

### Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Included on Agenda</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b><br>(Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b> |
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**Date of Council Meeting: September 19, 2017**

**Subject: Regional Mountain Bike Strategy**

**Motion for Council to Consider:** Request a staff report on developing a Regional Mountain Bike Strategy similar to that of Western Australia and British Columbia, including:

- 1) The formation of a Regional Mountain Bike Advisory Committee comprised of key stakeholders (such as Mountain Bike Halifax) to help guide the Strategy.
- 2) Identifying and strategic planning of sustainable Mountain Bike Trails / infrastructure in HRM
- 3) Identify funding sources.
- 4) A combined initiative from a Recreation, Ecotourism (similar to the British Columbia Mountain Bike Tourism initiative), Health & Wellness perspective to develop and market Mountain Biking in HRM to become a world-class destination.

**Reason:**

1. Mountain Biking is a growing sport/activity. A local cycle shop noted that their sales of Mountain Bikes has increased 25% over the last 2 years alone.
2. HRM, with its variety in terrain and coastal trail opportunities, has immense potential to become a destination point for this sport. A local Mountain Bike website listed the top 10 Mountain Bike Trails in Nova Scotia with 3 of the top 10 being in HRM: Fight Trail (Governor's Brook area); Spider Lake (Burnside); Whopper Dopper (Bayers Lake). A total of 115 trails were identified in the HRM. The MacIntosh Run trail (portion off the trail head in Herring Cove) is currently the only Mountain Bike Trail in which the municipality has been actively involved.
3. The positive impact on the local economy would be widespread from the hospitality industry (accommodations – hotels/campgrounds, food and beverage) to bike and equipment supplies/maintenance. Adding local competitive events (races/championships) would increase potential of HRM becoming a destination location for Mountain Biking.
4. Identifying regional Mountain Bike trails would assist in protecting environmentally sensitive areas, reduce overuse of trails and direct participants to appropriate locations thereby reducing the occurrence of informal trail development.
5. Raise the profile of Mountain Biking and increase participation thereby promoting a healthy lifestyle and become a leading world-class destination.
6. Offer a unique volunteer opportunity for the many dedicated volunteers who currently work on local trails and cycling initiatives and inspire new volunteers thereby offering a social experience with benefits for all.

**Outcome Sought:** A Regional Mountain Bike Strategy.

*Councillor Tony Mancini*

*District 6  
Harbourview – Burnside – Dartmouth East*