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Halifax Complete Streets Guidelines Update

Prepared for
Halifax Accessibility Advisory Committee
February 22 2021

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Halifax Complete Streets Guidelines

- Formerly: **Municipal Design Guidelines**, AKA **Red Book**
- How to design our streets and related infrastructure (sidewalks, trees, pavers, lighting, traffic signals, etc.)

Who uses the Guidelines?

Designers

Engineers

Developers

HRM Staff

Contractors

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The guidelines are being updated to:

- provide more flexibility
- be applicable to greenfield, infill, and recapitalization projects
- prioritize all users
- reflect industry standards
- consider safety, traffic calming, and sustainability; and,
- reflect Regional Council direction, HRM policy targets





2021 Update: “Quick Hits”

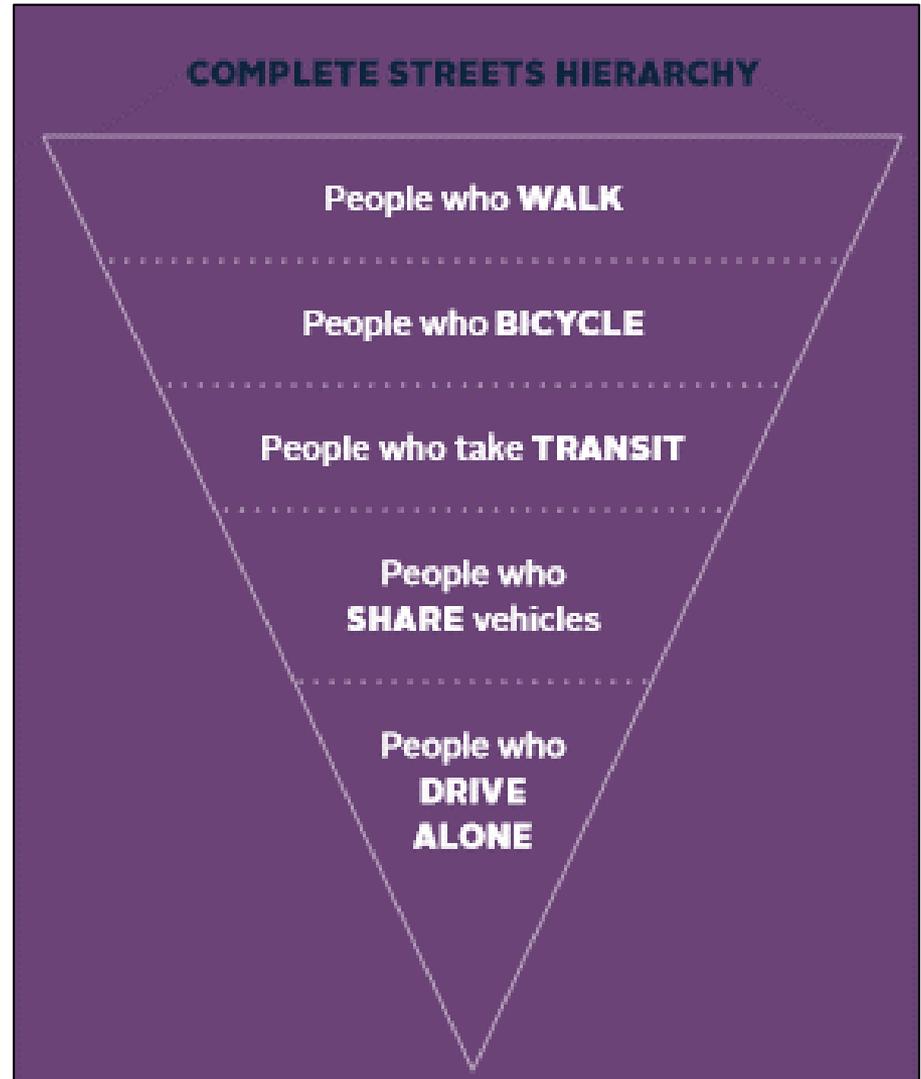
This was not a complete rewrite. We were asked to focus on specific sections:

- Complete Streets
- Streetscape Elements
- Stormwater
- Trees
- Streetlighting

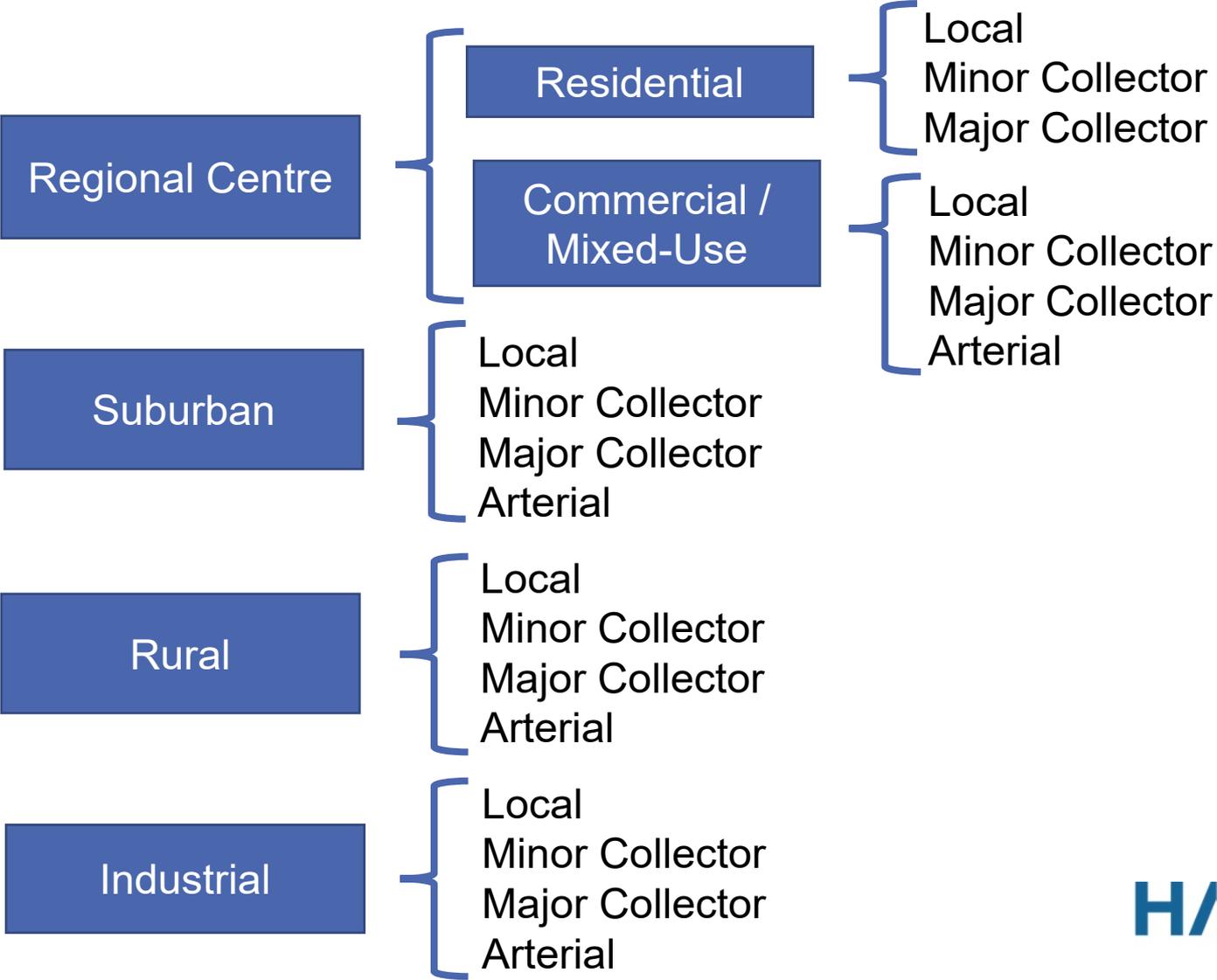
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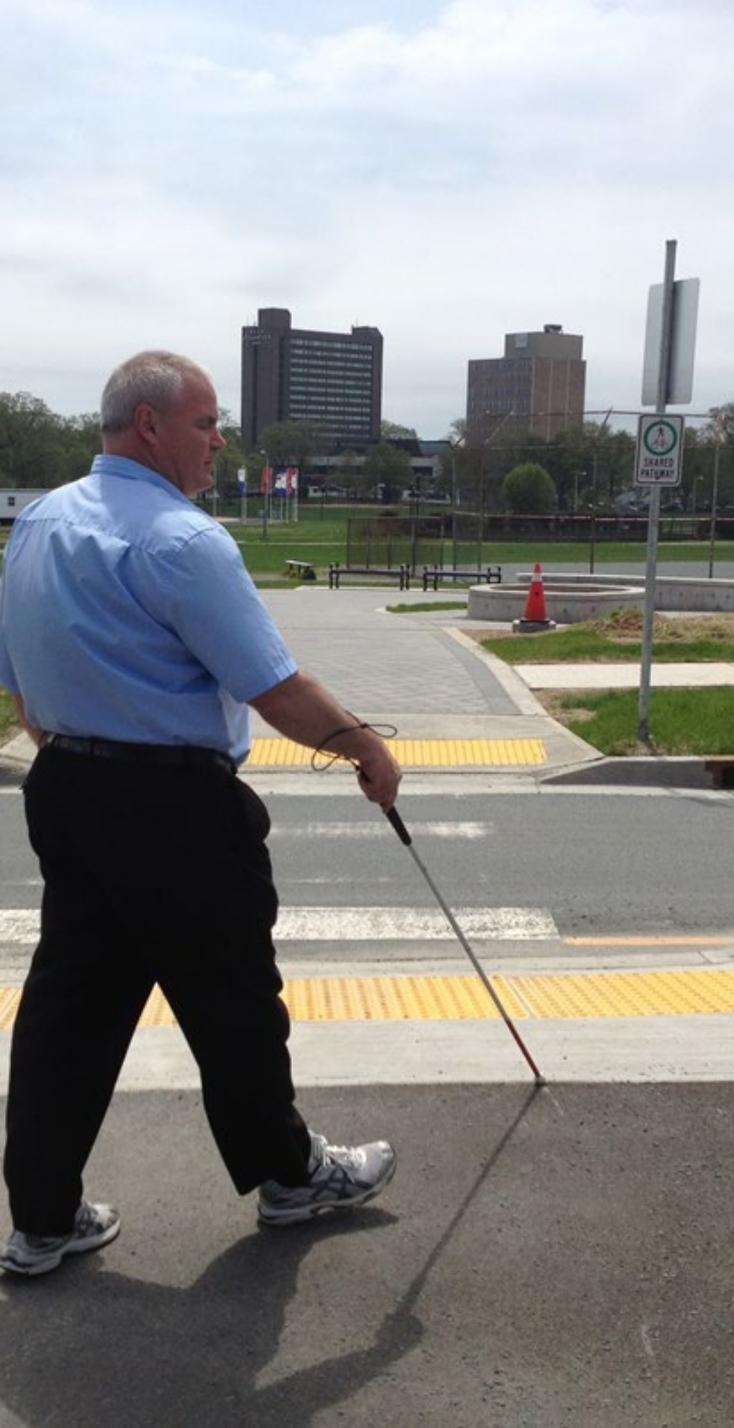
Complete Streets

- A **complete street** serves the needs of the people that use it in a way that's appropriate for where it is



Street Typologies





Accessibility Standards

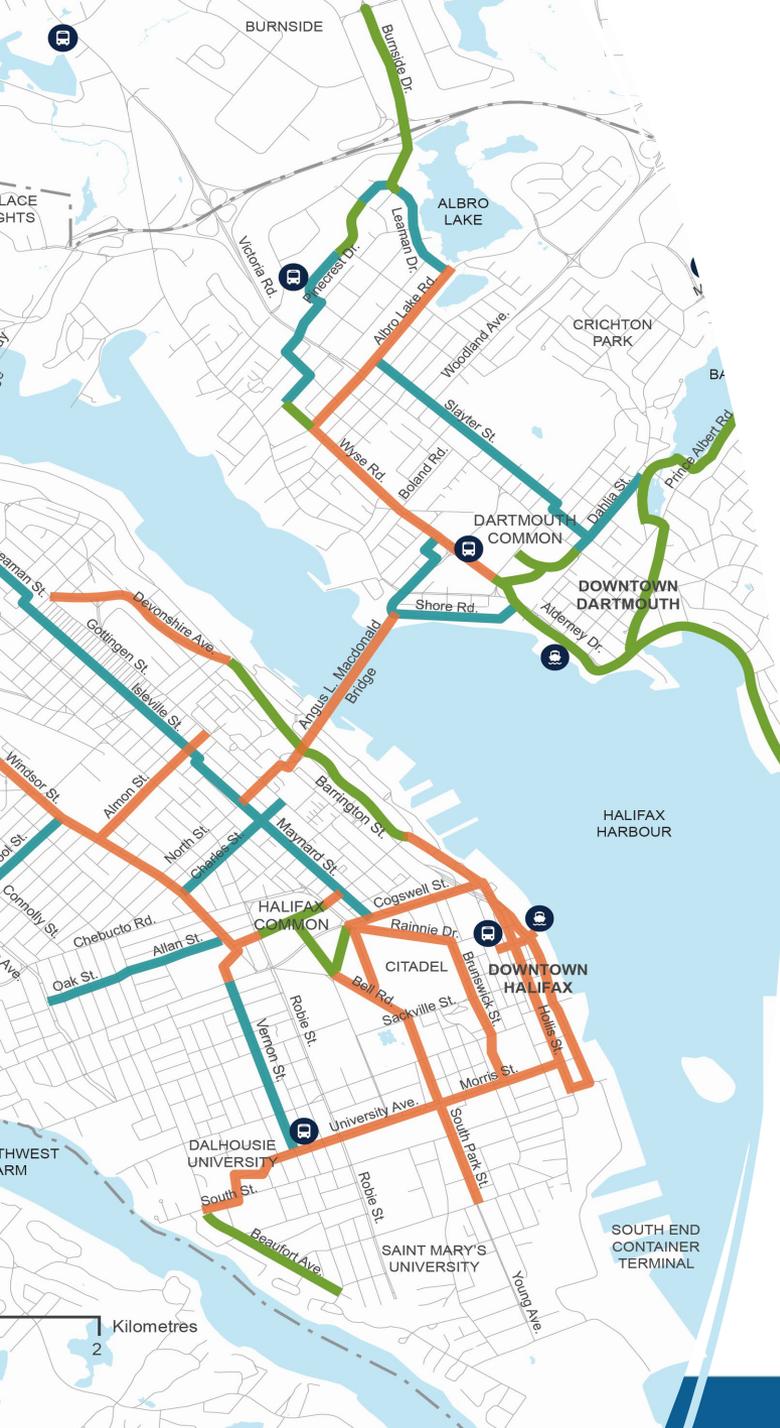
- “Accessibility Act” of Nova Scotia
- Rick Hansen Foundation Accessibility Certification
- Transportation Association of Canada (TAC) 2017
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- National Association of Transportation Officials (NACTO)

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Tactile Walking Surface Indicators

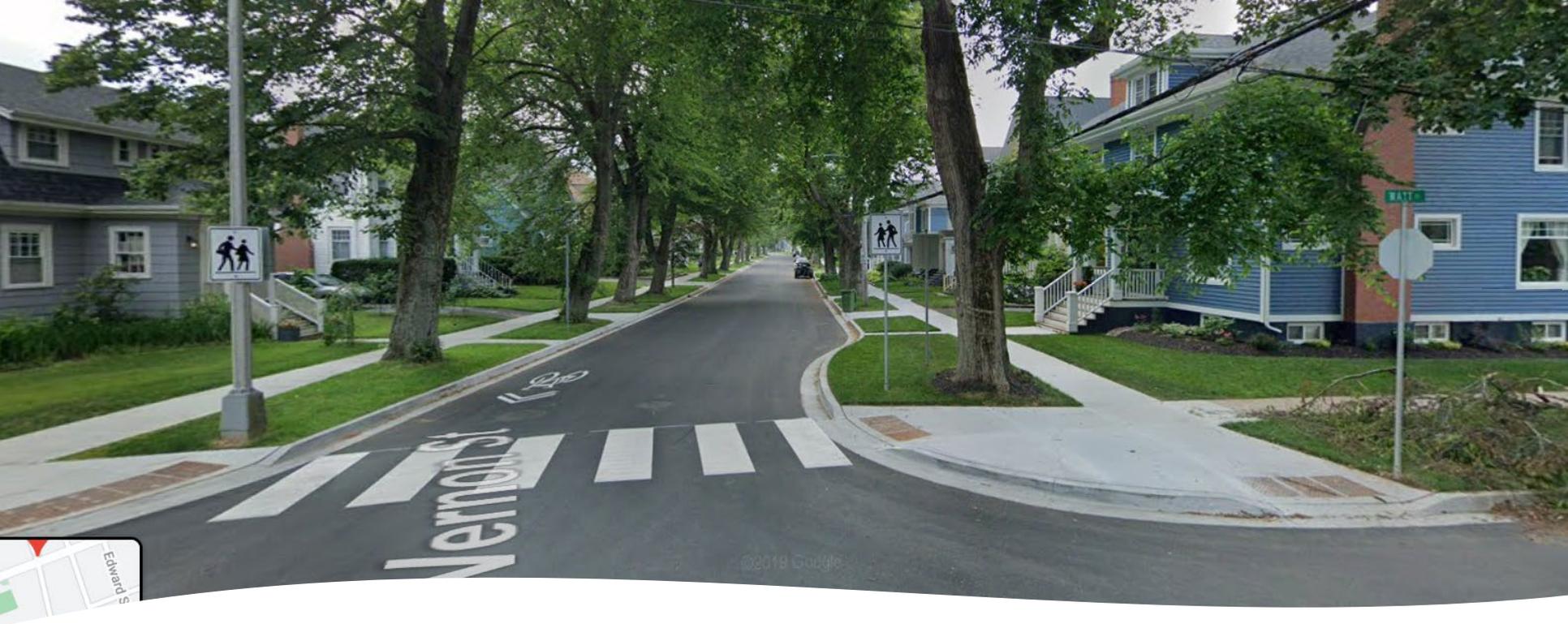
- Requirements for TWSIs on all new pedestrian ramps
- Guidance on bikeway design including TWSIs where pedestrian paths cross bikeways



Network Layout

- Designers must consider the surrounding network, including:
 - “All Ages and Abilities” (AAA)
 - network of bikeways and multi-use paths
 - future bus routes
 - pedestrian connections

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Shorter Pedestrian Crossings

- Narrower lane widths
- Curb bump-outs
- Requirements for boulevards between sidewalks and vehicle traffic

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Flatter Grades

- Grades of streets are 8% maximum
~~10-12% max~~
- Grades of walkways are 6% maximum
- No use of stairs in pedestrian routes
- Requirements for flatter grades on sidewalks, crosswalks, cross falls

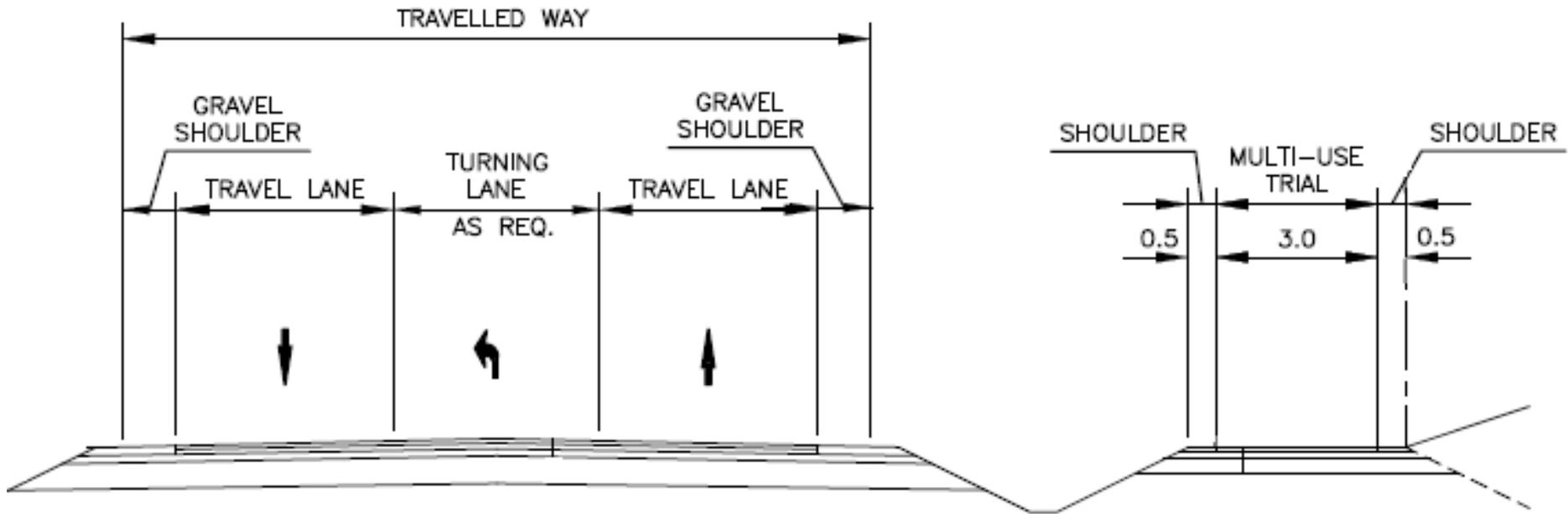
Bicycle Facilities

- AAA bikeways
- Bicycle facility types
- Design elements:
 - Limiting grades
 - Minimum widths
 - Surface guidelines
 - Intersection design



Rural: Multi-Use Paths

- New requirements for multi-use pathways on rural collector and arterial roads



CROSS SECTION



Bus Stops

- Anticipating future bus stop locations and routes
- Standards for accessible bus stops
- Guidance on planning of bus stop placement

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Streetscaping Standards

- Includes street furniture like benches, planters, or trees
- Clear pedestrian through zone
- High contrast visibility on bollards, planters, etc.
- Accessible seating: height, space alongside for wheel chairs, surrounding grades

Next Phase of Updates

- Next update will address remaining sections and standard details
- Annual review process



Accessibility Advisory Committee Involvement

- Seeking input for this phase and next
- Other external stakeholders consulted;
 - Walk n Roll Halifax,
 - Active Transportation Advisory Committee
 - NS Accessibility Directorate