

Councillor Laura White

HALIFAX SOUTH DOWNTOWN



DISTRICT 7 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025

DEAR RESIDENTS,



Happy Spring! Thank you for reading my first print newsletter sent out to you all. I am enjoying my term as your representative on HRM council and I look forward to getting to know more of you over the next few years.

For more frequent and in-depth communication from me, please see my website laurawhite.ca where I post "news" every few weeks and send out an e-newsletter monthly if you subscribe. Links to my social media accounts can also be found there.

Atlantic News Halifax hosts a podcast that I appear on every few weeks, which is now available on your podcast apps. Past episodes are @AtlanticNewsPod on YouTube.

With budget season behind us, I look forward to attending more events and being in touch more often. Thanks for your support and interest in improving our beautiful city to date.

Take care,

Laura



CONTACT US

Call 311 to reach the 311 Municipal Contact Centre, or visit halifax.ca/311 to report a municipal issue. Please call 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday to Friday and 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, except Christmas & New Year's Day.

CONTACT ME

You can reach me at 902.471.2273 or by email at laura.white@halifax.ca
Mailing Address: PO Box 1749, Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

CALL MY OFFICE

For assistance with municipal issues, you can also contact my Constituency Coordinator, Kate Richardson, by email at richark@halifax.ca or by calling 902.490.4090

OTHER USEFUL NUMBERS

Councillor Support Office: 902.490.4050

Police, Fire & Emergency: 911

Police (non-emergency): 902.490.5020

Fire (non-emergency): 902.490.5530

Halifax Water: 902.420.9287

Halifax Water Emergency: 902.490.6940

NS Power Outage Line: 877.428.6004

Mental Health Mobile Crisis Team: 888.4298167



311 MUNICIPAL SERVICES & INFORMATION

When seeking assistance with routine municipal matters such as requesting traffic calming assessments, reporting potholes, missed garbage collection, and other routine requests residents are encouraged to contact the 311 Contact Centre. Residents can report an issue to 311 by either calling 311 or emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca.

By reporting your municipal issues into 311 it helps ensure that your concerns are logged, tracked, and assigned to the appropriate staff department to address. Our municipal contact centres are open seven days a week and are the fastest way to ensure your concerns are addressed.

Once you have submitted a service request you will be provided with a SR number. This number can be used to contact 311 and follow up on your request at anytime. You can also advise the agent at the time of your call that you would like to receive a follow-up from staff regarding your service request.

For non-routine municipal matters please feel free to contact my office. I recommend starting with Kate, as I am often in meetings.

COFFEE DROP-INS

I have been hosting monthly coffee drop-in sessions to meet with District 7 residents. The purpose of these drop-ins is for residents of District 7 to get the chance to meet with me in person and talk about concerns or issues for 10-15 minutes. If you would like to book a longer meeting, please contact Council Constituency Coordinator Kate Richardson.

Please stay tuned to my social media pages to find out where I will be hosting my monthly drop in.

For May and June, I will be hosting the following drop ins:

Friday, May 16, 2025- Glitter Bean Café –
5896 Spring Garden Road

Friday, June 13, 2025- Café Du Port- 1597
Barrington Street

WINDSOR STREET EXCHANGE

At the Feb. 25 meeting, Regional Council voted 15-2 in favour of proceeding with the Windsor Street Exchange project under its current design and funding agreement. The proposed project aims to add active transportation connections and transit priority measures through the intersection, improve the movement of vehicles and goods through the area, and improve the safety for all road users.

The previous design was rejected at the Jan. 28 meeting, when Council raised concerns about the lack of a firm commitment to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) and active transportation in the design. On Feb. 25, staff presented a supplementary report with a revised recommendation based on Council input.

Municipal staff will also now start planning a second phase of the project, which will include road-widening to provide additional right-of-way for dedicated transit lanes in both the inbound and outbound directions. It will also include separated sidewalks and cycling facilities for active transportation connections from Joseph Howe Drive to Kempt Road.

BRUNSWICK STREET AAA BIKEWAY COMPLETE STREETS PROJECT

PROJECT OVERVIEW

The municipality is advancing the All Ages and Abilities (AAA) bicycle network to enhance safety and connectivity on Brunswick Street between Spring Garden Road and Cogswell Street.

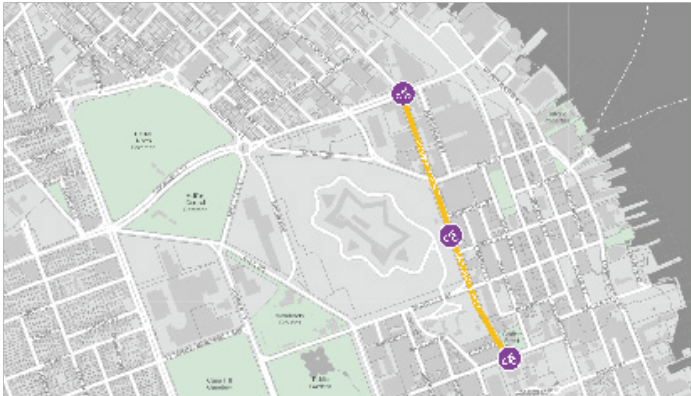
This project includes the following on- and off-street improvements:

- Protected two-way bike lanes will be installed on the west side of Brunswick Street in this area.
- A new landscaped public space at the foot of Citadel Hill, creating a more welcoming gateway to downtown for active transportation users.
- Sidewalk accessibility will be improved near the intersection of Brunswick and Sackville streets with upgrades to pedestrian ramps and the removal of existing pinch points.



This project aligns with the Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP), which identifies Brunswick Street as a key corridor for protected bikeways and enhanced streetscaping. These improvements will link key destinations in the downtown core, driven by future developments and growing residential density.

PROJECT MAPS



CONSTRUCTION IMPACTS

Traffic delays and road closures related to this work will be communicated in advance whenever possible. Municipal public service announcements for traffic delays and road closures are available on halifax.ca/news and on the @hfxgov X account. Marked detours will be in place during any road closures.

Pedestrian access will be maintained through the project area during this work, including access to businesses and residential buildings.

CONSTRUCTION PROJECT STATUS

This project is expected to be tendered for construction in April 2025. Construction is expected to take place during the 2025 construction season.

Additional details will be shared following tender award. Updates for this project will be posted at halifax.ca/brunswickstreetbikeway.

POTHOLES

HRM crews monitor for potholes on our roads year-round, but it's also important for residents to report potholes so that crews are aware of them and can work on getting them fixed.

If you see a pothole please report it by calling 311 or emailing contactus@311.halifax.ca there is also an online form on the halifax.ca website that can be completed. The time range to fix a reported pothole is between 7 and 30 business days and will be dependent on the size of the pothole and if it is considered priority. Crews aim to repair priority potholes on main arterial and major collector roads within 7 business days.

If your vehicle is damaged by a pothole and this damage takes place on a municipal roadway, please contact 311 to begin the claims process with our municipal staff. Once the 311 call is logged the appropriate business units are notified and staff will connect in a timely manner (typically within 10 business days) to deal with your claim.

SECONDARY UNIT INCENTIVE PROGRAM

The Halifax Regional Municipality has introduced a new program to help property owners create more housing options across the region through non-repayable funding.

The Second Unit Incentive Program offers financial grants to help offset costs associated with building new second units. Eligible residents can receive up to \$12,000 to help reduce building expenses related to water and wastewater.

Funded through the Housing Accelerator Fund (HAF), this program is part of the municipality's commitment to increasing housing availability and supporting sustainable community development.

The program is available to owner-occupants of a one-unit dwelling who are up-to-date on property tax payments, where land use by-laws allow. A building permit is also needed to apply.

Applications will be open until June 1, 2026, or until funding is fully allocated. More information on how to apply can be found at <https://www.halifax.ca/about-halifax/regional-community-planning/housing-accelerator-fund/second-unit-incentive>.



CHANGES TO MINIMUM PLANNING STANDARDS

The Halifax Charter is provincial legislation that controls how the Municipality operates. The Minimum Planning Requirements are regulations that form part of the Charter. The municipality's land use plans and strategies must meet these minimum requirements.

In August 2024, the province announced 12 new minimum planning requirements regulations. These requirements are intended to make sure that the municipality's planning framework, including policies, by-laws, regulations, decisions and development approvals recognize the current housing crisis in the Halifax region and works to support the increase in housing supply.

To comply with the new regulations, the municipality is making changes to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (the Regional Plan), secondary municipal planning strategies (Community Plans), and land use by-laws. Some of the key changes made to adhere to the new Minimum Planning Requirements will affect requirements for bedroom unit mix within apartment buildings, parking requirements, how building height is measured, and ground-floor commercial use requirements.

If you have questions about changes to the minimum planning standards staff are available to answer questions at regionalplan@halifax.ca or 902-943-5139. Any comments regarding the minimum planning standards should be sent to clerks@halifax.ca

PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING

I am excited to invite District 7 residents once again to provide their input on how to spend \$70,000 in the community, using the Participatory Budgeting (PB) model. The tradition was started in 2013 by Wayne Mason. The benefits of this process are that it encourages great ideas to come forward from local groups, builds community support and collaboration, and gives local residents a direct say in how they want the District 7 capital funds spent.

People like YOU will propose projects and/or make recommendations on how to spend this money.

On PB vote night everyone is encouraged (including children!) to come and help choose projects that will help build a stronger community. This is an engaging way to make decisions about how to spend public money in our community.

The District 7 Participatory Budget Vote Night is taking place Monday, May 5, from 6 p.m. to 8 p.m. at the Lindsay Children's Room in the Halifax Central Library.

Any District 7 resident in attendance can vote, even kids! Voters must be present to vote and ID is not required, but voters will be asked to sign in affirming they are residents of District 7 (south of Cogswell St in the east or Jubilee Rd. in the west).

Community groups can send a capital funding request including a letter explaining the project, how much money you are seeking, and how those funds will be spent and, confirmation of the group's non-profit status to my Council Constituency Coordinator, Kate Richardson, by email at richark@halifax.ca.

The application deadline is Friday, April 25, 2025. To learn more about applying and the participatory budget process please see my post at [aurawhite.ca/news "District 7 Participatory Budgeting 2025"](https://www.halifax.ca/news/district-7-participatory-budgeting-2025).



Delivery Note:

Due to the delivery routes followed by Canada Post, it is possible that some of these newsletters may appear in other Districts. If you receive it in error, I apologize for any confusion and hope you find its content useful.