

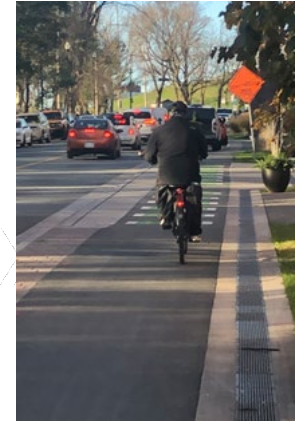
August 21, 2025

Orientation Presentation: Active Transportation

Overview for new members of ATAC

Presentation Overview

- Role of Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Active Transportation Planning
- Roles and Responsibilities for AT within HRM
- Budgets
- Successes and Challenges
- ATAC going forward



Active Transportation Advisory Committee Background

- Created in 2006
- The mandate of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee is to advise the Transportation Standing Committee on all matters relating to active transportation in Halifax Regional Municipality.
- Has been a key group for HRM staff to engage during planning and program development





Role of ATAC - 2024 HRM Governance Review

- Initial Report – July 2024
- Recommendations:
 - Maintain and Review and Amend Terms of Reference (ToR) for two committees:
 - Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)
 - Point Pleasant Park Advisory Committee (PPPAC)
- Dissolve many others
- See [item 15.5.1 at July 9, 2024 Regional Council](#)

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Proposed Amendments ATAC

ATAC Current Mandate	Proposed Amendments
1. The committee will provide timely advice to the Transportation Standing Committee on matters relating to budget, infrastructure, education, policy and public awareness.	Remove reference to budget to reflect current practice
2. The Committee will provide support to HRM staff on education, and promotion related to active transportation, and any assistance required of an annual Bike Week.	Remove reference to annual Bike Week which no longer takes place
3. The Committee will provide advice, feedback and guidance to HRM staff on matters related to active transportation submitted to the Committee by HRM staff.	No changes proposed

Proposed Amendments ATAC

ATAC Current Mandate	Proposed Amendments
4. The Committee will prepare and submit annually to the Transportation Standing Committee, an annual Activity Report outlining the work and achievements of the Committee, particularly in regards to the Active Transportation Plan	Clarification needed to reflect current state
5. The Committee will perform such other duties as directed by the Transportation Standing Committee.	<p>Under Administrative Order 1, the Transportation Standing Committee can always refer an item to ATAC for consideration without this statement being included in the ToR.</p> <p>Will be reviewed to determine if it is necessary to include.</p>

Typical ATAC contributions

- Provide feedback to HRM staff on AT plans, projects, programs in development.
- Propose actions to Transportation Standing Committee to “Direct the CAO to ...”.
 - Recent example is Active School Travel.
- Committee members bring issues forward with presentations.
 - Recent example is Shared Micromobility
- Network and learn from each other on AT activities



Active Transportation Planning in HRM

Two main plans:

- Active Transportation Priorities Plan (2014)
- Integrated Mobility Plan (2027)

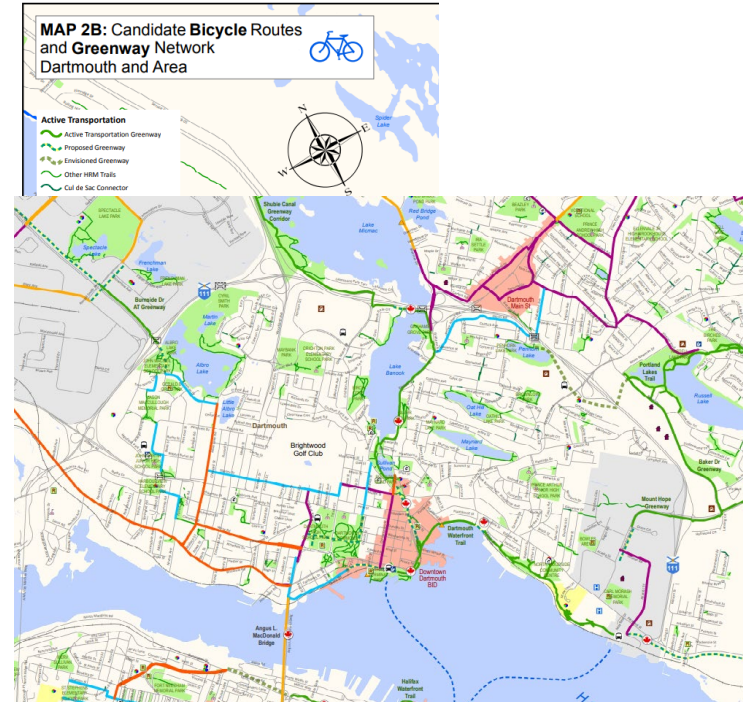
Supportive of other HRM plans and programs.
E.g.:

- Road Safety
- CentrePlan
- Rural Recreation



Active Transportation Priorities Plan

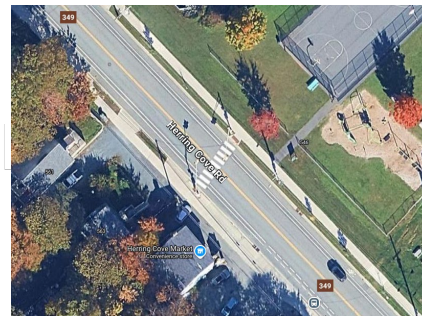
- Total of 39 Recommendations
- Objectives:
 1. Connected AT infrastructure across HRM
 2. Increased AT trips
 3. Promotion and education
- Candidate bike route and multi-use pathway route maps
- Most recommendations addressed
- Next steps - updated plan being considered



Integrated Mobility Plan

- Total of 19 Active Transportation “actions”
- Complementary “actions” in other sections (e.g. Complete Streets)
- Refines and prioritizes some ATPP recommendations
 - e.g. update to supporting community groups and bike facility types/networks
- Currently considering how to update IMP

Herring Cove Rd: before and after IMP



Who does what for AT within HRM (examples):

Strategic Infrastructure and Transportation Planning group

- Functional planning for AT and multi-modal projects
 - Process to develop preferred options for new AT facilities (often involves presentation to ATAC)
- Updates and future planning for IMP and ATPP
- Support for analysis and monitoring
- Transportation Demand Management (SmartTrip program)



Rendering of proposed Bedford Highway Multimodal Project

Who does what for AT within HRM (examples): *Public Works (1)*

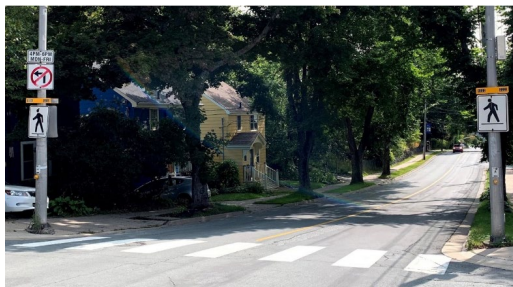
Active Transportation

- AT grants
- Rural AT
- Shared Micromobility
- New Sidewalks



Traffic

- Road Safety
- Signals
- Signs and Regulations



Infrastructure Maintenance and Operations

- Winter maintenance
- Repairs
- Tactical maintenance



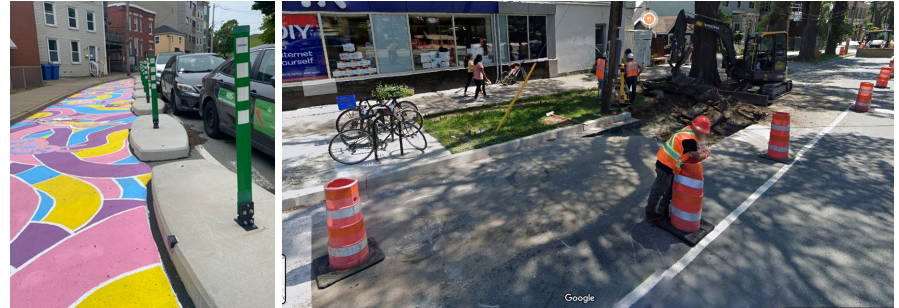
Who does what for AT within HRM (examples): *Public Works (2)*

Design and Asset Management

- Detailed design and tendering of new AT projects
- Tactical Projects
- Updates to Municipal Design Guidelines
- Asset condition ratings and recapitalization

Project Delivery

- Project and Program Management of larger projects
 - E.g. AAA bikeway Program Manager
- Construction



Who does what for AT within HRM (examples): *Other Business Units*

- **Planning and Development** – ensures new AT part new developments
- **Parks and Recreation** – Maintenance and Operations for AT within Parks
- **Corporate Real Estate** – acquisition of land needed for new AT
- **Corporate Communications** – marketing and public affairs
- **Halifax Transit** – connections to bus stops, bike racks, bikes on ferries



AT Budget (high level) Examples

- Active Transportation Capital
 - currently about \$3M/year from HRM for new sidewalks, regional AT connections, rural AT, AT Grants, planning and design, monitoring. This is supplemented by some federal-provincial funding for some regional AT connections (e.g. Forest Hill Trail extension)
- Regional Centre AAA Bikeways
 - Currently about \$1M/year from HRM for Regional Centre AAA bikeways. Supplemented by about \$4M/year from provincial and federal.
- Multi-modal Projects
 - Example of Dutch Village Road which is about \$9M with about \$6.5M from federal/provincial and about \$2.5M from HRM.
- Sidewalk Recapitalization
 - Currently about \$2.5M from HRM
- There are also operations budgets for winter maintenance, repairs, staff, etc.

Some AT Successes

- Statistics Canada (August 2024):
 - “Commuters in Victoria and Halifax most likely to walk or bike to work”. 12.3% of commuting trips in Halifax by foot or bike.
- Growth in HRM bike facilities use from July 2021 to July 2025 (eco-counter data)
 - Hollis: 66% more people bicycling
 - South Park: 41% more people bicycling
 - Growth on all other counters
- Strong annual use on rails-to- trails network facilities such as Salt Marsh Trail (189,000) and Saint Margaret’s Bay Trail (142,000).
 - Thanks to Community volunteers building and maintaining these.
- About 3km of new sidewalk added annually.
- First Rural AT project completed in 2024 in East Preston
- Shared micro-mobility launched
- Tactical program going strong

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Some AT Challenges

- Specific projects like Macdonald Bridge bicycle access on Halifax side and Africville AT Connections progressing slowly due to complexity.
- Significant budget and capacity challenges.
 - E.g. unable to meet new sidewalk targets; bike facility costs and targets being revisited; some facilities “resource-heavy” to maintain.
- Designing for all users – adding new AT facilities can impact access for others.
- Constantly changing design standards
- Evolving planning and governance

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ATAC going forward

- Continued engagement by HRM staff on new projects, plans and programs
- Link between HRM and AT organizations / public.
- Bringing priorities and concerns to Transportation Standing Committee for staff action
- ATAC changes from HRM Governance Review

Thank You

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