

NSWalks HALIFAX

Walking Audit Project
Cherry Brook

Presentation to Active Transportation Advisory Committee
February 13, 2025



Funded in part by the
Government of Canada's
New Horizons for Seniors Program



Welcome & Introductions

Objectives of meeting:

1. Share & discuss results of walking audit
2. Recommend that HRM staff participate in future walking audits
3. Recommend the construction of a sidewalk on Cherry Brook Road (from Graham Creighton Junior High to Church)
4. Discuss possible next steps

History of Project

Hike NS Pilot project funded by Connect2 (Province of Nova Scotia)

Goal: To improve walkability in communities through engagement and awareness of challenges

Cherry Brook - one of 10 communities across the province in the Pilot

Cherry Brook Walking Audit event took place on Saturday, November 2nd, 2024

Walking Audit Organizers

Carmalee Netu - Community Champion and
CMT member- Cherry Brook

Anders Turim - Active Transportation Planner -
HRM

Catherine Drosbeck - Hike Nova Scotia



Cherry Brook Walking Audit Participants

- 2 community members (plus CMT)
- HRM Planner
- HRM Engineer
- HRM Manager of Urban Forestry
- Province of NS employee (manager)
- Member of Community Mobilization Team
- Community Health Board member
- Ecology Action Centre Planner
- Hike Nova Scotia staff member
- (Municipal Councillor unable to attend)

Total: 10 people



Why a Walking Audit in Cherry Brook?

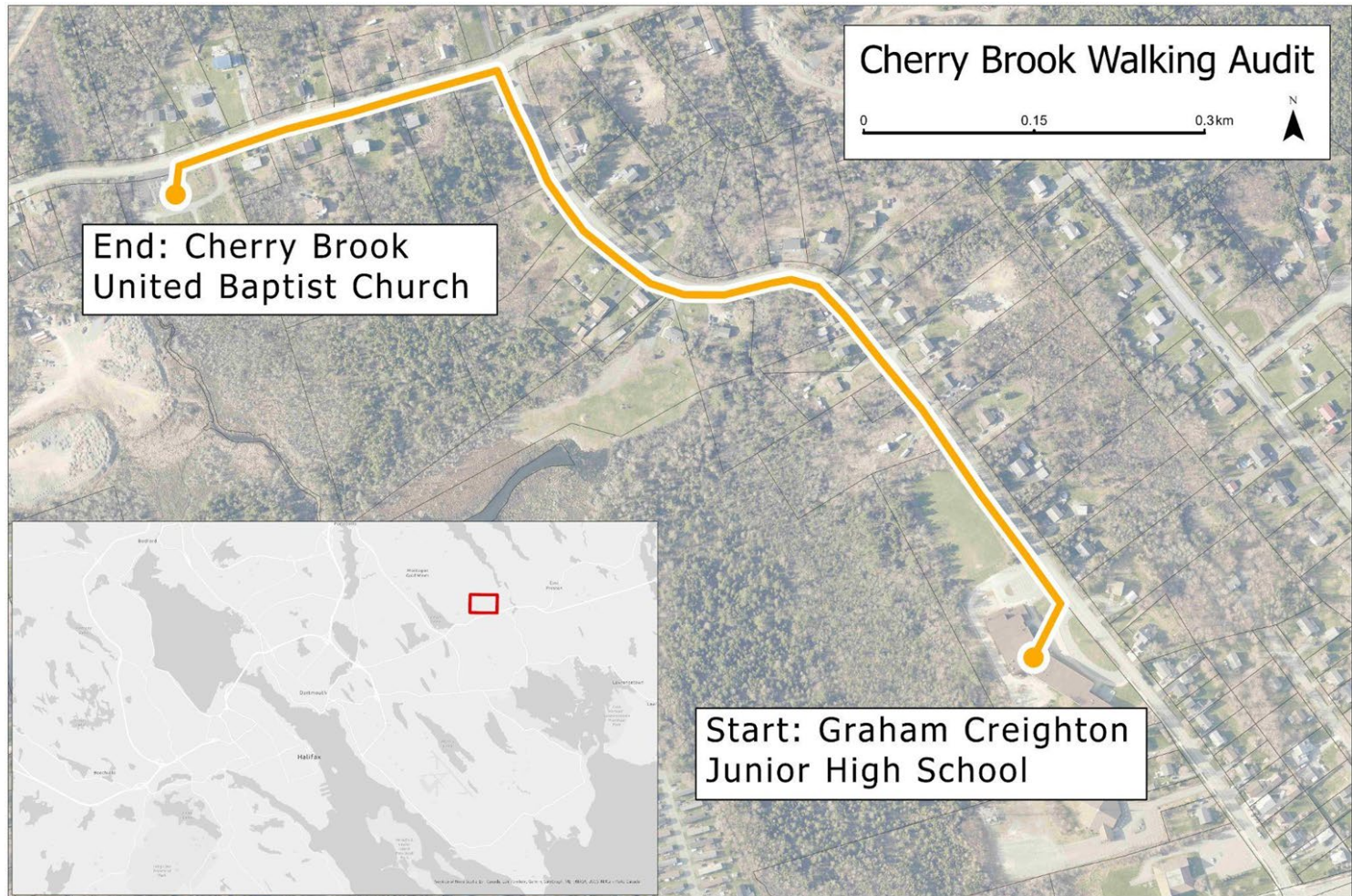
Frequent requests for sidewalk

HRM staff is aware of the need due to:

- Disconnected bus stops
- Cherry Brook being a Minor Collector Road
- Proximity to a Junior High, places of worship, community centre and playground
- Relatively high levels of socioeconomic need

Walking audit presented opportunity to engage with community and have staff gain an understanding of the walking experience and community in Cherry Brook





Walking Audit Tool

NSWalks WALKABILITY AUDIT TOOL

HOW WALKABLE IS OUR COMMUNITY?

COMMUNITY: _____ DATE: _____

Thank you for participating in our community walk audit! Before our walk, review the audit to familiarize yourself with the contents. During or after the walk, rate the items in each section. At the end of the audit, add the totals from each section. Your responses will be combined to create an overall walkability rating for our community.

SIDEWALKS *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ There are sidewalks _____/5
- ▶ The sidewalk is continual (not starting and stopping) _____/5
- ▶ The sidewalk is easy to walk/roll on _____/5
- ▶ The sidewalk is safe (ex: salting, snow plowed, filled cracks) _____/5
- ▶ The sidewalk is wide enough _____/5

Total: ___/25

APPEAL *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ The area is clear of litter _____/5
- ▶ The route is nice/pleasant _____/5
- ▶ There are trees/plants _____/5

Total: ___/15

SAFETY *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ There is enough lighting _____/5
- ▶ There are other people walking the route _____/5
- ▶ You can see other people coming/they can they see you _____/5

Total: ___/15

Notes: _____

NSWalks WALKABILITY AUDIT

CROSSING *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ There are crosswalks _____/5
- ▶ There are enough crosswalks _____/5
- ▶ The crosswalk location makes sense _____/5
- ▶ There is enough time to cross the road _____/5
- ▶ The crosswalks are safe (ex: flashing lights, flags, and crossing guards) _____/5

Total: ___/25

TRAFFIC *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ The speed limit is posted _____/5
- ▶ The drivers follow the speed limit _____/5
- ▶ There are things that calm traffic (ex: speed bumps, curb bump outs) _____/5
- ▶ There is protection for people walking from cars on the road _____/5
- ▶ There is too much traffic _____/5

Total: ___/25

FACILITIES *Rating: 0 - 5*

- ▶ There is street furniture: benches _____/5
garbage cans
bike racks
- ▶ There is enough signage: Maps _____/5
Street signs
- ▶ There are trees for shade/shaded areas _____/5

Total: ___/15

HOW WALKABLE IS YOUR COMMUNITY?

Add up the totals from each section.

___/120

Below 60 It's a disaster for walking!

60-79 Okay, but it needs work.

80-99 Pretty good - not very many issues.

100-120 Let's celebrate!

We have a great community for walking.

Notes: _____

Walking Audit Results

Sidewalks: 0/25

Appeal: 9/15

Safety: 4/15

Crossing: 6/25

Traffic: 11/25

Facilities: 6/15

Overall rating: 30/120 - “A disaster for walking”



Community Food
cupboard

Key Findings

No sidewalks, paved shoulders, or separate space for walking

Steep ditch at several points

Curve in road creates significant safety hazards

Quotes from Walking Audit participants:

- “The segments where there are curves are incredibly dangerous”
- “Extremely unsafe to walk...”



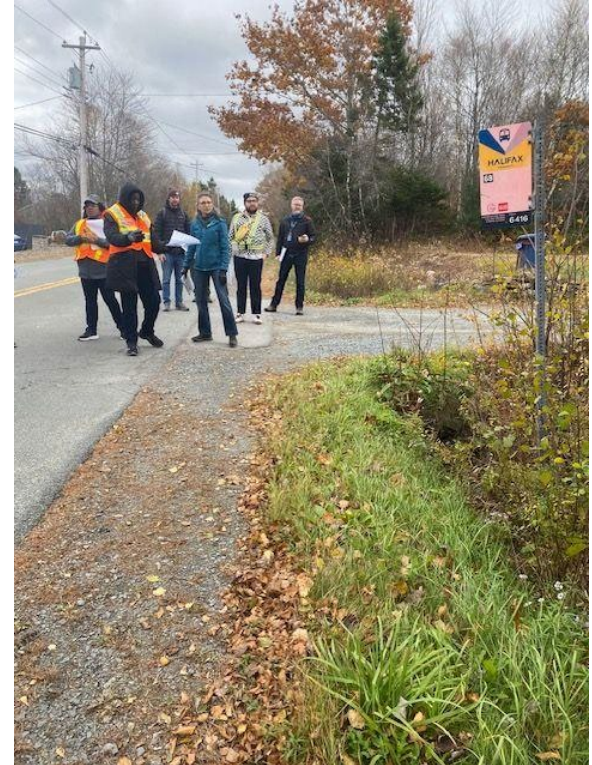
Key Findings - Facilities

Inadequate space for bus stop

Trimming of plants could make more room for people walking

Walking Audit participants:

- “...No lights for bus stops. Bus Stop signs are hidden by trees. No garbage cans or benches with bus stops. Not safe to walk at night because of no lights.”



Recommendations & Next Steps

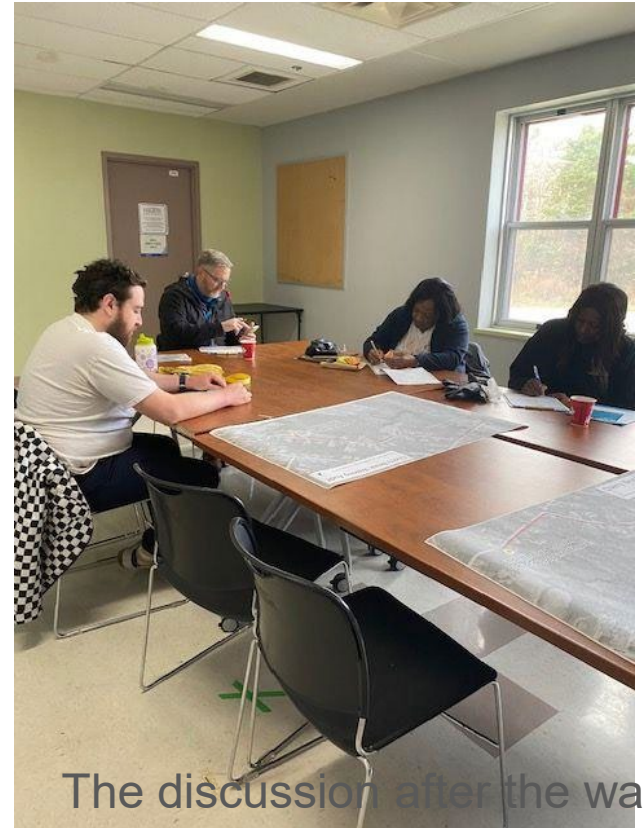
The results of this audit indicate that there is a high need for sidewalk on Cherry Brook Road from Graham Creighton Junior High to Cherry Brook United Baptist Church.

HRM staff recommend moving this project into the detailed design phase and adding it to the 5-Year Capital Plan where implementation will be based on project feasibility, priority and budget availability.

Walking audits can be a useful way for municipal staff to meet with community members and get on the ground understanding of the walking experience. This is something that could be done more as an organization.

Questions & Comments

We invite any questions or comments you may have!



The discussion after the walk

Thank you and feel free to contact us

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