

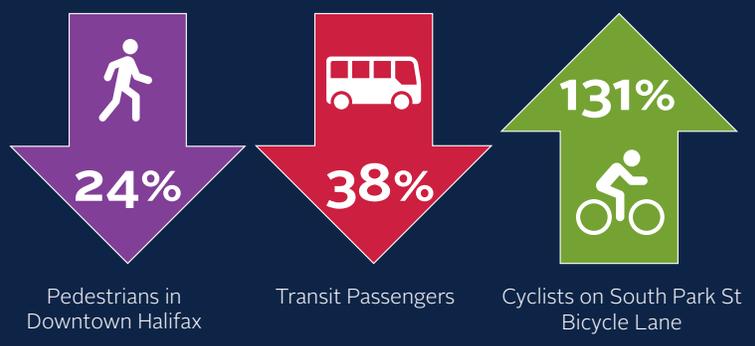
INTEGRATED MOBILITY PROGRAM NEWSLETTER

Q4 (October - December) 2021. Produced in March 2022

COVID-19 AND MOBILITY IN HRM

COVID-19 has greatly impacted just about everything we do in our daily lives, including how we get around the region. The mode share of walking, rolling, cycling, and transit have shifted each time new restrictions were introduced or lifted. We've begun to see pedestrian volumes and transit ridership increasing toward pre-pandemic levels. Cycling volumes are exceeding pre-pandemic levels along key corridors like South Park Street.

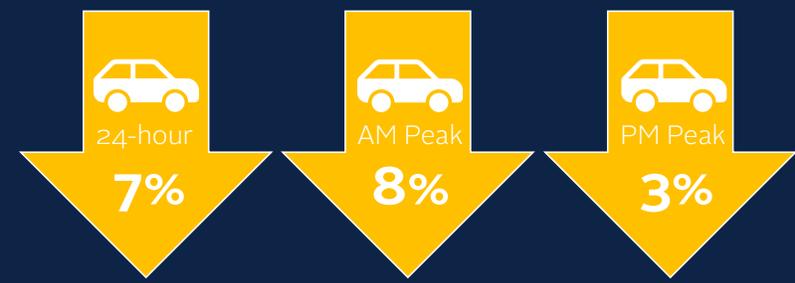
Here are the pedestrian, transit and bicycle statistics comparing Oct., Nov. & Dec. 2021 to the same months in 2019.



Pedestrian volumes were provided by the Downtown Halifax Business Commission and Develop NS. Transit passengers includes buses, ferries & Access A service.

Change in Traffic Volumes on the Harbour Bridges:

Bridge traffic volumes dropped by 7% between October and December 2021 compared to the same period in 2019. Traffic volumes dropped by approximately 3-8% during the typical morning & afternoon peak periods. This overall decrease in traffic volume differs from the previous period (July – September), which showed an actual increase in overall traffic relative to pre-pandemic numbers. The reason for the decrease is unclear but may be related to the impacts of the Covid-19 Omicron variant that started to emerge during this period.



Bridge traffic data was provided by Halifax Harbour Bridges. AM and PM peak data represent weekday 6-9am and 3-6pm, respectively. Bridge traffic volumes dropped by 7% between October and December 2021 compared to the same period in 2019. Traffic volumes dropped by approximately 3-8% during the typical morning & afternoon peak periods. This overall decrease in traffic volume differs from the previous period (July – September), which showed an actual increase in overall traffic relative to pre-pandemic numbers. The reason for the decrease is unclear but may be related to the impacts of the Covid-19 Omicron variant that started to emerge during this period.

ALL AGES & ABILITIES CYCLING NETWORK AT 40% COMPLETE

As of December 2021, 40% of the [All Ages and Abilities \(AAA\) cycling network](#) is in place with 23 kms built (of the 57 km total). Highlights of the 2021 construction season included:

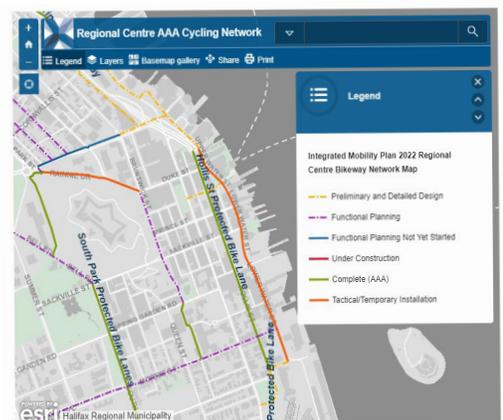
- Protected bike lanes built on Wyse Road, Dartmouth;
- New multi-use pathway (MUP) built on Bayers Road from Romans Avenue to George Dauphinee Avenue, Halifax
- Local Street Bikeway added along Leaman Street

One of the signature projects completed in 2021 was the construction of 1.6 km of uni-directional protected bike lanes on [Wyse Road](#) as part of the Macdonald Bridge bikeway connection project. This project provides important connectivity for people on bicycles accessing the Macdonald Bridge.

Functional Planning is ongoing for key projects including the Africville AT Connections project and for bikeways in Dartmouth North as well as the south and midtown areas of the Halifax Peninsula. Unfortunately, the completion of the network will take longer than the 2022 completion target set in the Integrated Mobility Plan. While there are several factors that influence the delivery of the AAA program, it is anticipated a significant portion of the network will be constructed by 2024.



Wyse Road - Dartmouth



Check out our [interactive map](#) to see the current status of the Regional Centre AAA Bikeway network "at a glance". (Action 72)

IMP ACTION ITEMS

The *Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP)*, adopted by HRM Regional Council in December 2017, is a priorities plan that informs the municipality's approach to mobility and land use planning. HRM is in the midst of implementing the IMP's 137 actions.



38

COMPLETE



40

ON-GOING FOR THE
LIFE OF THE PLAN



47

IN PROGRESS



12

NOT STARTED

IMP PROJECTS

Planned IMP projects continued during COVID-19. Here's a sample of some of the work:



- Regional Council approved a By-law change that allows charities/non-profit organizations & event organizers to purchase discounted bulk transit fares. (Action 105)



- Built new Multi-Use Pathway (MUP) connections including Forest Hills Parkway extension to Colby Dr and between the Chain of Lakes Trail and Walter Havill Drive. (Action 7)



- New sidewalk connections in Dartmouth including on Mount Edward Road (Woodlawn Road to John Cross Drive) & Wildwood Blvd (Roslyn Drive to Tantling Cres.) (Action 7)

ROUND UP FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021

Active Transportation

- Funded multiple initiatives under the Active Transportation Education & Promotion Grants program including winter biking promotions, bike bell distribution, and the North by Night Open Street Market (hosted by the North End Business Association). This was the first winter delivering this funding program. (Action 45, 48, 49)
- Nova Scotia municipalities were granted, by the Province, the ability to use bicycle traffic signals. With this long-awaited tool in HRM's 'toolbox', bicycle traffic signals will be installed at the Wyse Road - Macdonald Bridge-head intersection in 2022. (Action 74)
- Worked with the Cogswell Redevelopment project team on the refinement of options for maintaining active transportation through the Cogswell interchange area during construction, which is anticipated to begin early in 2022. (Action 7 & 72)

Transportation Demand Management

- Developed an RFP to deliver the **Get There by Bike** marketing campaign for spring 2022. Staff will look to build on the success of last year's campaign, using some of the same photographic, video and audio assets. (Action 78)
- Developed a Commute Guidebook that will be circulated to all HRM Planning & Development Staff to outline their commuting options as the business unit prepares to move from offices at Alderney Gate and Bayers Road to Duke Tower. (Action 55)

ROUND UP FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021 CONTINUED

Complete Streets

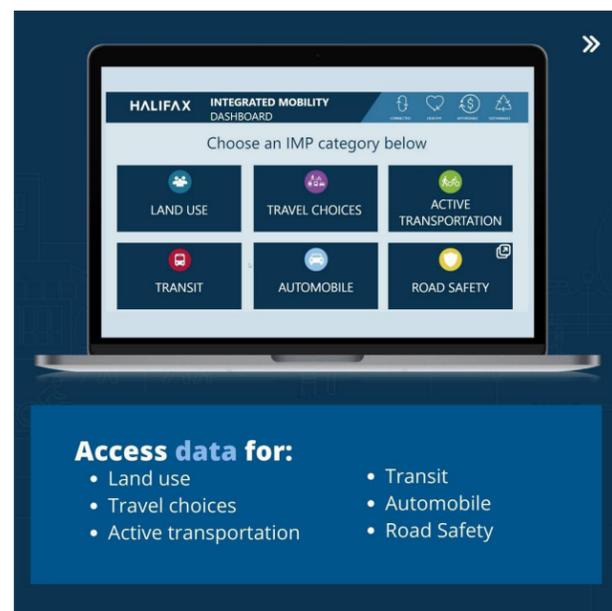
- Construction nearing completion on Spring Garden Road streetscaping project. Regional Council approved staff's recommendation to proceed with a year-long, transit priority corridor pilot project on Spring Garden Road between South Park Street and Queen Street during the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m. (commencing June 2022). Municipal staff will monitor the operation of the pilot project and report those findings to the Transportation Standing Committee after the first six months. A final staff recommendation will be made to Regional Council upon completion of the pilot project. (Action 37 & 39)
- Continued to advance functional/preliminary planning and design for key corridors including Portland Street, Upper/Lower Water Street, and the Bedford Highway. (Action 33, 121)
- Ongoing detailed design for Dutch Village Road sidewalks, protected bicycle lanes, and streetscaping. (Action 69)



INTEGRATED MOBILITY DASHBOARD

Monitoring our progress is critical to understanding the impact the IMP is making. Quarterly progress reports have been regularly released, and in May 2021, the [IMP Implementation Update](#) was released. This document provided a more comprehensive check-in that highlighted the IMP's implementation progress and celebrated many of the positive changes that have occurred in our communities because of the significant investments that have been made in our transportation network.

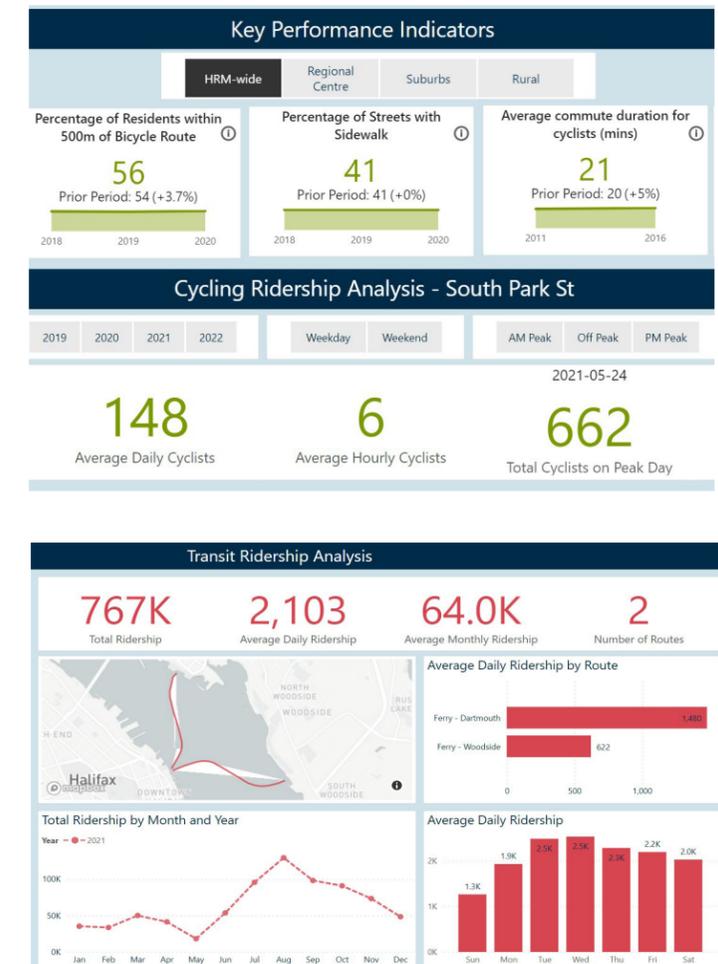
We are now pleased to present the [Integrated Mobility Dashboard](#), an interactive online platform that provides residents with access to the region's most up to date mobility data. The dashboard brings together many complex and large datasets and displays them in a manner that is easy to read and understand.



Some of the key features of the Integrated Mobility Dashboard include:

- Performance indicators and trends that offer insights into the performance of HRM's mobility network and our progress in implementing the IMP.
- Daily transit and cycling ridership data, which are updated automatically and are available in a format that is simple, interactive and customizable, providing users with the ability to dig deeper into the data.
- Transportation data that summarize mode choice for work commute trips by year, origin/destination, age, gender, and income.

[Check out the dashboard](#)



ROUND UP FOR OCTOBER - DECEMBER 2021 CONTINUED

Land Use & Transportation

- Continued work investigating Mill Cove as a potential ferry terminal location, including a review of site access, land-use potential, and onsite parking. Ferry expansion to Mill Cove was a key recommendation of HRM's Rapid Transit Strategy (Action 14 & 15)
- Initiated zoning review to potentially add new zones for the Aerotech Industrial Park and surrounding lands within the Airport Industrial Designation that could expand the types of industries permitted in the area (Action 29)
- Assisted and advised Dalhousie University School of Planning students on Vacant Vibrancy - a project focusing on storefront vacancies in mixed-use development. (Action 20)
- Initiated a review of the long-term redevelopment potential of Penhorn Mall and West End Mall in relation to the Regional Plan Review and developing policies and design guidelines to provide for walkable, mixed use, complete communities in key locations. (Action 16)

- Drafted policy language for transportation chapters for the next Regional Plan and the upcoming Suburban Plan: sampled urban, suburban and rural higher-density areas to understand existing densities and their character; considered risks associated with railways and major roads close to residential uses, and drafted policy to protect residents and vulnerable citizens from risks associated with rail, road, marine & heavy industrial operations. (Action 17, 22)

Transit

- Implemented the latest round of service changes as per the Moving Forward Together Plan (now 85% complete) on November 22, 2021. These were the biggest service changes in the modern history of Halifax Transit. Twenty-six new routes were added. (Action 59)
- West Bedford Park & Ride became operational on November, 22, 2021, including a multi-use pathway connecting Innovation Drive along to Gladys Porter Place. Additional elements of the project including heated shelters, electronic message boards and landscaping will be completed in 2022/23. (Action 59, 70)
- Continued work on the Accessible Bus Stop Inventory & Assessment project, which includes a comprehensive review of all transit stops. Work continues on categorization and prioritization of potential upgrades. (Action 94)

Parking

- Completed a curbside access review for Spring Garden Road area side streets to implement short-term parking for delivery services such as Uber Eats, Door Dash, etc.. (Action 136)
- Added a Curbside Management Analyst position. This role will serve as the curbside management subject matter expert as Halifax develops policies to properly manage the public space along the curb. These policies will reinforce the priorities of Halifax Regional Council as outlined in the IMP. (Action 136)



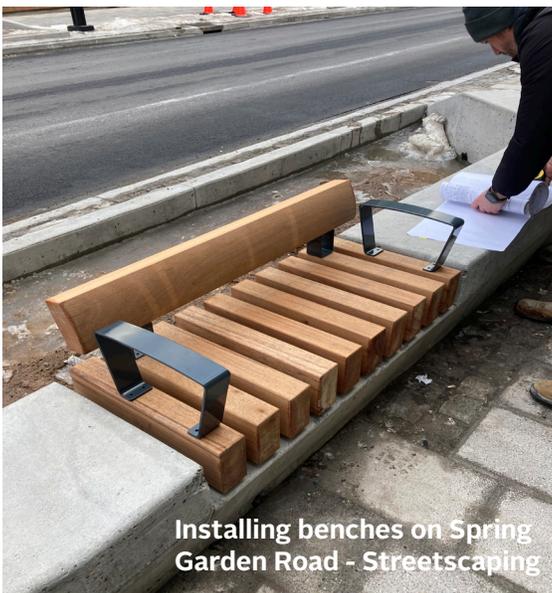
Windsor Street Exchange Project Site

Road Network

- Presented a proposed new Traffic Calming Administrative Order (AO) to the Transportation Standing Committee and Regional Council. The AO will place increased emphasis on road safety and vulnerable road users, and will introduce an equity lens. A supplementary report was requested and will be presented in early 2022. (Action 4)
- Received the draft report for the Photo Enforcement Feasibility Study completed by an external consultant. (Action 4)
- Completed 40 traffic calming construction projects, bringing the total to 109 street completions in 2021. Most of the measures implemented included speed humps and speed tables. (Action 4)
- Advanced the concept design options for the proposed Windsor Street Exchange redevelopment to functional design level and held public/stakeholder engagement sessions to gather feedback on the functional design options being considered. (Action 36, 90, 97,110, 112, 121 and 122)

WHAT IMP PROJECTS ARE UP NEXT?

- Take the Rural Active Transportation (AT) Framework to Regional Council in early 2022. It includes best practice research and advises on key rural AT factors including network types (e.g. Cluster and Spine), AT facility types, decision-making frameworks, and implementation. The report also includes a review of municipal policy and current processes related to rural Active Transportation. (Action 82)
- Deliver a public webinar as part of Winter Bike Week. The webinar will provide updates on new Active Transportation projects and provide the opportunity for citizens to speak with municipal staff. (Action 6o)
- Install additional Operation Lifesaver railway decal at the Ochterloney Street rail crossing adjacent to Alderney Landing. (Action 5)
- Continue to work on zoning review for Aerotech Industrial Park. The Regional Plan Review will continue through 2022 and include revised policy direction for industrial lands. (Action 29)
- Stakeholder and public consultation for design options being considered as part of the Water Street Functional Plan. (Action 131)
- Data collection and monitoring of activity on Spring Garden Road in preparation for the daytime 'transit priority' pilot that is scheduled to start in June 2022. (Action 37 & 39)



Installing benches on Spring Garden Road - Streetscaping

- Prepare Halifax Transit's annual transit service plan for 2022/23 (Action 59)
- Finalize amendments to the Traffic Calming Administrative Order and revise the list of ranked traffic calming projects based on the updated criteria. (Action 4)
- Release the new version of the Road Safety Dashboard which provides an overview of collision data and tracks progress of several road safety initiatives. (Action 4)

WATER STREET ENHANCEMENTS

Terminal Road to Historic Properties



Tell Us What You Think!

Halifax Regional Municipality is planning on making changes to Lower/ Upper Water Street, from Terminal Road to Historic Properties. As a signature street in Downtown Halifax, Water Street presents many exciting opportunities. The project team has identified key improvements that will enhance how people use Water Street to move within and through the area.



Visit ShapeYourCityHalifax.ca/Water-Street-Corridor to review the design options and share your input by taking our online survey. **The survey will remain open until March 25, 2022.**

Questions can be directed to Project Manager, **Leen Romaneh: Romaneh@halifax.ca, 902-430-8348.**



HALIFAX



Spring Garden Road