

Re: Item No. 12.1

**HALIFAX**

**Case 21956:  
Amendment to the Regional  
Municipal Planning Strategy  
related to the Halifax Green  
Network Plan**

Public Hearing

Halifax Regional Council

September 24, 2019

# Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP)



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GREEN NETWORK PLAN

JUNE 2018

- defines an interconnected open space system
- highlights ecosystem functions and benefits
- outlines strategies to manage open space
- provides land management and community design direction

# Origin:

## August 14, 2018 Regional Council motion

“... Initiate the process to consider amendments to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy (RMPS) to support the Halifax Green Network Plan (HGNP) by **referencing the HGNP within the conservation design development agreement policy criteria concerning the connectivity of open space;**...

*(emphasis added)*

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# Conservation Design Developments

- conserve open space and significant environmental features while clustering development
- existing RMPS policies conserve open space *within* proposed subdivisions
- little policy direction to consider broader *regional* landscape patterns and connectivity

# Existing Regional Plan Policy S-17

For any conservation design development application made pursuant to policies S-14, S-15 or S-16, HRM shall consider the following criteria:

...

(k) connectivity is maintained with any open space on adjacent parcels and trails and natural networks, **as generally shown on Map 3;**

...

(emphasis added)

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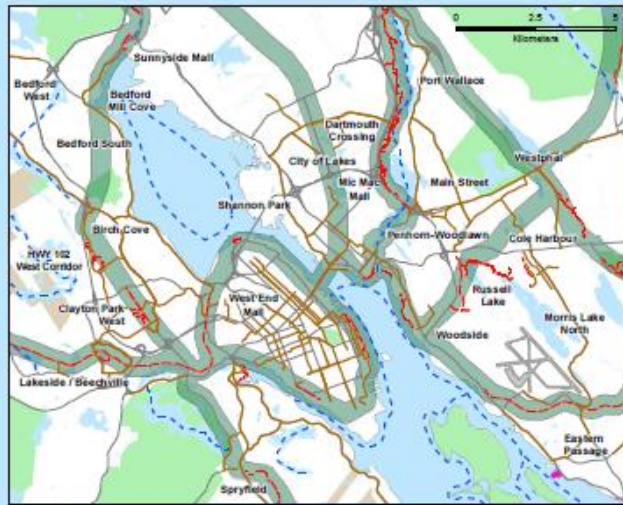
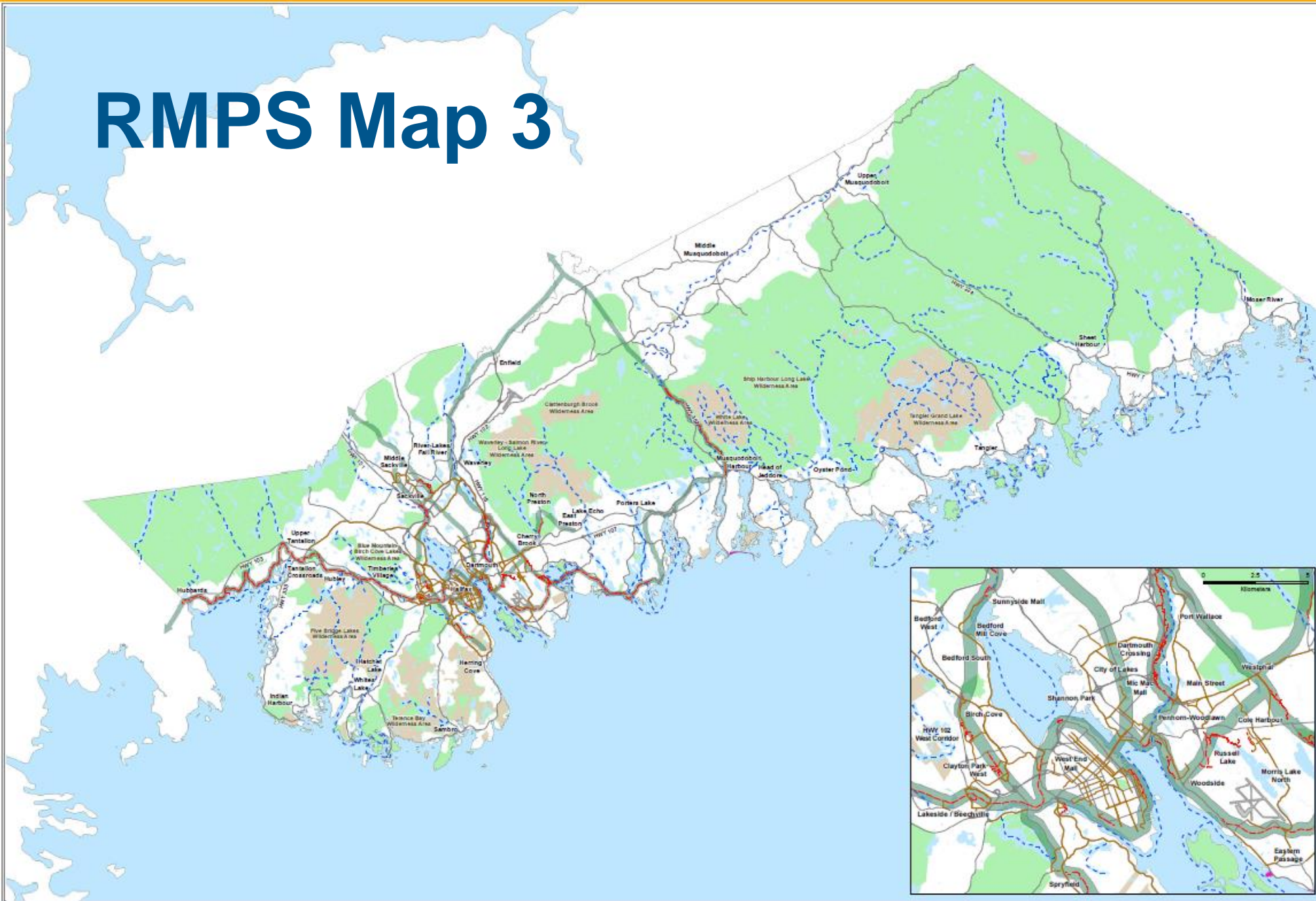
# RMPS Map 3

## Map 3

### Active Transportation and Natural Networks

#### Legend

-  Greenway Vision
-  Built Greenways (multi use)
-  Candidate Bike Routes
-  Traditional Water Routes
-  Protected Area
-  Protected Beaches
-  Open Space and Natural Resource Network



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REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

The following is a graphical representation and although care has been taken to ensure the best possible quality, HRM does not guarantee the accuracy of this document.

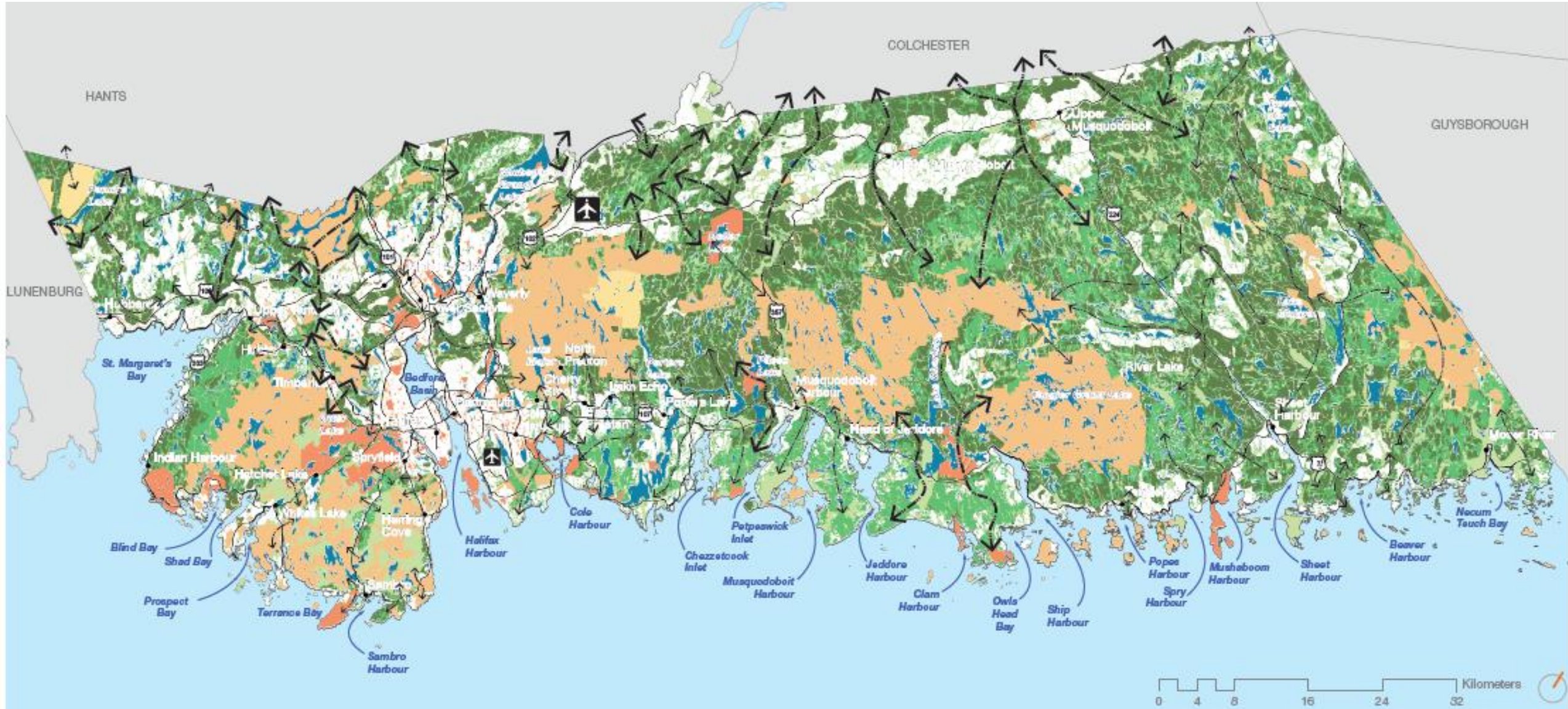
This map is not intended to be used for navigational purposes.

Note: This map demonstrates a vision to be implemented over the life of the Regional Plan, through various tools, subject to financial ability and community interest.

# HGNP Map 5

LEGEND

- Airports
- Parks
- Regulated Areas
- Roads
- Protected Areas
- Areas of High Environmental Value Overlap
- Planned Roads
- Proposed Protected Areas
- Core Areas and Corridors
- Minimal Value to Regional Green Network
- Lakes
- Essential Corridor
- Important Corridor



# Proposed Regional Plan Amendment

1. Amend Policy S-17(k) of Section 3.4.1., Conservation Design Developments, by deleting the text shown in strike out and adding the text shown in bold as follows:
  - (k) connectivity **of natural networks, including trails,** is maintained with any open space on adjacent parcels ~~and trails and natural networks,~~ as generally shown ~~on Map 3~~ **illustrated by the Important and Essential Corridors shown on Map 5, Green Network Ecology Map, contained in the Halifax Green Network Plan, as amended from time to time;**

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# Public Consultation

- Green Network Plan was informed by 3 phases of engagement with residents from urban, suburban and rural communities, provincial government departments and stakeholder groups
- For this narrowly scoped RMPS amendment, Regional Council directed staff to obtain stakeholder and public feedback through the Municipal website

# Transition Considerations

- Staff will continue to process conservation design development agreement applications grandfathered under 2006 RMPS policies
- There are currently no active applications under existing 2014 RMPS policies
- Should the proposed amendments be approved, any new conservation design development agreement applications will be subject to the updated conservation design policy criteria

# Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommend that Regional Council:

Approve the proposed amendment to the Regional Municipal Planning Strategy, as set out in Attachment A, to add a reference to the Halifax Green Network Plan within the conservation design development agreement policy criteria.