

February 17th, 2022

Africville AT Functional Plan

Active Transportation
Advisory Committee
Presentation



Africville National Historic Site Background

- Africville was designated a National Historic Site in 1997

One of the Character-Defining Elements is 'continued public access to the site.'

- Currently, there is no formally-designated pedestrian/cyclist access to the Site

To gain access, pedestrians have been walking on sections of Barrington Street without sidewalks, or illegally crossing a CN Railway.



Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Africville National Historic Site Background

- The project was initiated by an Accessibility Petition brought by the Africville Museum

The petition recognizes that there are no formal pedestrian facilities that connect the National Historic Site to the HRM sidewalk or Halifax Transit Network.

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

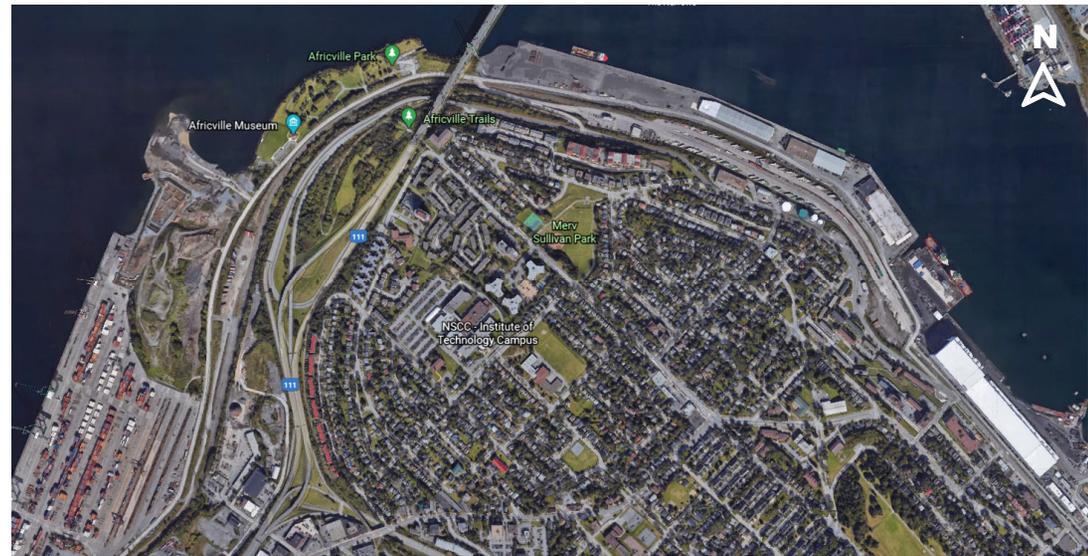
Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Project Background

Three Project Phases:

- ① Review the proposed 3 potential routes (identified by HRM).
- ② Determine the preferred route for 'AAA' accessibility.
- ③ Prepare functional design for the preferred facility.



Project Tasks Completed to Date

To date the following tasks have been completed:

- ✓ Site Walk and Stakeholder Workshop with Africville Museum Society was held on December 4th, 2018
- ✓ External Stakeholder Meeting with community groups was held on December 18th, 2018
- ✓ External Stakeholder Meetings with Utilities and Property Owners were held during January 2019

Project on hold

- ✓ External Stakeholder Meetings with Utilities and Property Owners held during December 2020 and January 2021
- ✓ Review of Existing Conditions
- ✓ Development of Conceptual AT Facility Design Options
- ✓ Public and Stakeholder Engagement
 - ✓ Advocacy Groups – October 15, 2021
 - ✓ Community Pop-ups & Webinars – October 19, 20, & 23, 2021

Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Objectives of ATAC Presentation

Presenting to the ATAC to:

- Provide Project Update
- Review Public Engagement Results
- Receive Feedback/Comments
- Discuss Project Next Steps

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Preliminary Route Options

- A** Build a connection on Barrington Street between Glebe Street and Africville Road with future extension to Niobe Gate Bridge.
- B** Build a connection between Novalea Drive/Africville Lookoff Park and Africville Road.
- C** Build a connection to Africville Look-off Park and Africville Road by utilizing the former rail corridor that runs parallel to Memorial Drive.
- D** Build a connection from Africville Road to the Africville Museum (Required for all routing options).



Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Recommended Primary Route

- A** Build a connection on Barrington Street between Glebe Street and Africville Road with future extension to Niobe Gate Bridge.
 - D** Build a connection from Africville Road to the Africville Museum (Required for all routing options).
- +
- B** Upgrade the existing connection between Novalea Drive/Africville Lookoff Park and Africville Road.



Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

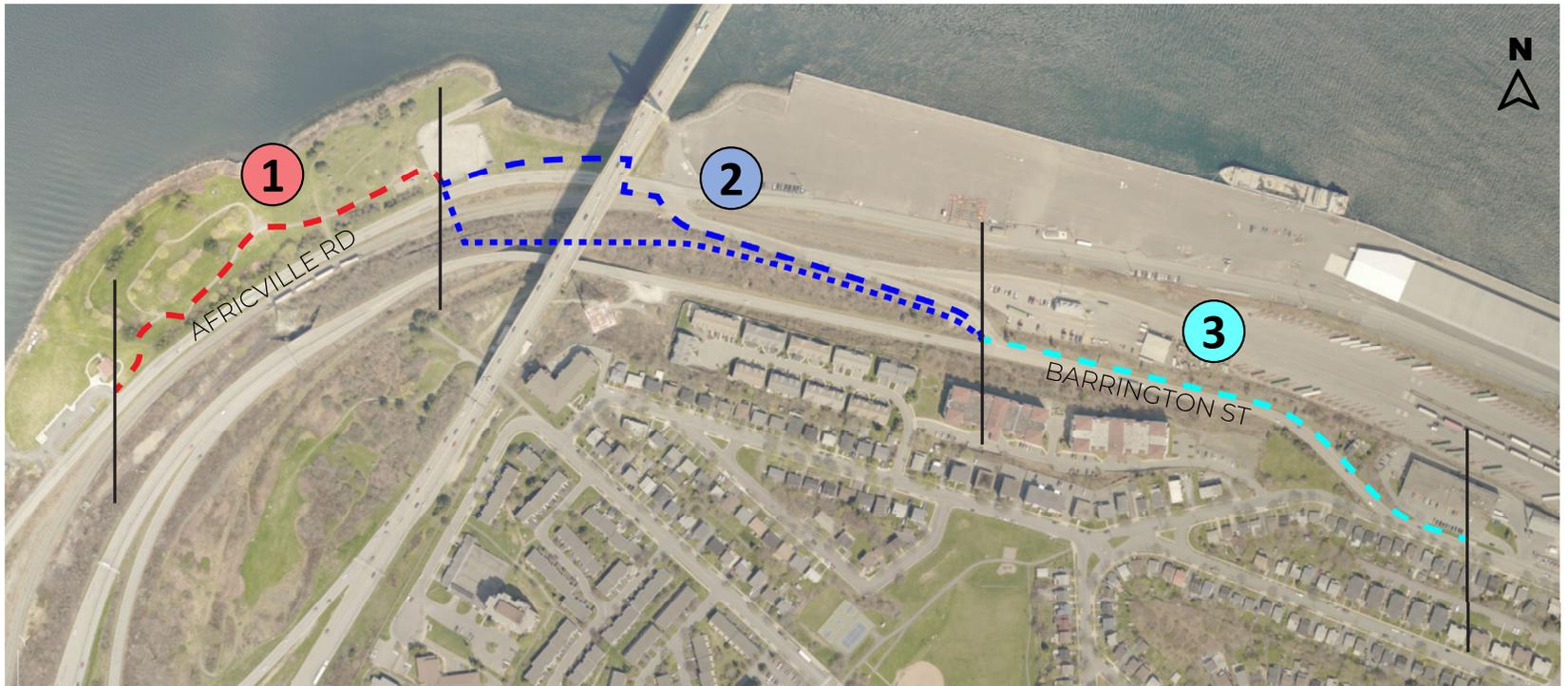
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Routing Options for Recommended Primary Route

Options are shown in three segments in this section:



Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

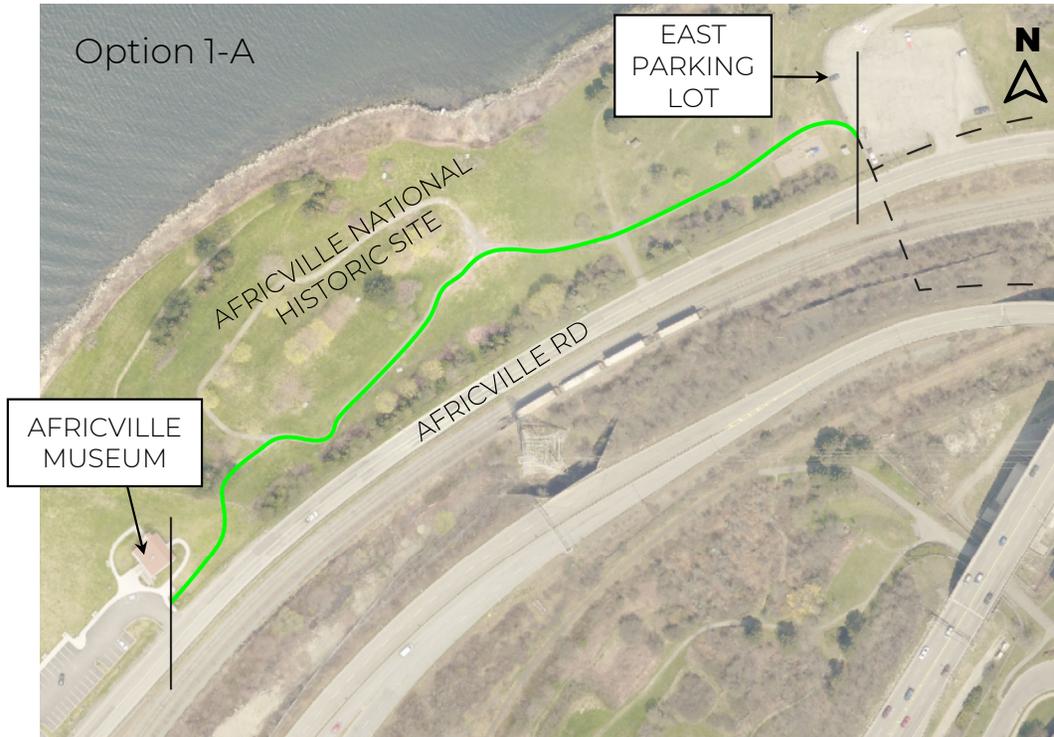
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 1

1 Connection from Africville Museum to East Parking Lot



— Multi-Use Pathway - - - - Routing Options for Alternative Segments

Option 1-A

- Asphalt multi-use pathway traveling between the Africville Museum and the east parking lot
- Parts of the multi-use pathway utilize the routing of the existing trail system within the Africville National Historic Site

(one option for segment 1 only)

Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

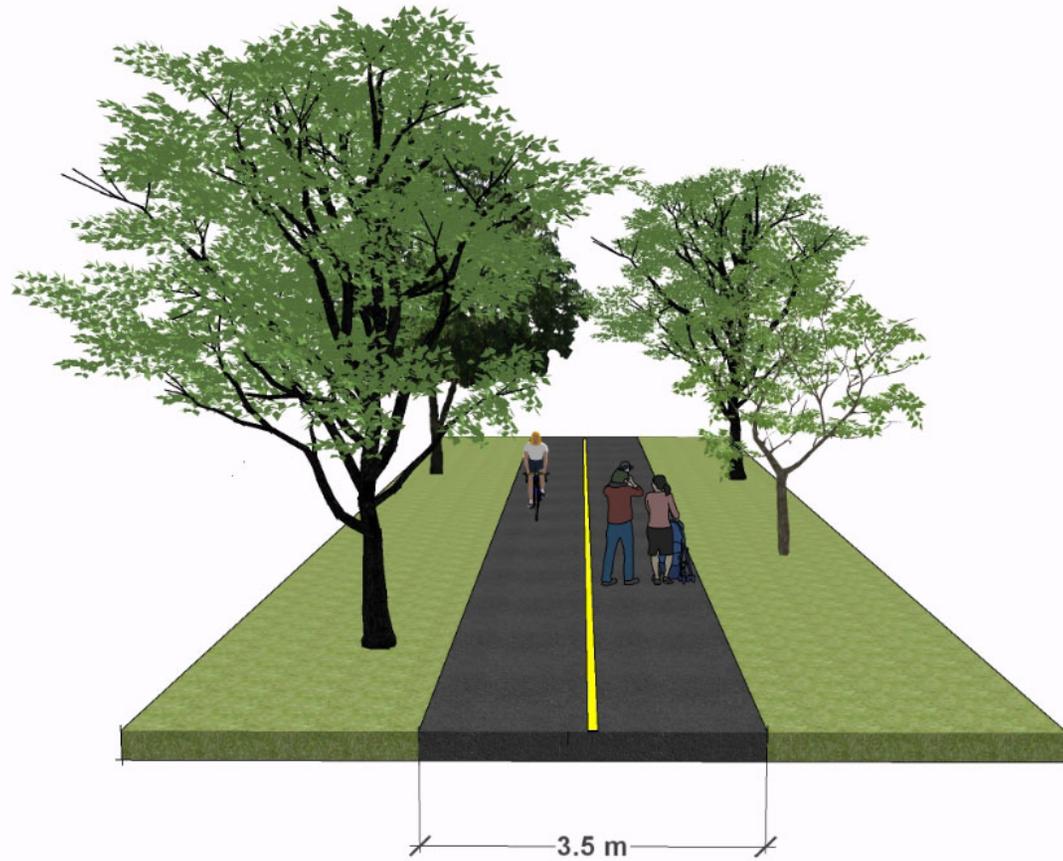
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 1

1 Connection from Africville Museum to East Parking Lot



Option 1-A



Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

**Routing &
Concept Design
Options**

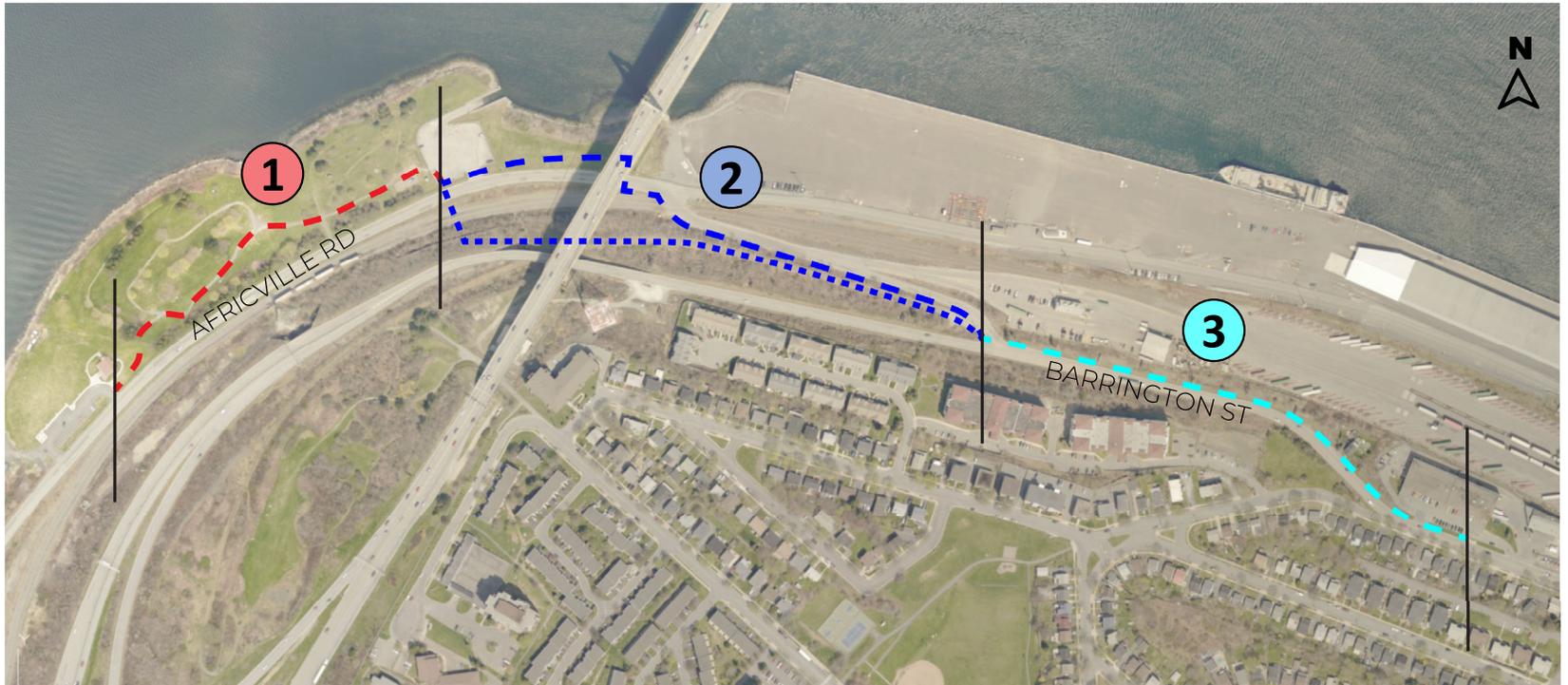
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Routing Options for Recommended Primary Route

Segment 2: Connection from East Parking Lot to Africville Look-off Park Trailhead



Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

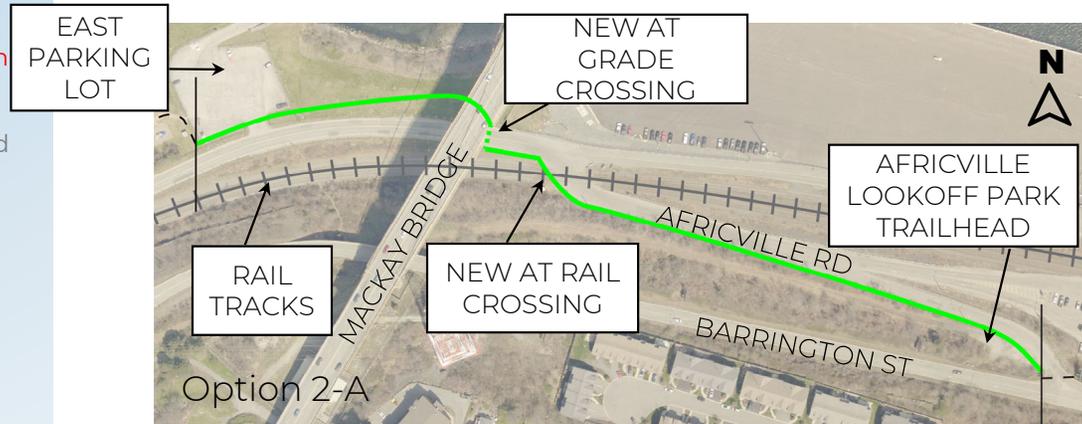
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 2

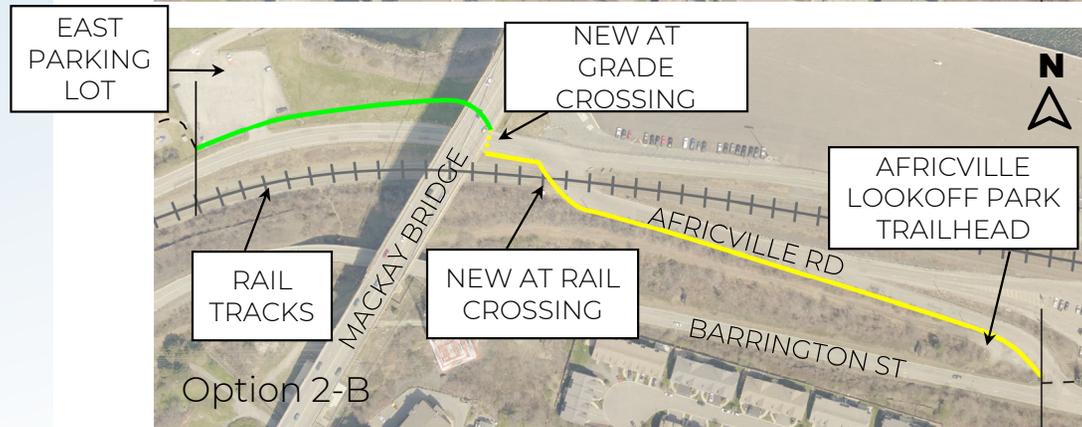
2 Connection from East Parking Lot to Africville Look-off Park Trailhead



Option 2-A

Option 2-A

- Asphalt multi-use pathway within the Africville National Historic Site between the east parking lot to under the Mackay Bridge
- Asphalt multi-use pathway on south side of Africville Road from under the Mackay Bridge to the Africville Lookoff Park Trailhead



Option 2-B

Option 2-B

- Asphalt multi-use pathway within the Africville National Historic Site between the east parking lot to under the Mackay Bridge
- Sidewalk on south side of Africville Road from under the Mackay Bridge to the Africville Lookoff Park Trailhead

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

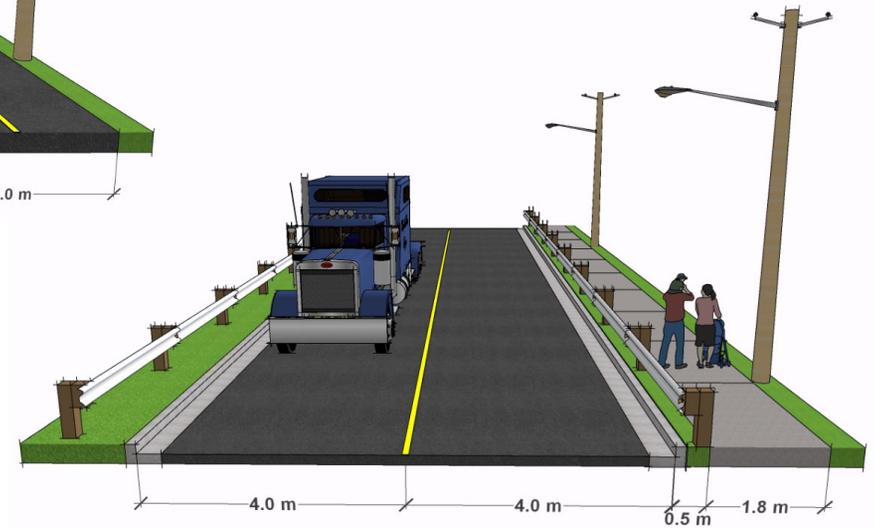
Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 2

2 Connection from East Parking Lot to Africville Look-off Park Trailhead



Option 2-A



Option 2-B

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 2

2 Connection from East Parking Lot to Africville Look-off Park Trailhead



Option 2-C

- New AT Bridge over the railroad and Africville Rd
- Asphalt multi-use pathway from the new AT bridge to the Africville Lookoff Park Trailhead



Example of AT Bridge

- Multi-Use Pathway
- - - Routing Options for Alternative Segments

Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

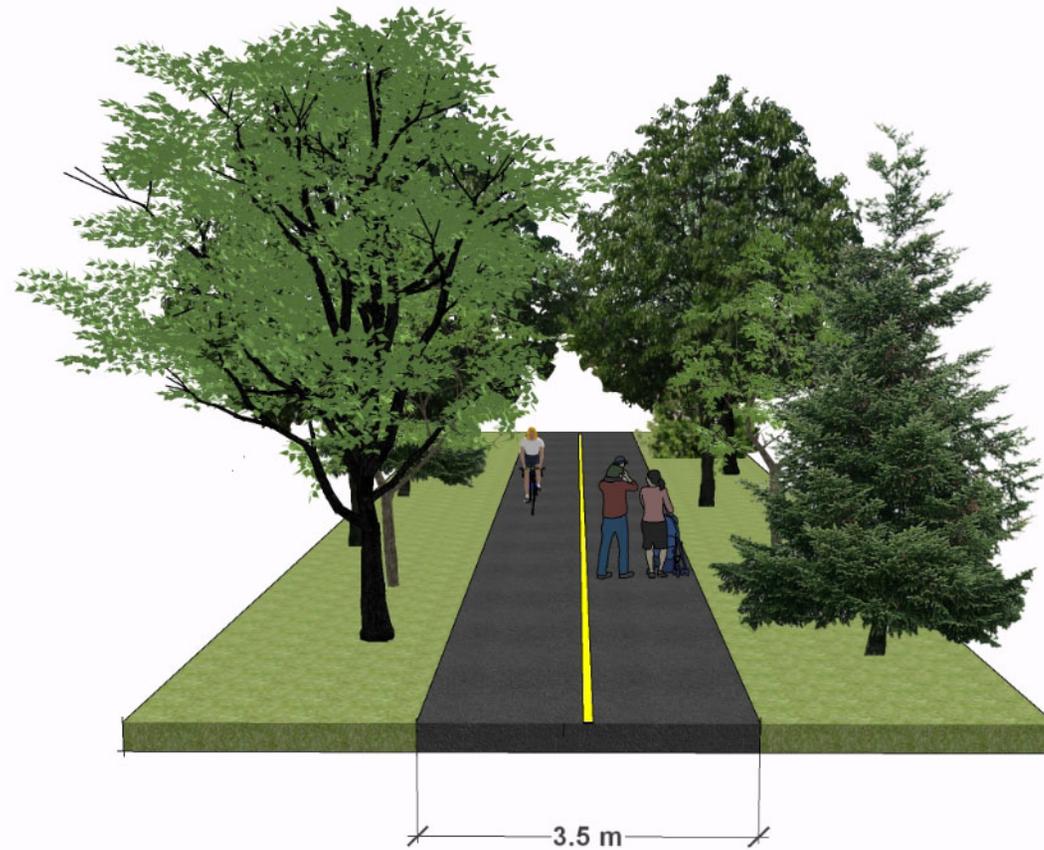
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options: Segment 2

2 Connection from East Parking Lot to Africville Look-off Park Trailhead



Option 2-C



Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

**Routing &
Concept Design
Options**

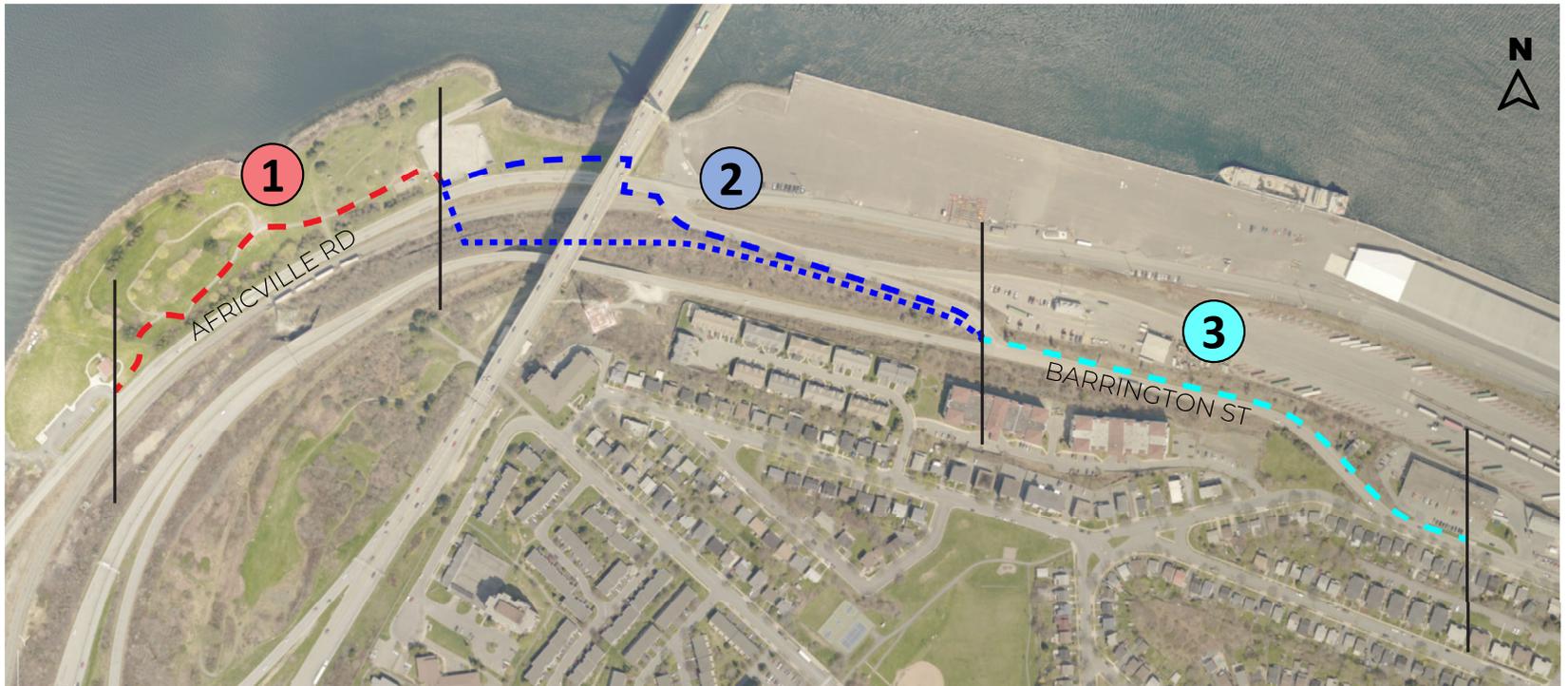
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Routing Options for Recommended Primary Route

Segment 3: Connection from the east end of Africville Rd to Niobe Gate



Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

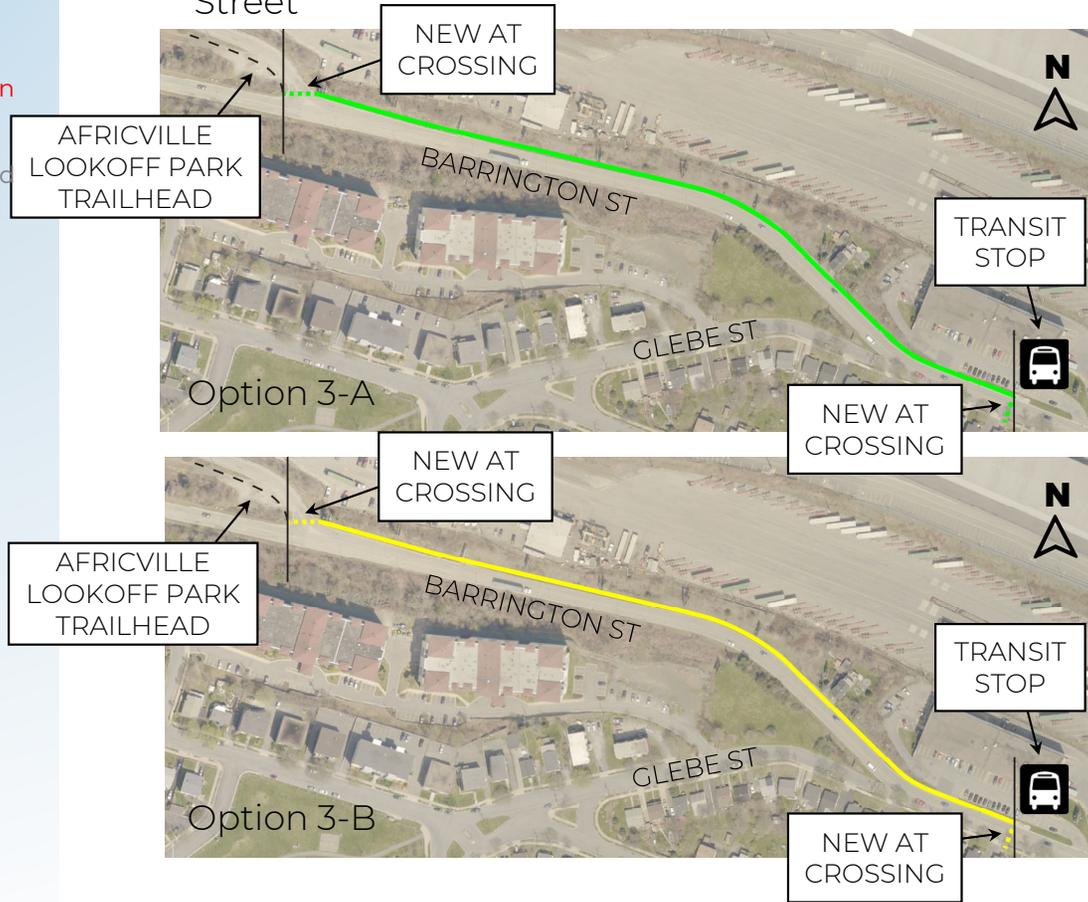
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options

3 Connection from Africville Look-off Park Trailhead to Barrington Street at Glebe Street



Option 3-A

- Asphalt multi-use pathway on north side of Barrington Street from the Africville Lookoff Park Trailhead to the transit stop east of Glebe Street

Option 3-B

- Sidewalk on north side of Barrington Street from the Africville Lookoff Park Trailhead to the transit stop east of Glebe Street

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

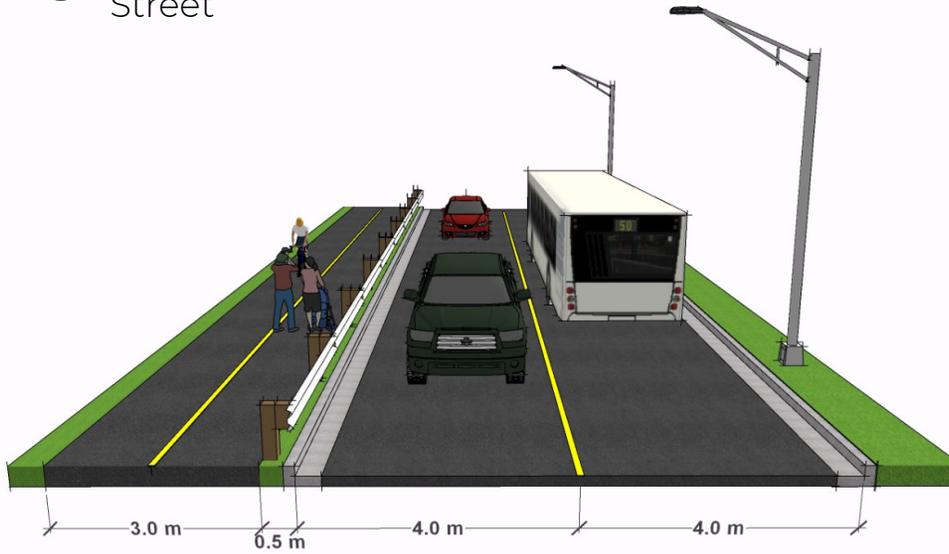
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

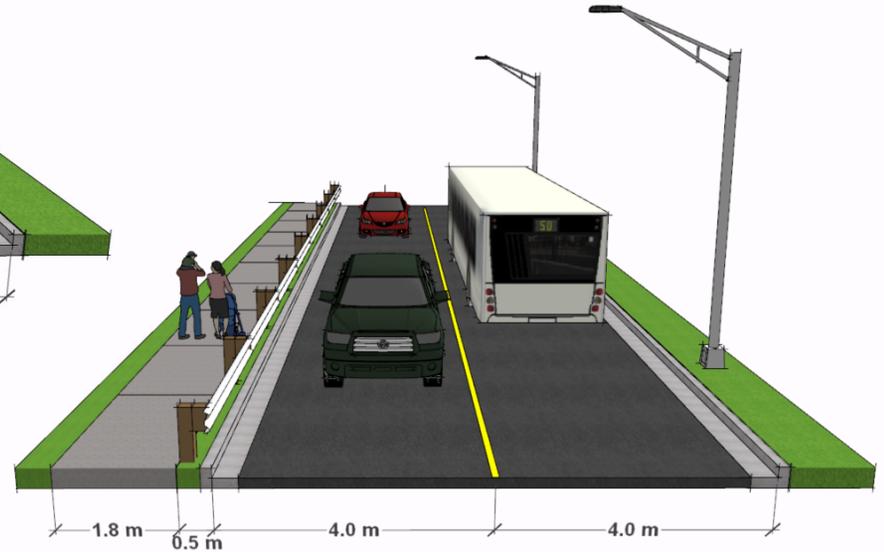
Next Steps

Concept Design Options

3 Connection from Africville Look-off Park Trailhead to Barrington Street at Glebe Street



Option 3-A



Option 3-B

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

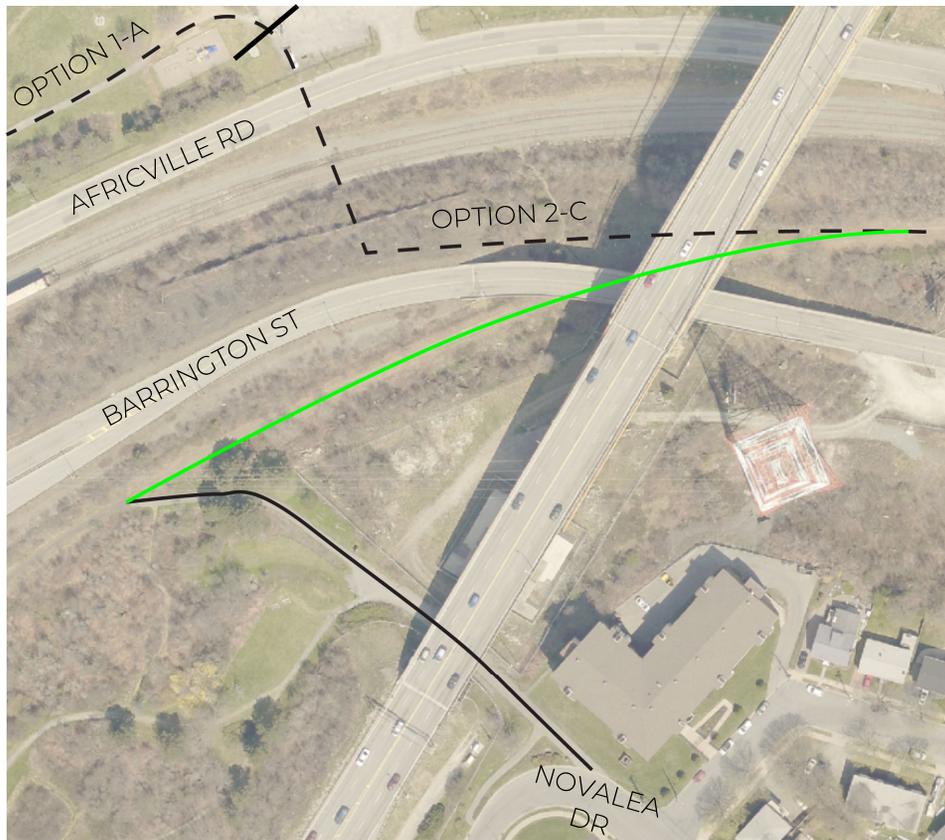
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Concept Design Options

Upgrades to Existing Trail Connection within Africville Lookoff Park



Upgrades

- It is recommended that the existing gravel pathway that connects to Novalea Drive to Barrington Street be upgraded to crusher dust or a paved multi-use pathway

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

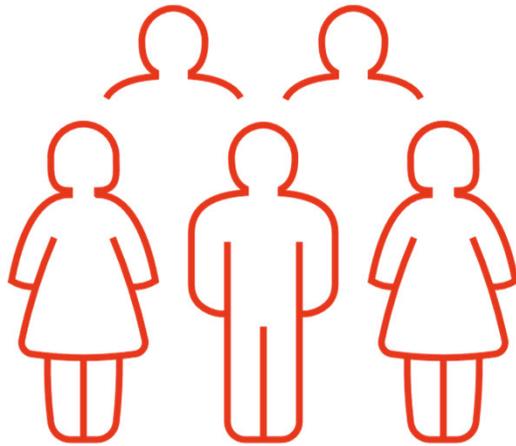
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

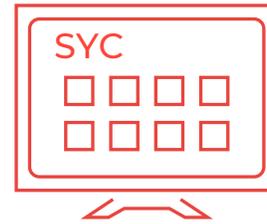
Next Steps

What We Heard

Participation Statistics



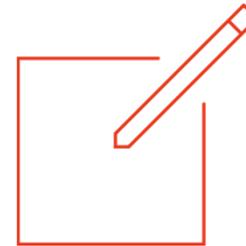
284 Participant Submissions



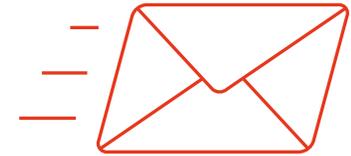
226 Shape Your City Submissions



19 Webinar Questions / Comments



35 Pop-Up Engagement Written Comments



4 Emails

Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

What We Heard

Identified key challenges and pros/cons for the preliminary routing were provided to participants. When asked for comments on additional key challenges or pros/cons, the following feedback was received:

Need to improve safety and provide lighting along the chosen route

Comment on ensuring that facilities are built to be accessible for persons who utilize mobility devices

Comment on how Novalea Drive (Route B) is the traditional route in and out of Africville by foot

Concern about gentrification and how this project will make Africville unwelcoming to the African Nova Scotian community

Concern about locating crosswalks on Barrington Street. Suggestion to have crosswalk where there is slower moving traffic

Need for public transit to the Africville site

Need for AT access from Africville to the Bedford Highway in connection to the Windsor Street Exchange project

Comment on how Route A (Barrington) will connect people from Mulgrave Park and Uniacke Square to access downtown and Africville by bike

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

Comments on how Route A (Barrington) will require less elevation change than the other routing options

Comments on how the full Route A to Niobe Gate should be prioritized in the near term

Comments on how Route B could provide an opportunity to revitalize Africville Lookoff Park

Comment on maintaining and/or improving the historic connection between the communities of Africville descent and their former homes on the Africville site

Need to have route removed as much as possible from bridge access lanes/ramps

Comments on how cost will be a negative

Comments on how crossing the rail tracks in Route B will be a challenge

Concern of privacy of residences in connection to Route C

Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

What We Heard

The recommended primary route was presented.

When asked whether participants agreed with the recommended route:

75%
agreed



What We Heard

Participants were introduced to the design options for the three segments of the recommended primary route and asked what their level of satisfaction was for each.

For Segment 1, 69% of participants were satisfied with the only proposed option.

For Segment 2, the greatest number of participants were satisfied with Option 2-C (Active Transportation Bridge).

For Segment 3, the greatest number of participants were satisfied with Option 3-A (multi-use pathway).



Project Background

Objectives of Meeting

Routing & Concept Design Options

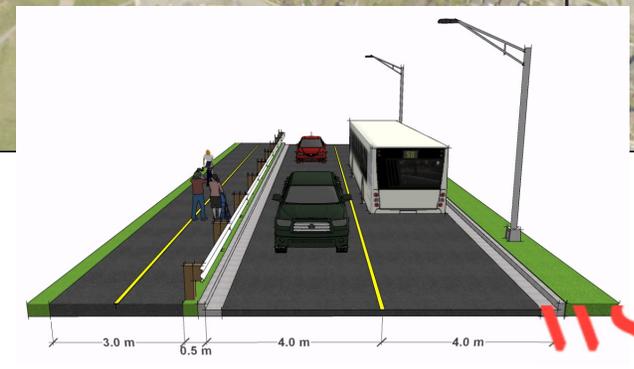
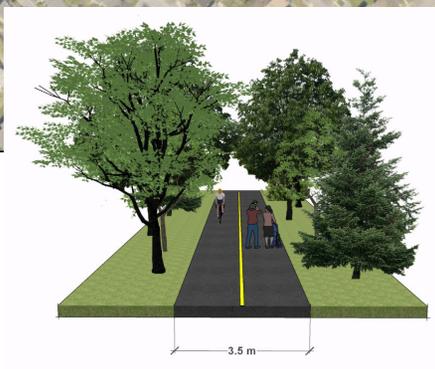
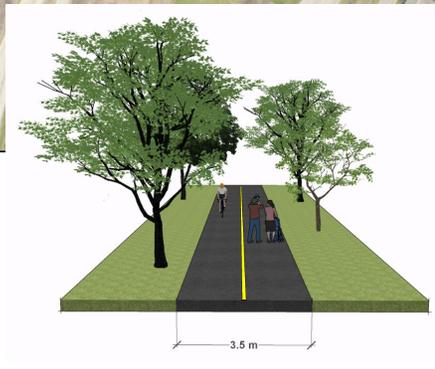
What We Heard

Evaluation Criteria

Next Steps

What We Heard

Preferred Concept Options



Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

What We Heard

**Evaluation
Criteria**

Next Steps

Evaluation Criteria

Concept Design options will be evaluated based on the following:

- Connectivity & Directness to/from:
 - Africville National Historic Site
 - Existing/Future AT Routes
 - Residential Neighbourhoods
- Comfort for all AT users:
 - Access to Nature
 - Reduction in Traffic Noise
 - Natural Surveillance
- Safety & Accessibility:
 - Grade
 - Multi-modal
 - Separation from Motor Vehicle Traffic
 - Railroad Crossing Design
- Impact to:
 - Traffic, Transit & Rail
 - Environment (Trees & Green Spaces)
 - Utilities
 - Property
- Public & Key Stakeholder Feedback Response
- Internal HRM Review
- Cost and Ease of Implementation

Project
Background

Objectives of
Meeting

Routing &
Concept Design
Options

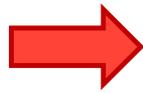
What We Heard

Evaluation
Criteria

Next Steps

Next Steps

✓ ATAC Meeting (February 2022)



✓ AT Facility 30% Design (February/March 2022)

✓ Final Report (March 2022)