

HALIFAX

SPRING GARDEN ROAD TRANSIT-ONLY PILOT



Transportation Standing Committee
September 14, 2022

Background

At the December 7, 2021 meeting of Regional Council, the following motions were put and passed:

THAT Halifax Regional Council direct the Chief Administrative Officer to:

- 1. Proceed with a year-long daytime transit priority corridor pilot project on Spring Garden Road between South Park Street and Queen Street during the hours of 7a.m. – 8 p.m., starting June 2022, subject to the approval of HRM's Traffic Authority; and*
- 2. Monitor the operation of the pilot project and return to the Transportation Standing Committee with an update on the first 6 months of data after the commencement of the pilot project, and then return to Halifax Regional Council with a final recommendation of the configuration of the street upon completion of the pilot project.*



Background

DAYTIME TRANSIT CORRIDOR From 7am - 8pm; Monday - Sunday



Background

- The pilot project started on July 4 and was paused on July 8.
- Key Factors:
 - Construction impacts
 - Restrictions more difficult to communicate than expected
 - Pilot project: costs, resources



IMPLEMENTATION



Implementation

hfxgov
@hfxgov

Reminder: Starting today (July 4), @springgardenrd will be bus-only daily from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. between Queen & South Park sts.

When SGR is closed to private vehicles, it's open for walking, rolling, cycling, riding @hfxtransit, & supporting businesses: fal.cn/3pXpl

Spring Garden Road
Bus-only pilot

5,230 views 0:00 / 0:28

7:05 AM · Jul 4, 2022 · Brandwatch

Spring Garden Road is Bus-Only

Queen to South Park
7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

HALIFAX

What is happening?

Starting Monday, July 4, Spring Garden Road from Queen Street to South Park Street will be bus only from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m.

Vehicles will be able to cross Spring Garden southbound on Birmingham Street, northbound on Dresden Row and travel northbound on Brenton Street (left turn required at Spring Garden Road). Clyde Street will be converted to two-way between South Park and Brenton streets.

Why bus-only?

Spring Garden Road is a busy and vibrant street, with thousands of people that arrive there using Halifax Transit daily. Bus-only lanes help to make transit more reliable. Less traffic means less noise, cleaner air, and a better pedestrian experience.

For the latest information, visit



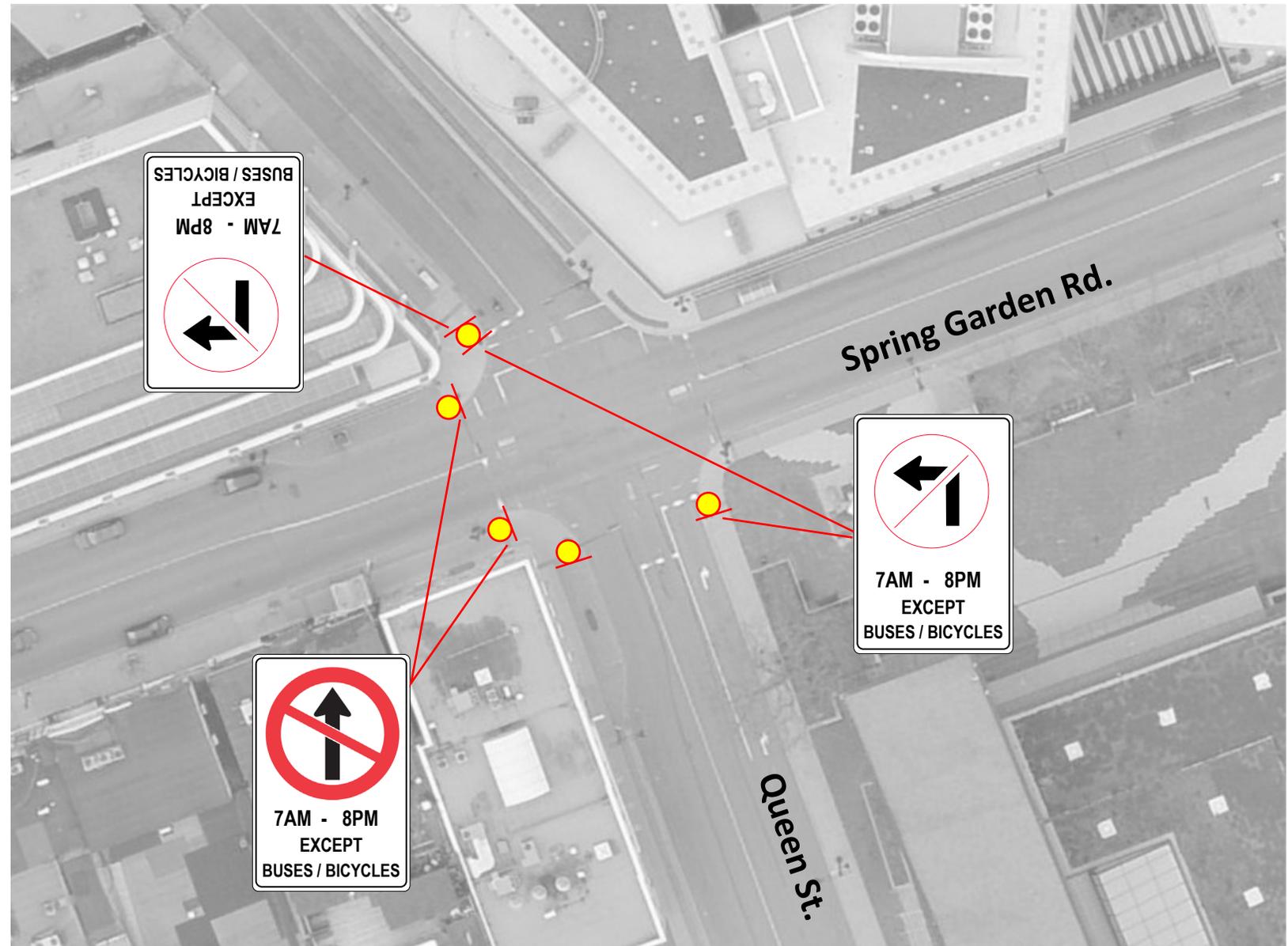
HALIFAX

 **Spring Garden Road is BUS-ONLY**

From South Park to Queen, 7 a.m. - 8 p.m.

HALIFAX

Implementation



Implementation



Implementation



Implementation



OPERATION



Operation



Operation



Operation



Operation



Operation

- **Key Challenging Factors**
 - Ongoing Construction Coordination
 - Regulations are **mode-selective** (Buses / Bikes still permitted)
 - Regulations are **time-based** (traffic prohibited only part of the day)
 - Multiple access points
 - Pilot project: costs, resources

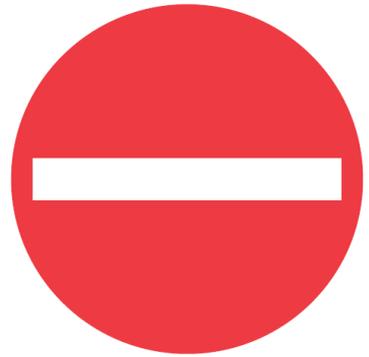
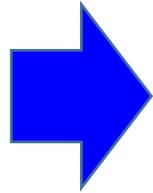
TRAFFIC CONTROL OPTIONS



Additional Pavement Markings / Signage



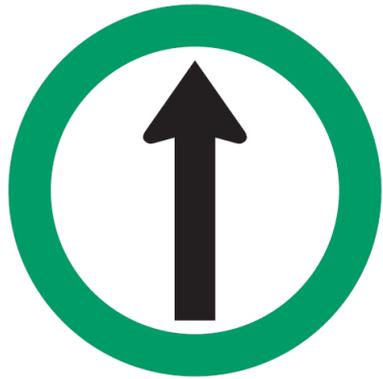
7AM - 8PM
EXCEPT
BUSES / BICYCLES



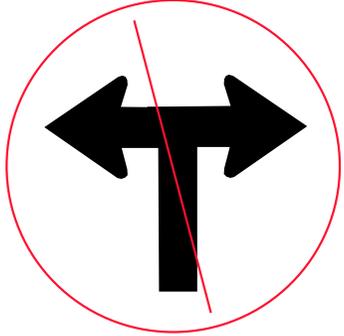
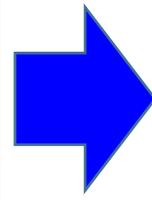
7AM - 8PM
EXCEPT
BUSES / BICYCLES



NEW



7AM - 8PM
EXCEPT BICYCLES



7AM - 8PM
EXCEPT BICYCLES



NEW

Physical Measures: Traffic Barrels / Signage



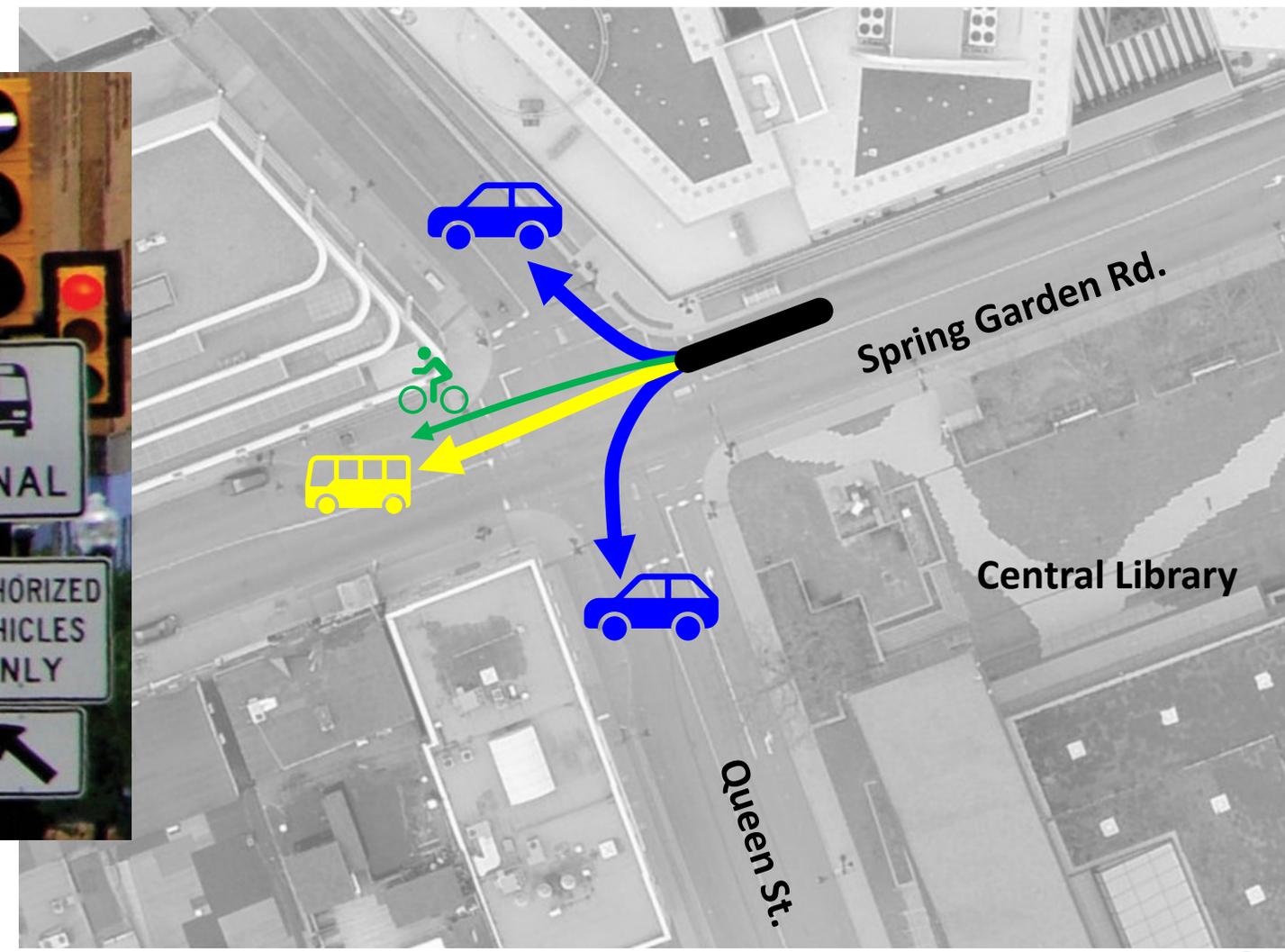
Physical Measures: Traffic Barrels / Signage



Traffic Signal Changes



[Source: NACTO Transit Street Design Guide]



Automated Access Gates



Highfield Terminal Access Gates



Automated Access Gates



Banff Avenue Pedestrian Zone (Banff, AB)



OTHER CONSIDERATIONS



Operational Period

- **Current proposed operational period: 7a.m. – 8p.m.**
 - ✓ Traffic-free during busy periods (pedestrian / transit benefits)
 - ✓ Open to traffic during slower periods
 - ✗ Increased potential for driver confusion
- **Would a 24/7 operational period be a better approach?**

Implementation Timing

- **Factors influence when could the pilot being re-started**
 - Ongoing construction (anticipated completion Oct. 2022)
 - Preferable to start the pilot during warm weather months
 - Additional traffic control options will require more time
 - Planning & design work
 - Procurement of any materials / equipment



PROPOSED NEXT STEPS



Proposed Next Steps

- **Officially Delay Pilot Project Until 2023**
- **Operational Review**
 - Traffic control options
 - Operational period (7a.m. – 8p.m. vs. all-day)
- **Recommendation to Transportation Standing Committee**
 - Preferred traffic control option
 - Resources and costs
 - Implementation date, operational period, pilot duration

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Transportation Standing Committee recommend that Halifax Regional Council:

1. Rescind Regional Council's approved resolution from December 7, 2021 directing the Chief Administrative Officer to *“proceed with a year-long daytime transit priority corridor pilot project on Spring Garden Road between South Park Street and Queen Street during the hours of 7a.m. – 8 p.m., starting June 2022”*; and
2. Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to complete an operational review to investigate additional traffic control measures and other operational needs that are required to operate a transit priority corridor pilot project on Spring Garden Road between South Park Street and Queen Street and return to the Transportation Standing Committee with a recommended implementation approach for the pilot project.