

Re: Item No. 12.1

**HALIFAX**

# **Municipal Design Guidelines: A Complete Streets Approach**

Prepared for Halifax Regional Council,  
Public Hearing

November 9, 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

# 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:

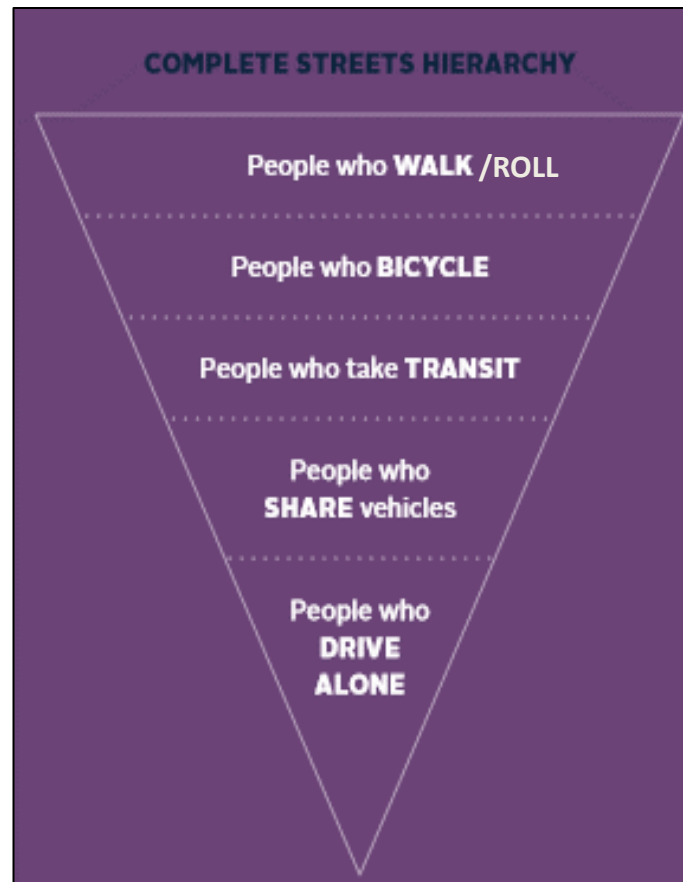
This was not a complete rewrite.

Focused on chapters:

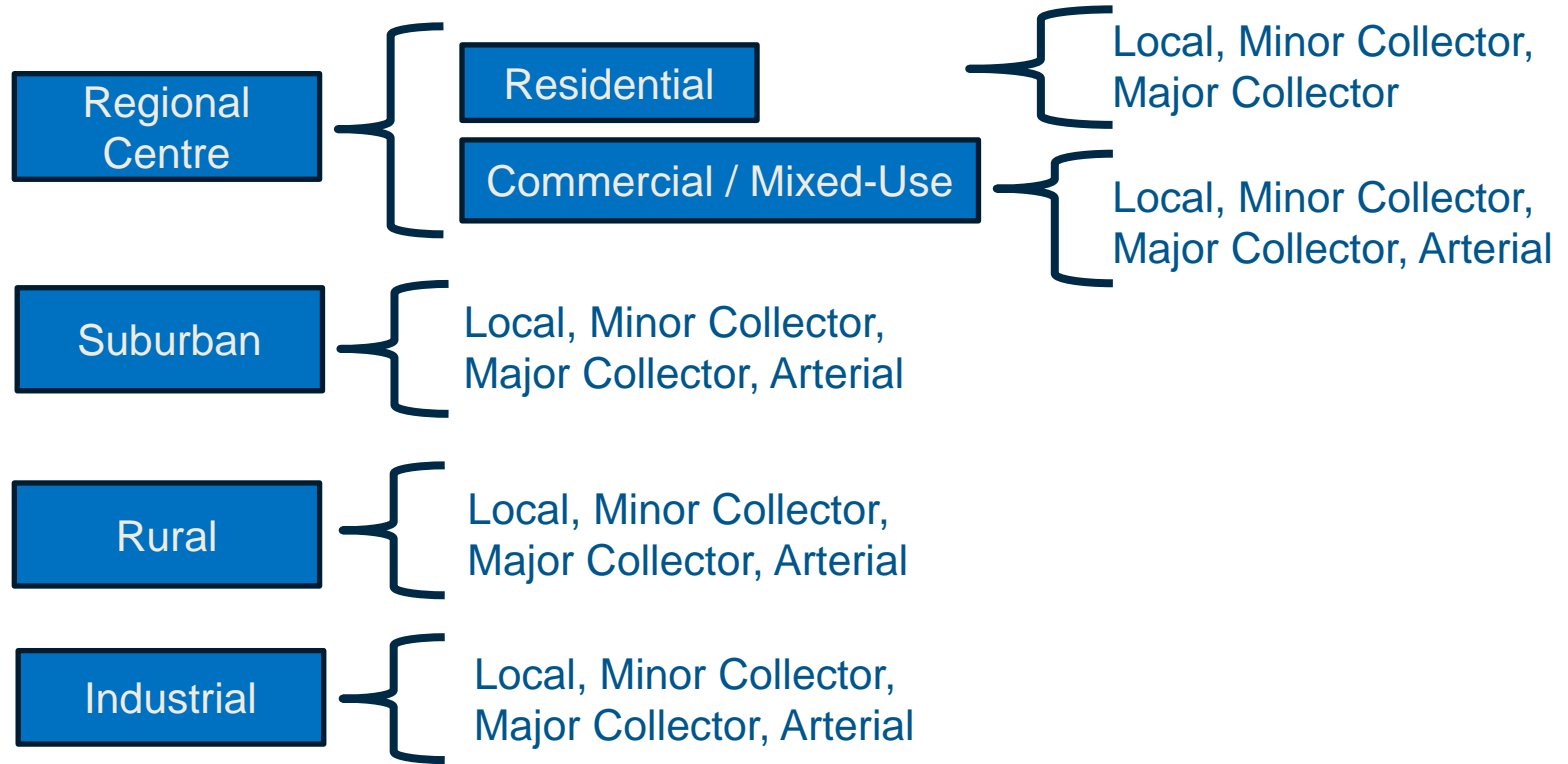
- **Complete Streets**
- Streetscape Elements
- Trees
- Streetlighting

# Complete Streets

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

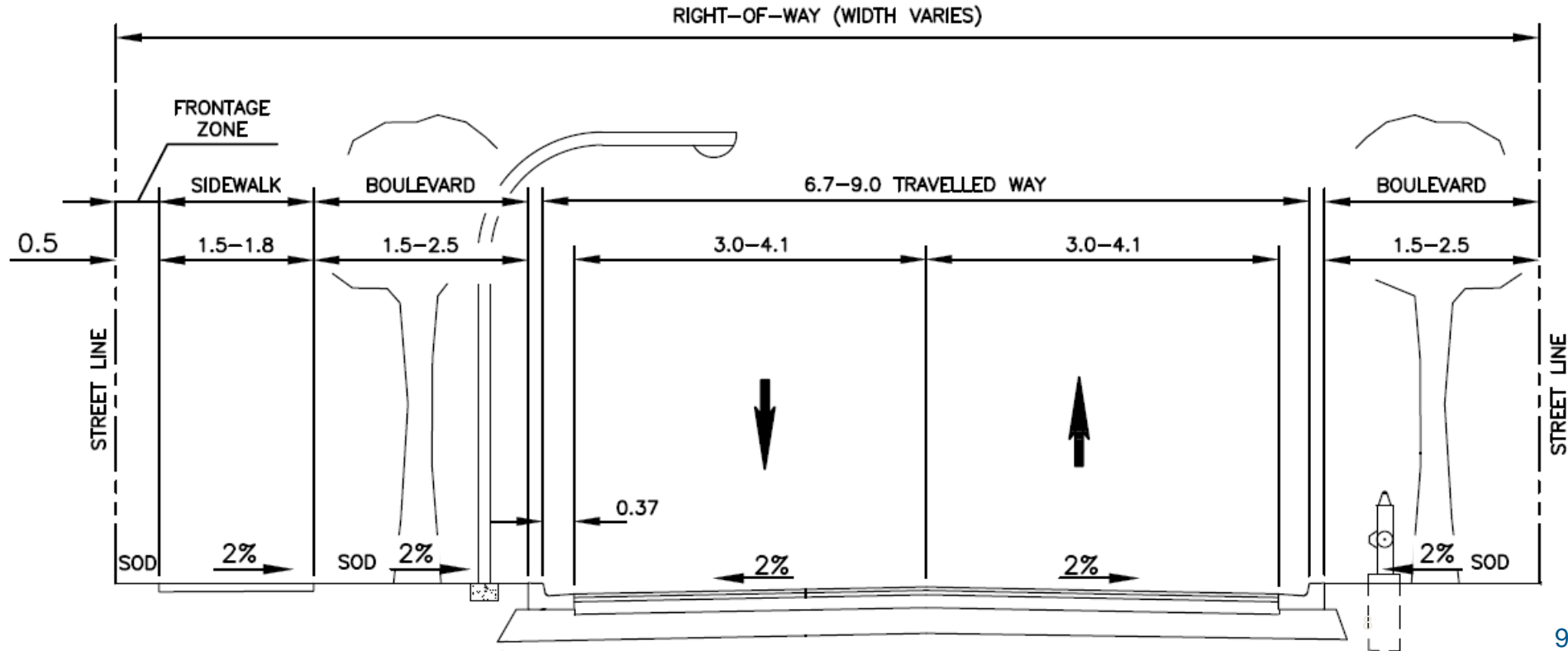


# Street Typologies

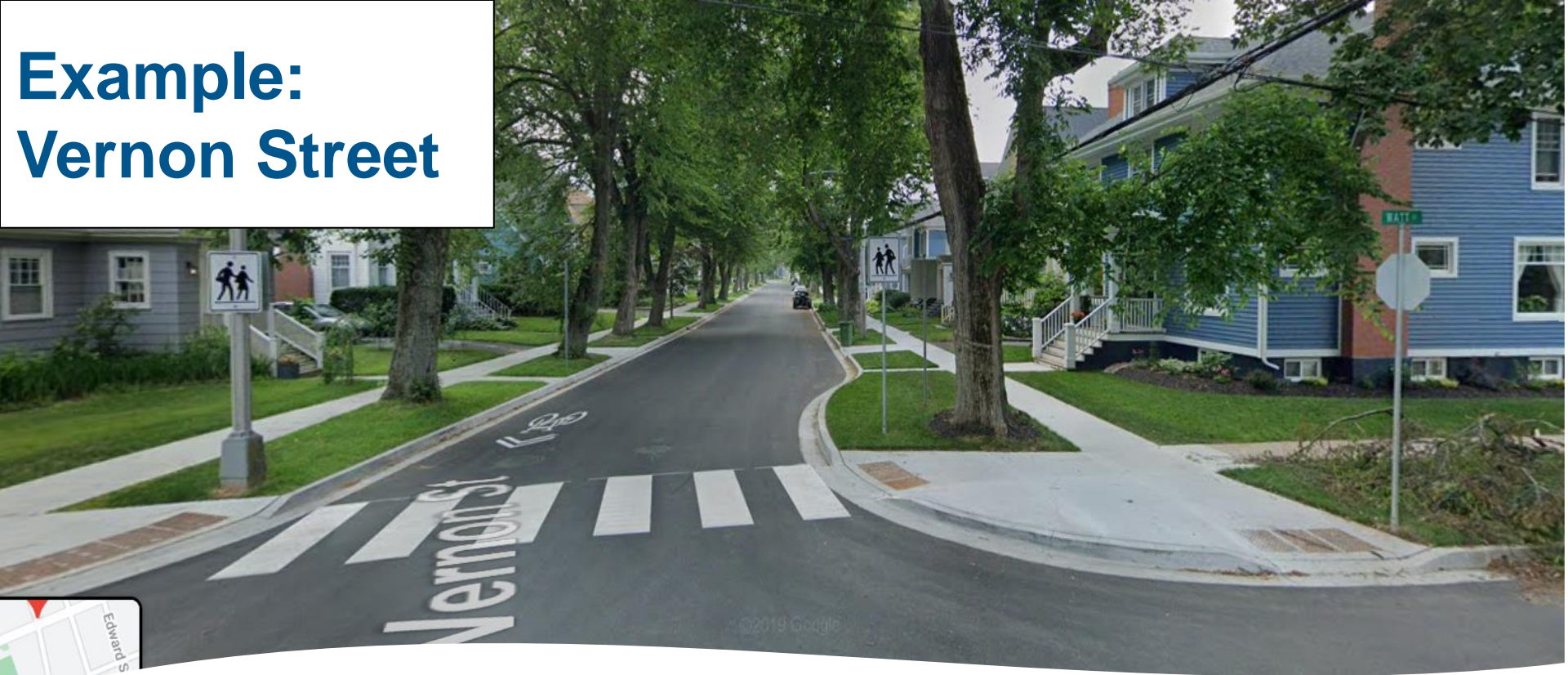




# Local Residential Street – Suburban and Regional Centre

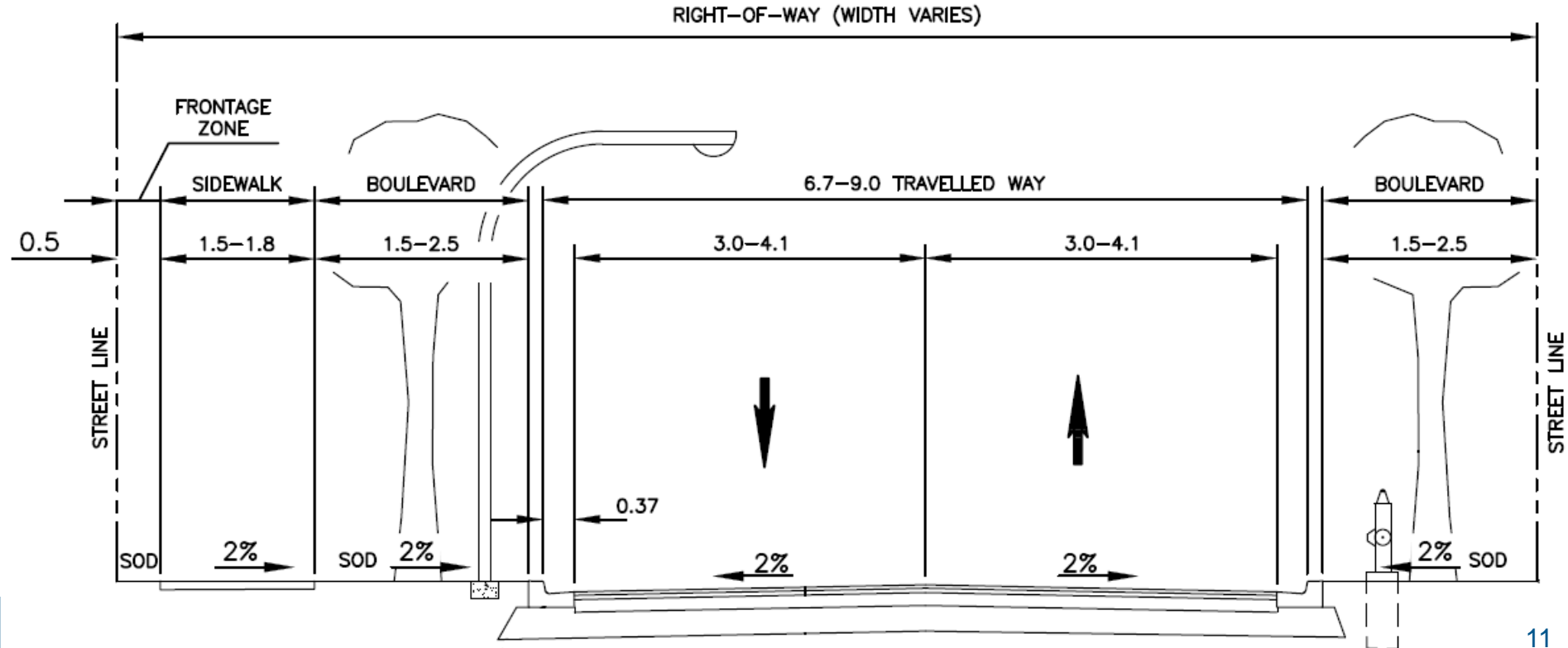


# Example: Vernon Street



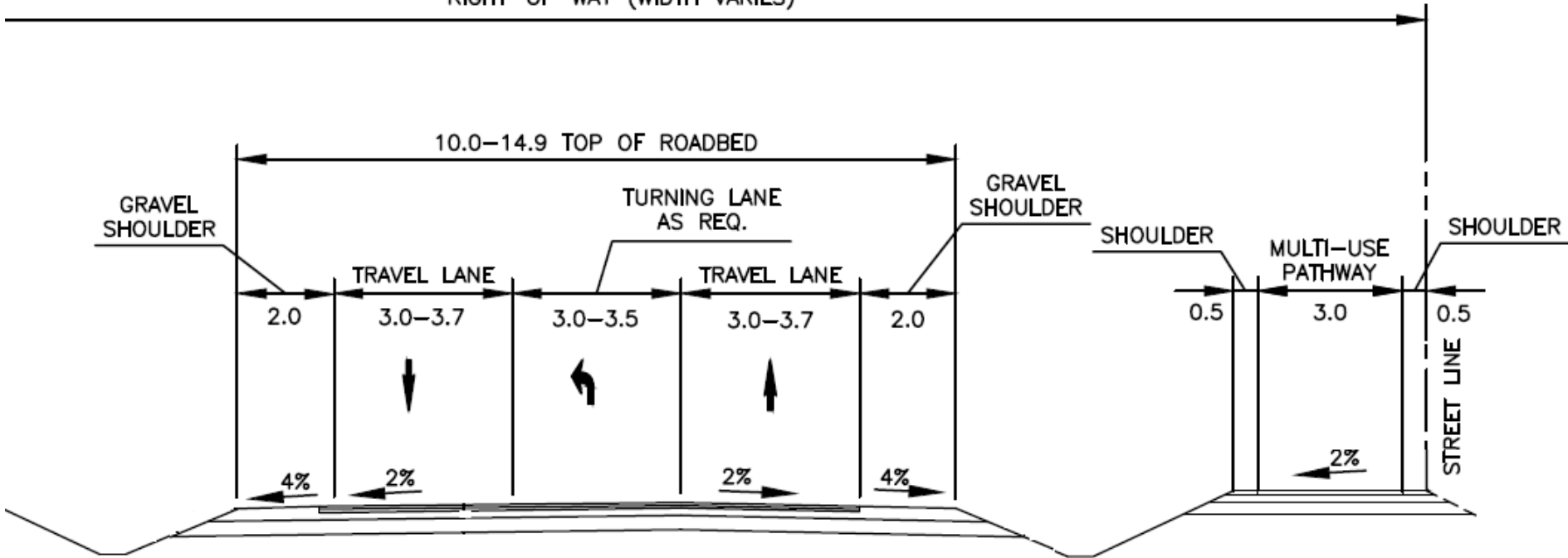
- Narrower lane widths
- Curb bump-outs
- Traffic calming

# Local Residential Street – Suburban and Regional Centre



# Change to Rural Cross Sections: Multi-Use Paths

RIGHT-OF-WAY (WIDTH VARIES)





# 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



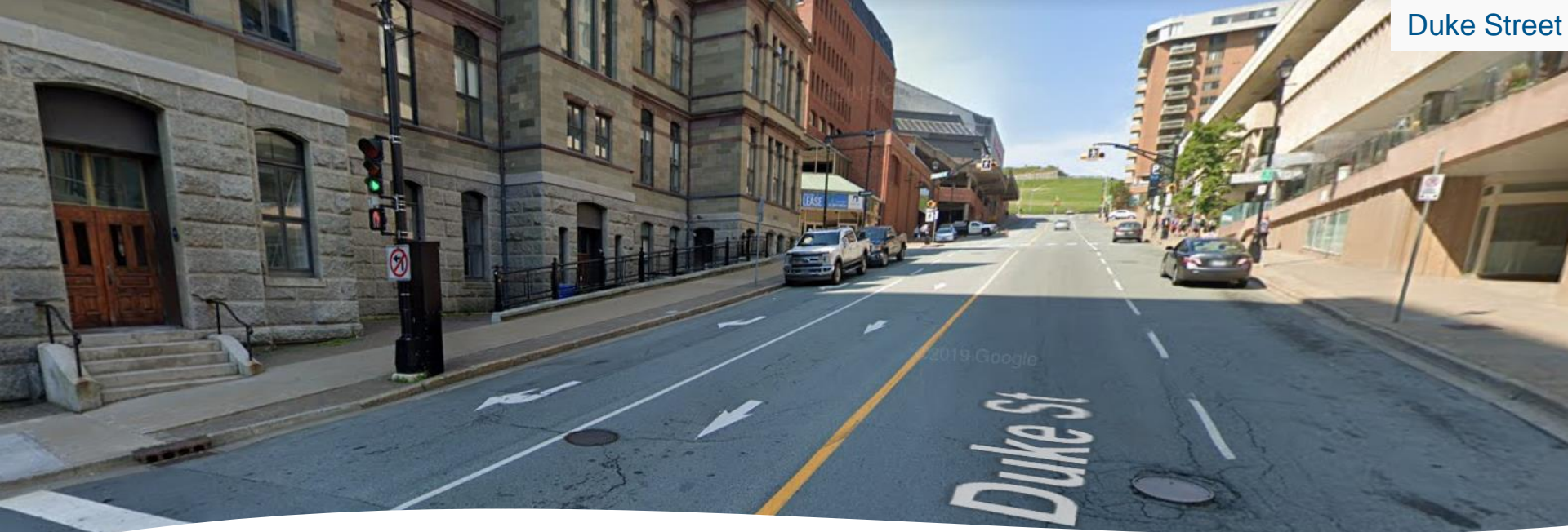
South Park Street



# 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





Argyle Street

# 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

# Staff 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.