Mobility Plan, City of Hamilton; IMP, 2017*).
- The focus on pedestrian mobility is to shift priority from vehicle mobility back to people powered transportation
- Staff welcome feedback on the definition or term

# Engagement



**March 2016 to November 2018**

**14** Public Open Houses

**15** Pop-up Meetings

**141** Survey Participation

**10+** Stakeholder Workshops

**8** Community Workshops

**20** Walking Tours

**326** Survey Submissions

**50+** Road Show Presentations

**Shape Your City Halifax Website:** ~26,500 unique visitors with 24,300 Downloads

**Storefront:** 400 visits over 10 weeks

# Engagement



## Over 150 Stakeholder Organizations

Affordable Housing Association of Nova Scotia  
CNIB  
Black Business Initiative  
Bloomfield Neighbourhood Association  
Canadian Association of Retired Persons  
Community Health Boards  
Dartmouth North Community Food Centre

Take Action Society  
ISANS  
Mi'kmaw Native Friendship Centre  
Mulgrave Park Tenants Association  
Walk n' Roll

# Input on Accessibility

Accessible and access to:

- Grocery, food and community gardens
- Commerce
- Green spaces and recreation opportunities
- Services , Business and Community Services
- Age friendly communities (Benches & shelters near bus stops)
- Accessibility for cyclists and pedestrians
- Commercial buildings should be more accessible (problems with older buildings)
- Accessible housing needs to be affordable
- Shopping for those without vehicles
- Streets and sidewalks (maintenance too), and
- Overall equity lens

# Context

*NS Accessibility Act (2017)*: new standards to be introduced to make Nova Scotia accessible by 2030

*NS Building Code (1989) and Regulations (2019)*: barrier free units, accessible parking, signs etc.

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter (2008)*: content of Municipal Planning Strategy and Land Use By-law; consider the principle of accessibility in the general exercise of powers.

*Integrated Mobility Plan (2017)*: focus on connected, healthy, affordable and sustainable mobility for all ages and abilities

# Access to Housing

- More housing enabled along transit lines
- Building Code mandates 1 in 20 units to be accessible
- A wide range of housing types and built forms permitted
  - Single unit dwellings to multi-unit dwellings
  - Secondary units and backyard suites
  - Shared housing
  - Work-live units
  - Grade-related units
- Majority of density bonus value to be directed to affordable housing, which can include barrier free housing
- Accessible parking also regulated by the Building Code



# Access to Services

- More commercial and institutional uses enabled in Package A areas and along transit lines
  - Local commercial uses
  - Grocery stores, garden centres, retail and restaurants
  - Workshops, medical clinics, emergency services etc.



# Access to Food

- Urban farm uses permitted widely
- Whole sale food production permitted in CEN-2 zone
- Local commercial and grocery uses





# Built Form Requirements

- Accessibility largely governed by the *Building Code*
- Building setbacks (typically 1.5 m – 3 m) can prevent encroachments into sidewalks, enable accessible entrances etc.
- Design requirements address:
  - access to open spaces
  - pedestrian route connectivity
  - access through accessory surface parking lots

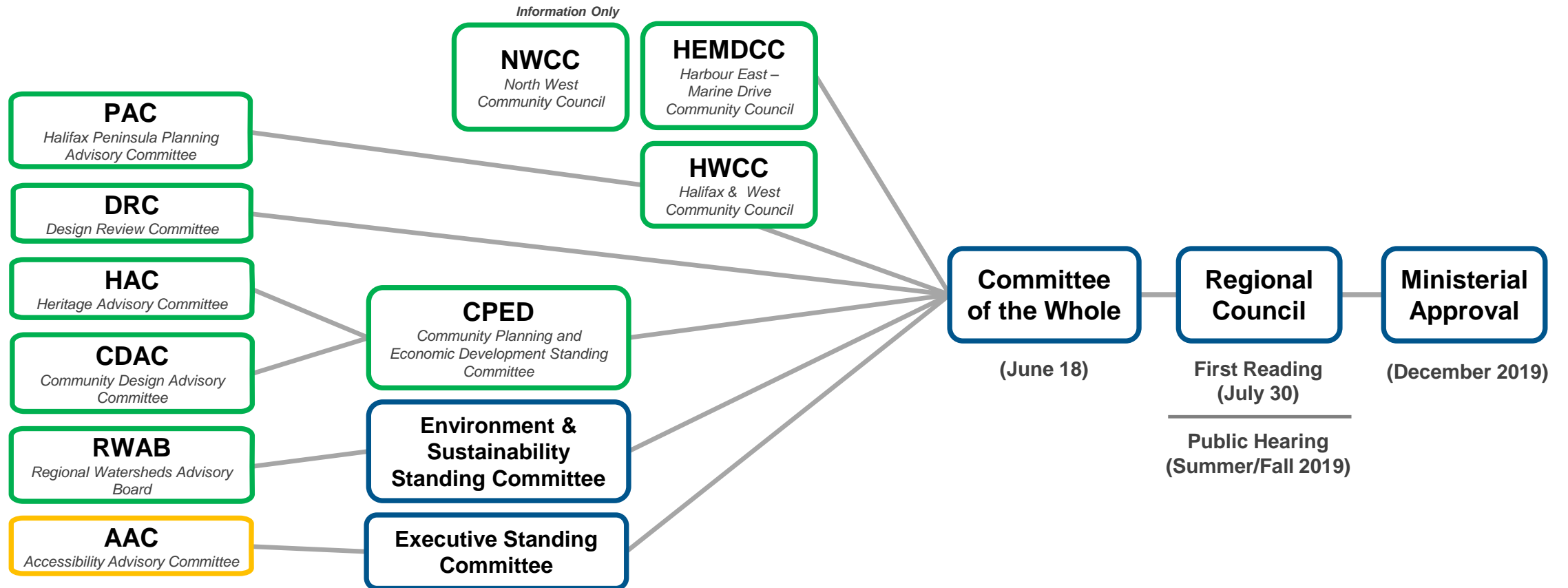


# Accessibility Policies

- Policy support for programs to enhance complete streets, streetscapes, and accessibility in municipal open spaces and facilities
- E.g. Policy 9.7, 10.18, 10.19



# Adoption Path



# Recommendation

It is recommended that the Accessibility Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

- Give First Reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B of this report.
- Adopt the Regional Centre Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy, and the Regional Centre Land Use By-law, as contained in Attachments A and B of this report.

# Alternatives

## **Accessibility Advisory Committee**

The Accessibility Advisory Committee may choose to:

1. Forward this report to the Executive Standing Committee with any suggested changes to the attached documents (Attachments A and B) and request changes be made before Regional Council considers First Reading;
2. Recommend the adoption of the proposed documents (Attachments A and B), subject to the recommended changes; or
3. Recommend against the adoption of the proposed documents (Attachments A and B).

**Thank you**  
**centreplan.ca**

The logo features the words "CENTRE PLAN" in a bold, white, distressed sans-serif font. The text is centered within a dark blue rectangular background that contains a faint, light blue map of a city street grid. The overall design is clean and professional.

**CENTRE PLAN**