

Re: Item No. 5

HALIFAX

Municipal Design Guidelines: A Complete Streets Approach

Prepared for Committee of the Whole

Sept 14, 2021

Municipal Design Guidelines

- Commonly called **Red Book**
- How to design our streets and related public infrastructure (sidewalks, trees, pavers, lighting, traffic signals, etc.)

- Part A – Design Guidelines and Standards
- Part B – Standard Details
- Part C – Drawing Standards

Who uses the Guidelines?

Designers

Engineers

Developers

HRM Staff

Contractors

Roles

- **Municipal Engineer:** Administers the Design Guidelines (or designate)
- **Traffic Authority:** Regulatory function. Street markings, signage, traffic signals.
 - Important for safe road design, but not the primary focus
 - Does not administer the guidelines

Administrative Order 2021-003-OP

- The Guidelines are connected to the Regional Subdivision By-Law – applicable to both “greenfield” and “infill”
- Amend Regional Subdivision By-Law:
 - Update reference to the Guidelines
 - Requires first and second reading and public hearing
 - Approve Administrative Order
- Administrative Order to amend the Guidelines will allow regular amendments

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;
- reflect Regional Council direction, HRM policy targets:
Integrated Mobility Plan



Argyle Street

2021 Update:

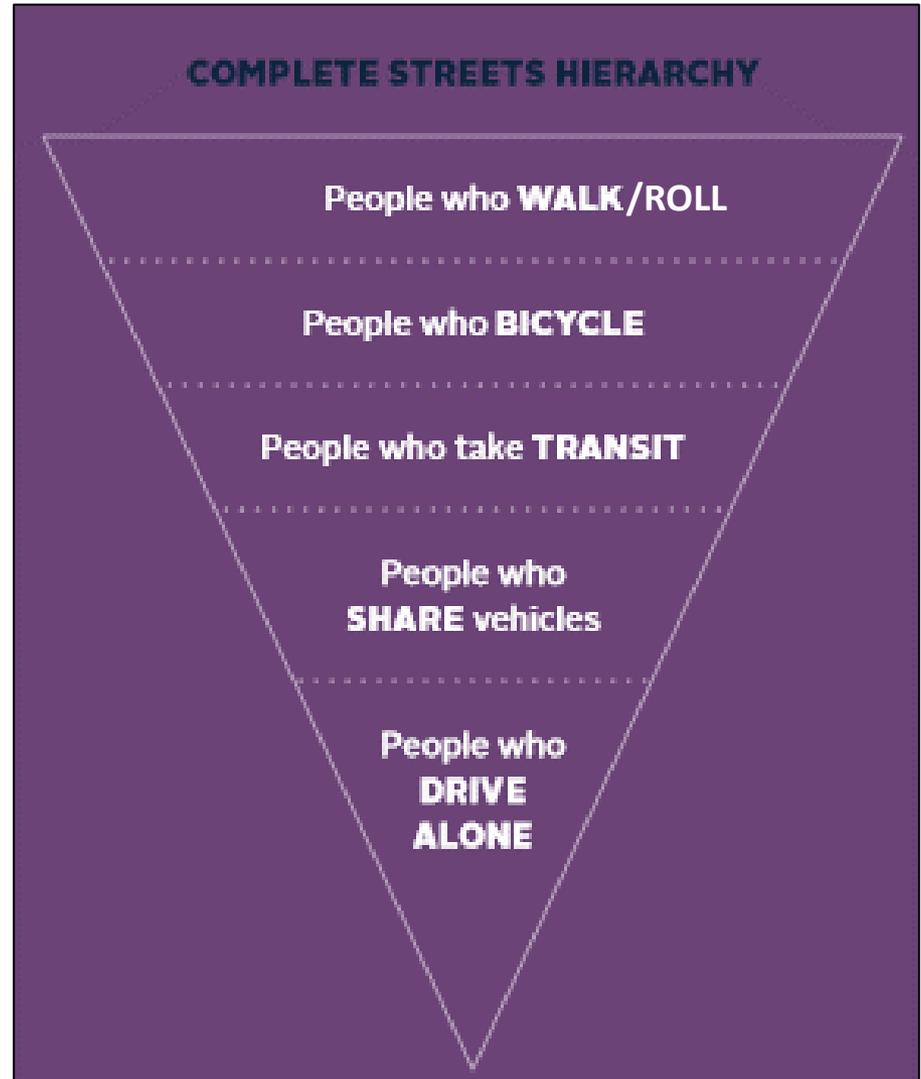
This was not a complete rewrite.

Focused on chapters:

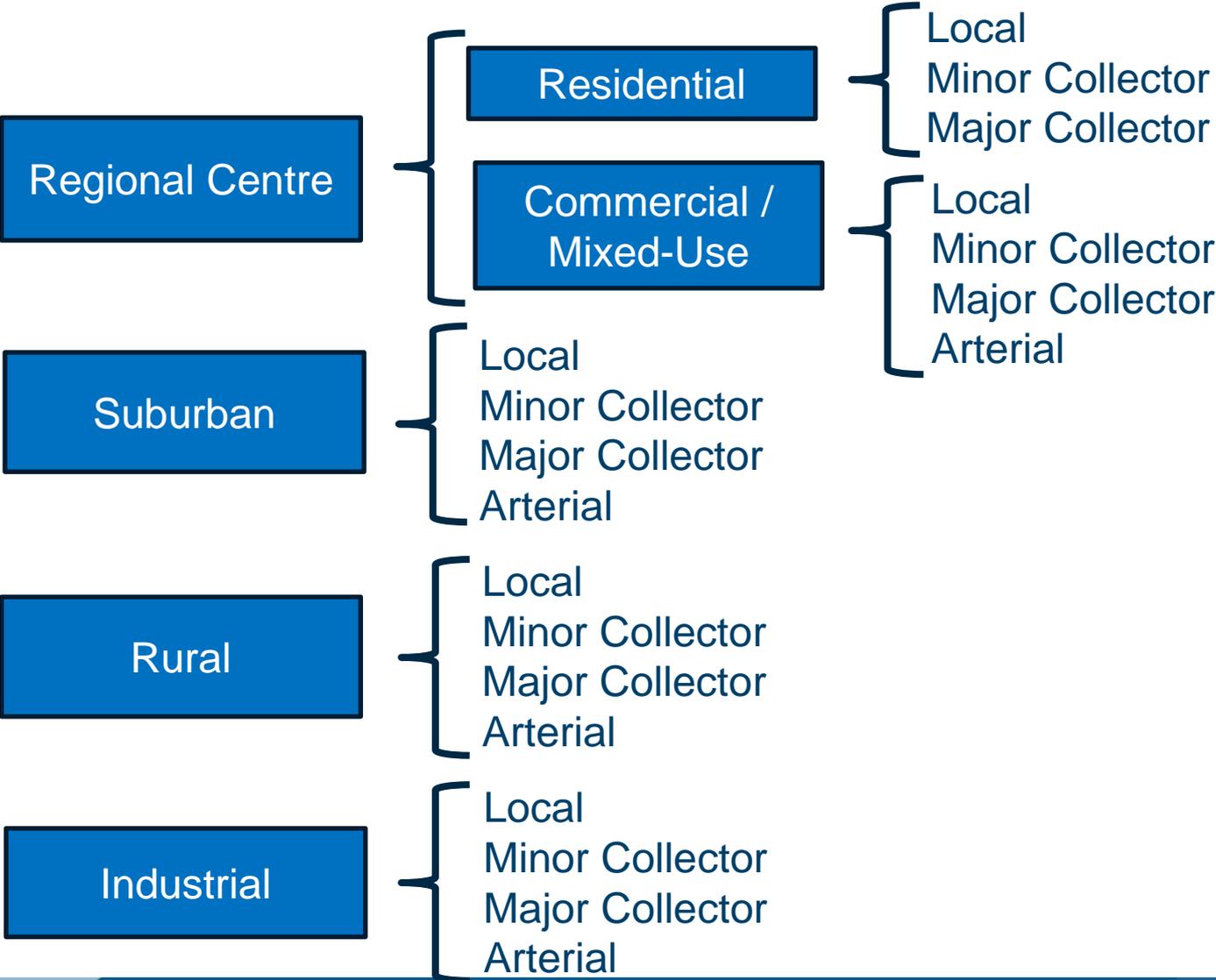
- **Complete Streets**
- Streetscape Elements
- Trees
- Streetlighting

Complete Streets

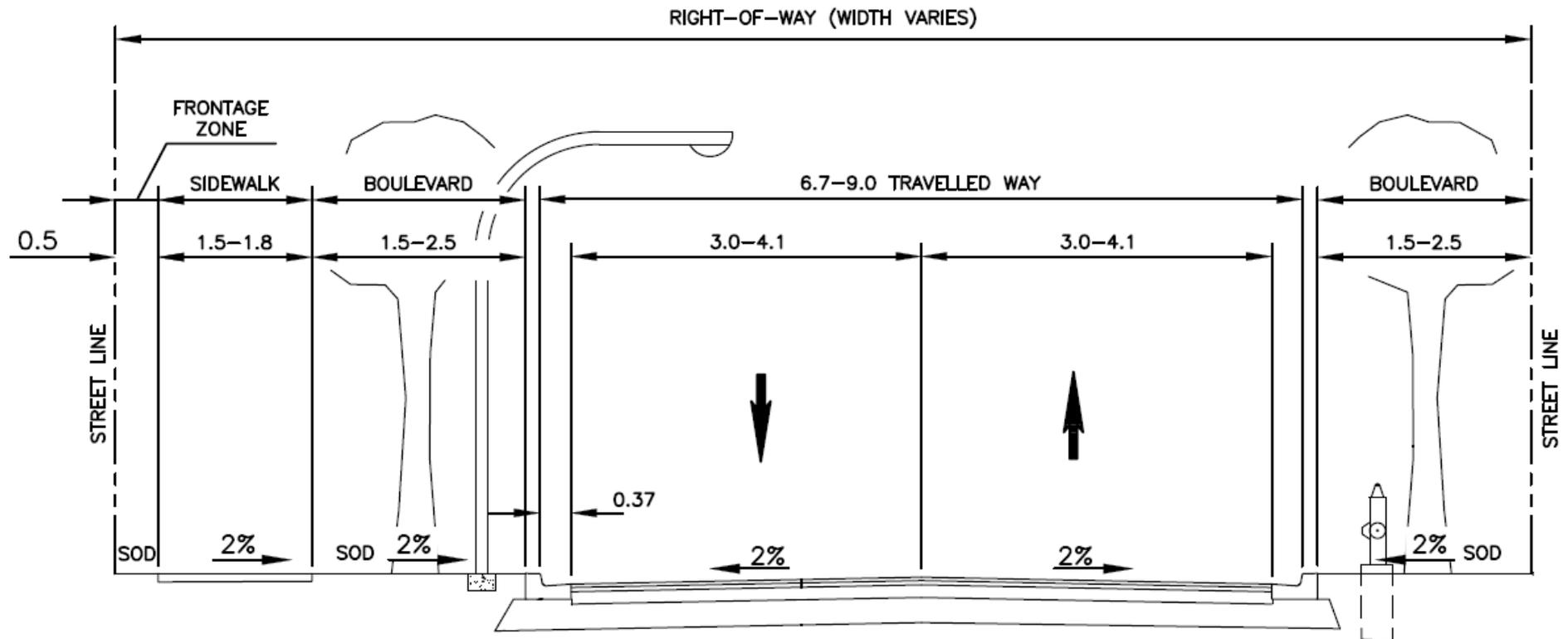
- A **complete street** serves the needs of the people that use it in a way that's appropriate for where it is

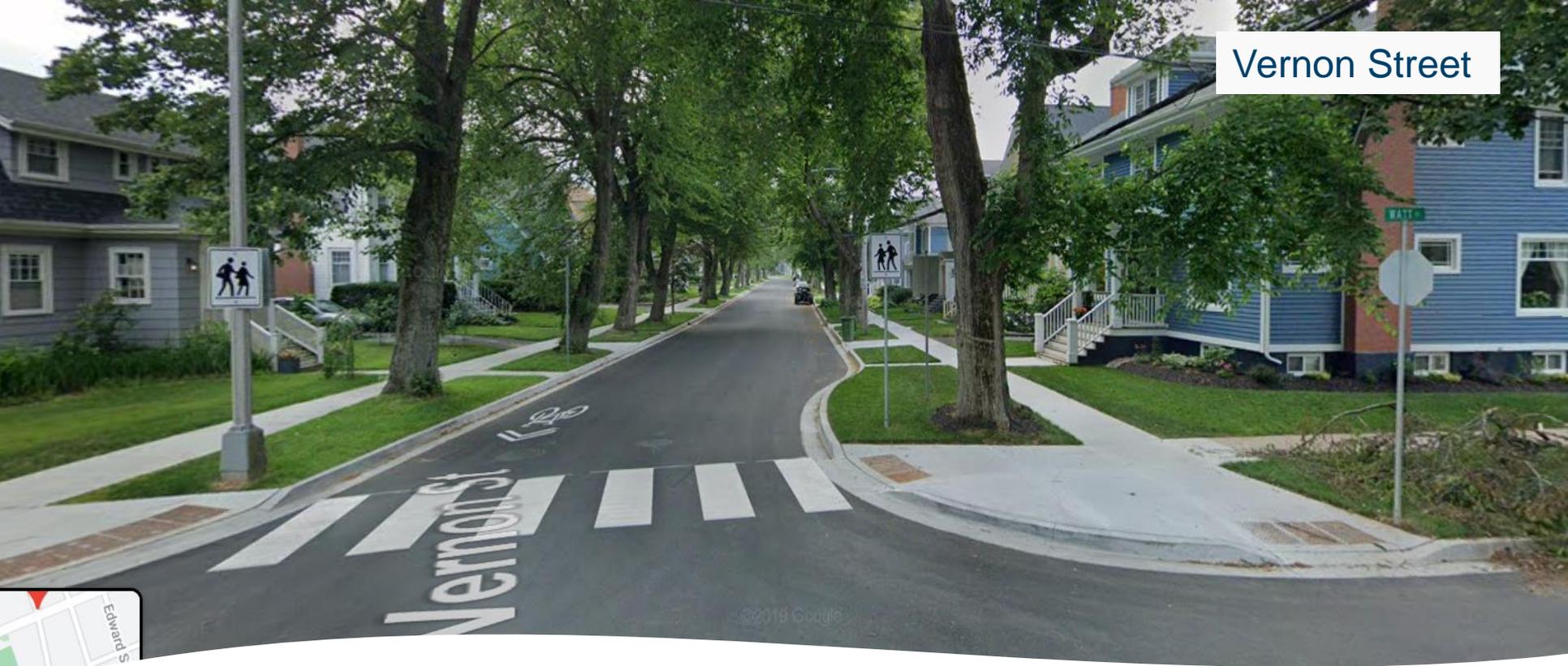


Street Typologies



Local Residential Street – Suburban and Regional Centre

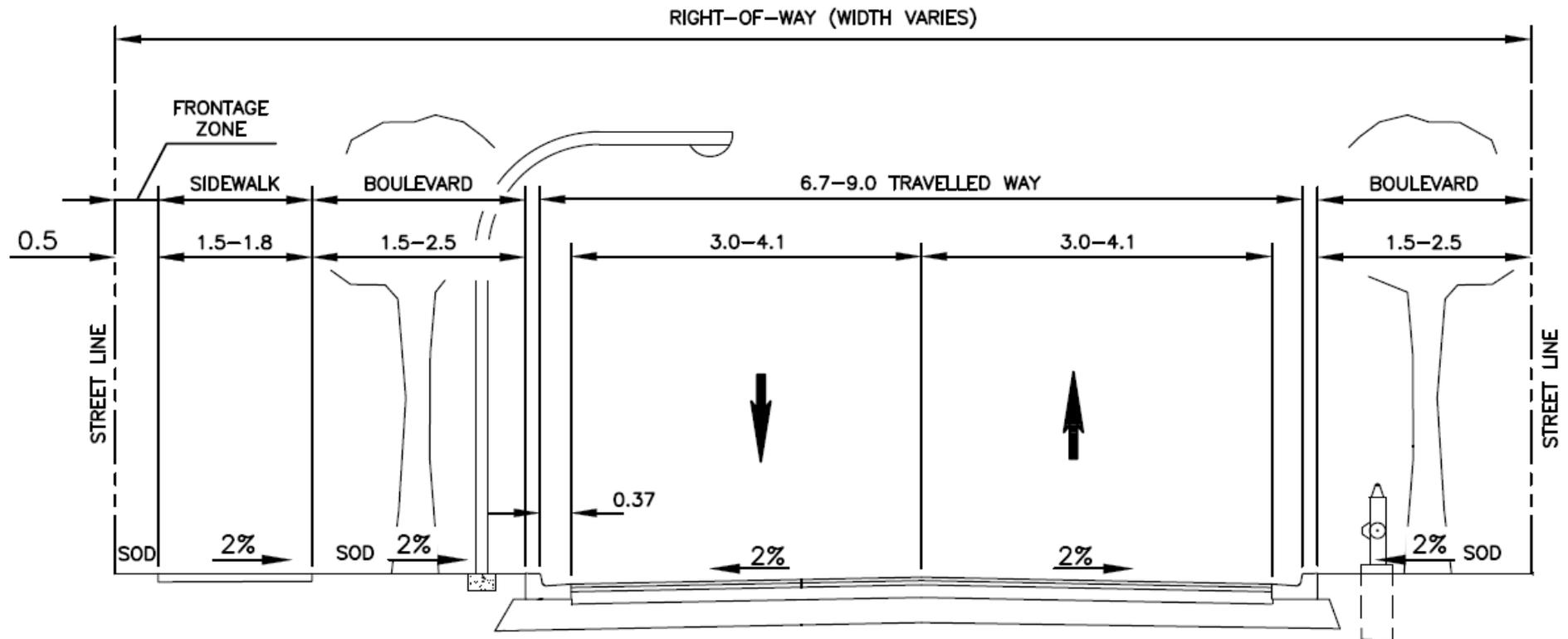




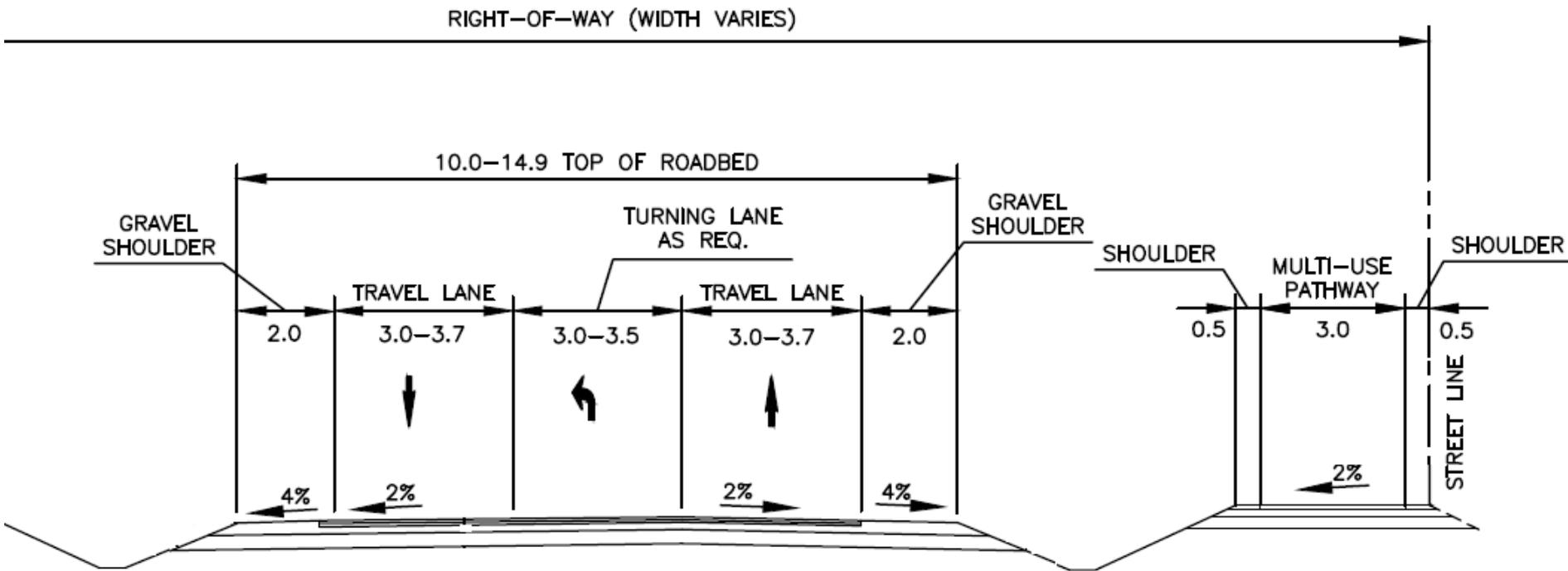
Example: Vernon Street

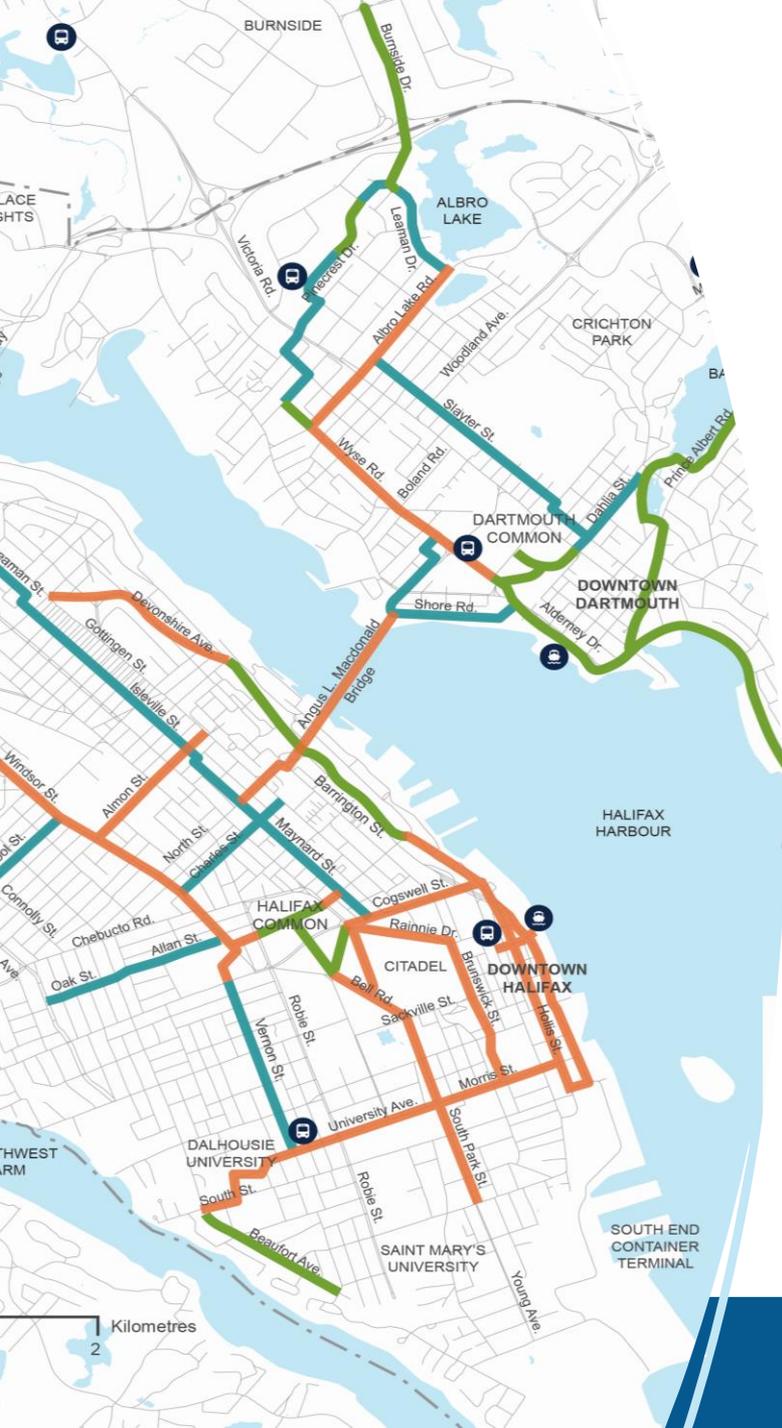
- Narrower lane widths
- Curb bump-outs
- Traffic calming

Local Residential Street – Suburban and Regional Centre



Change to Rural Cross Sections: Multi-Use Paths





Network Layout

- Designers must consider the surrounding network, including:
 - network of bikeways and multi-use paths
 - future bus routes
 - pedestrian connections

Bicycle Facilities

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

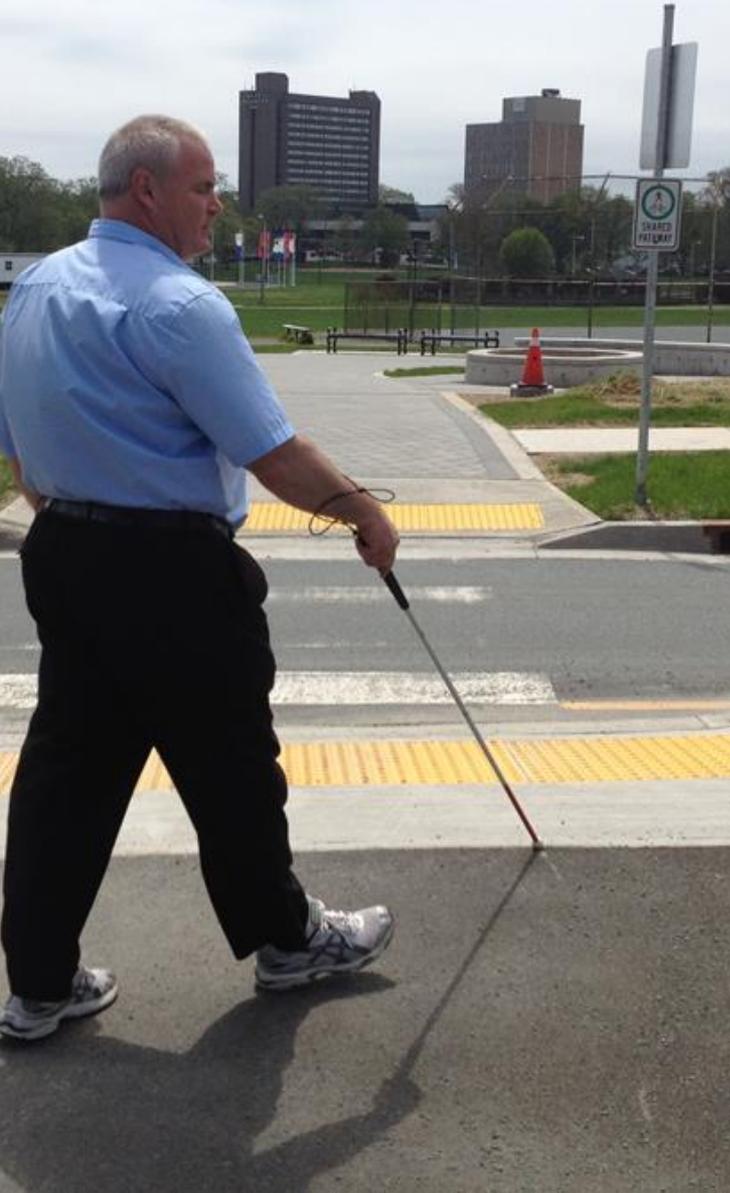


Example: South Park Street

- HRM recapitalization project
- New bike lane
- Streetscape elements: bike racks, ornamental lights, pavers
- Curb bump-outs

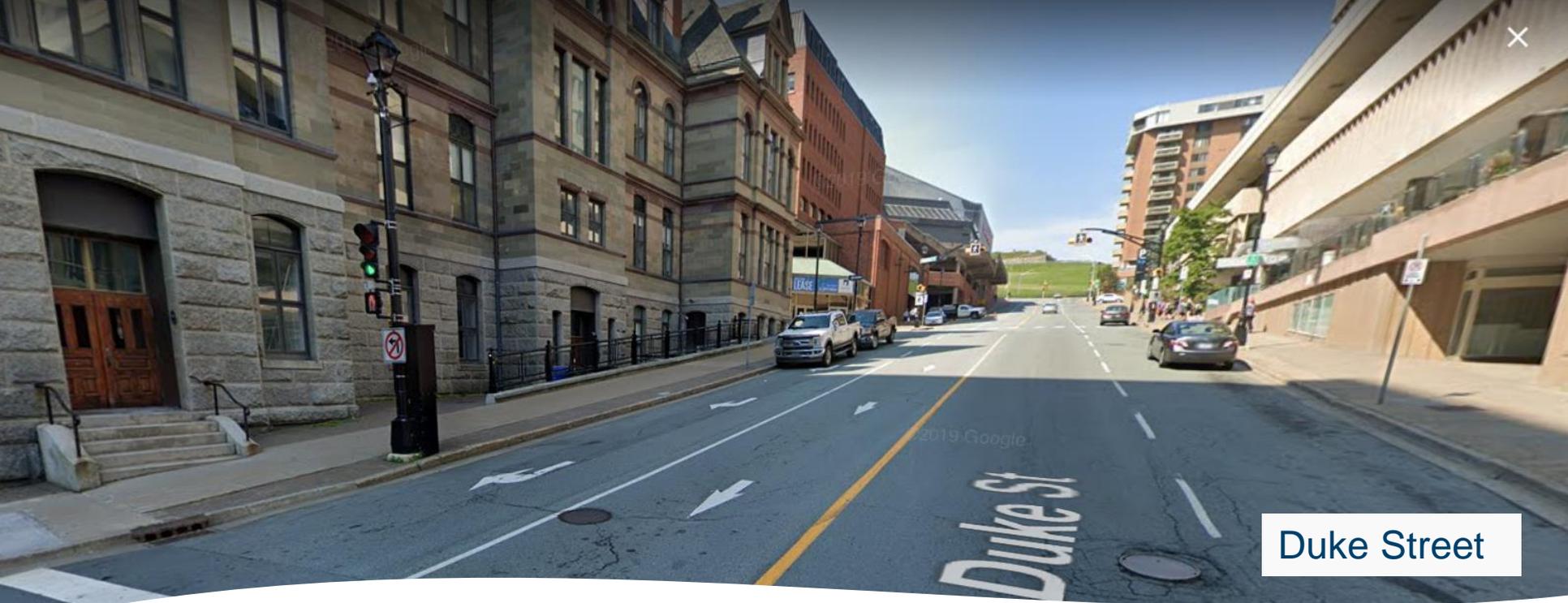


South Park Street



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 City Transportation Officials (NACTO)



Flatter Grades

- Local street grades are ~~10-12%~~ 8% max
- Arterial / Collector street grades are 6% max
- Pedestrian route grades are 6% max or match local street
- Requirements for flatter grades on sidewalks, crosswalks

Streetscaping

- Streetscaping Requirements for the Regional Centre
- Emphasis on placemaking
- Identifies signature streets





Trees

- Guidelines for:
 - Placement
 - Quantities
 - Species selection
 - Planting and maintenance
 - Hardscape options
 - Tree protection during construction

Stakeholder Consultation

- Engaged residents through an on-line survey
- Engaged external stakeholders: development industry and community advocates

Positive resident and advocate feedback – more to be achieved in the future

Varied development industry feedback: welcome flexibility but concern regarding flatter street grades

Variance Request Process

- Submission process (already in use for 2020)
- Designers submit rationale of variance for review by HRM staff
- Propose ways to mitigate potential impacts

Next Steps

- Next phase of updates will address remaining sections and standard details
- Regular review process



Recommendation

It is recommended that Halifax Regional Council:

- Give first reading and schedule a public hearing to consider the proposed amendments to the Regional Subdivision By-law as set out in Attachment B of the staff report;
- Adopt Administrative Order 2021-003-OP respecting Municipal Design Guidelines as set out in Attachment C of the staff report; and
- Adopt the amendments to the Regional Subdivision By-law, including repealing and replacing the Municipal Design Guidelines, as set out in Attachment B of the staff report.