

## WE NEED YOUR INPUT AND COMMENTS

Please feel free to complete the enclosed comment sheet. We encourage you to offer suggestions on how the Plan can get people out of their cars to lead a more active lifestyle. Also, please indicate if you would like to be added to our contact list to receive future information updates.

✓ Please check one or both of the following:

Yes, I would like to be added to the HRM Active Transportation Plan mailing list and be notified of upcoming events and meetings. My mailing address, phone number and E-mail address is:



## HRM Active Transportation Plan Comment Sheet

1. What are your top three suggestions for reducing car use, and increasing non-motorized transportation in HRM?

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2. Do you have any specific non-motorized transportation route suggestions that we should consider for the plan?

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3. Where are some of the key barriers increased non-motorized transportation in your particular community, and what do you think could be done to overcome these barriers? Name of your community: \_\_\_\_\_

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4. Do you have any other comments or suggestions?

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## HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

As a user or potential user of the HRM Active Transportation network, your input is very valuable to producing a successful final plan. We encourage your participation. If you have specific comments, you are welcome to contact the project team directly.

The HRM website will also be updated over the course of the project to provide an interactive information source regarding plan development and this newsletter contains a comment sheet on the final page that you are encouraged to complete and return to us with any suggestions you may have.

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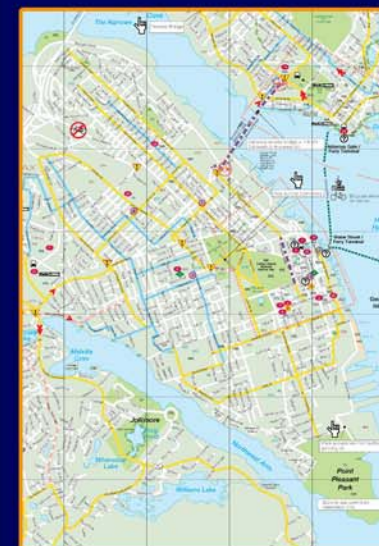


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# ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Newsletter No. 2



This is the second in a series of newsletters designed to inform you about the current study to develop the HRM Active Transportation Plan.

The Halifax Regional Municipality has initiated this study to develop an Active Transportation Plan that will connect, integrate, enhance and expand existing on and off-road facilities for a variety of self-propelled modes of transportation. The Plan will also facilitate these active modes of transportation for lifestyle, leisure, tourism and commuting purposes.

The HRM has selected the consulting firm of SGE Acres, in association with Marshall Macklin Monaghan and Go For Green, from a number of firms that responded to a public proposal call, to assist staff in undertaking this study that will be completed in early 2006.

## WHAT IS ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION?

Active Transportation (AT) is any non-motorized, self propelled mode of transportation. It is a rapidly growing approach to traffic congestion mediation, emissions reduction and more healthy lifestyles across much of North America.

## AT PLAN PROGRESS

In August the first issue of this newsletter introduced the citizens of HRM to the ongoing Active Transportation (AT) Plan now being produced and outlined why and how the municipality is moving forward with this initiative. A connected and effective AT network in the municipality will provide safe and viable transportation alternatives to private cars, facilitate and encourage a more active lifestyle and reduce harmful automobile emissions that contribute to smog and air pollution. It will also serve as a tool for addressing ever growing car and truck traffic and help to ease the burden on our roadways and traffic systems. The end goal is a transportation system that looks beyond individual AT modes and their related infrastructure and determines how various networks can be linked together with the communities they are intended to serve in an efficient and cost-effective manner.

Over the past several months, the project team has been reviewing a wealth of information covering AT initiatives in the municipality as well as health and wellness research from across Canada and beyond. Building on elements of a successful AT network already in place in HRM, the team has been working to develop further multi-modal connections and links. Much of this work has resulted in the Possible Routes map (shown on Page 2) that outlines the on and off-road AT routes being considered for the plan as well as a Pedestrian Walking Zone map (also on Page 2) that outlines where enhanced pedestrian facilities could be targeted.



The draft on-road routes have been evaluated by such factors as traffic volumes, speed limits, connectivity, existing AT travel barriers, convenience, visual attractiveness, existing facilities in place, cost effectiveness and integration with other travel modes such as public transit. The routes where people need to travel to and where they are coming from connect the overall system. This system should be attractive to youth and usable by as many members of the HRM community as possible despite age, gender and/or mobility factors. An example of this objective is illustrated the School Walking Zones and Sidewalks map shown on Page 3.

The goal and objectives of the Active Transportation Plan are:

**Study Goal**

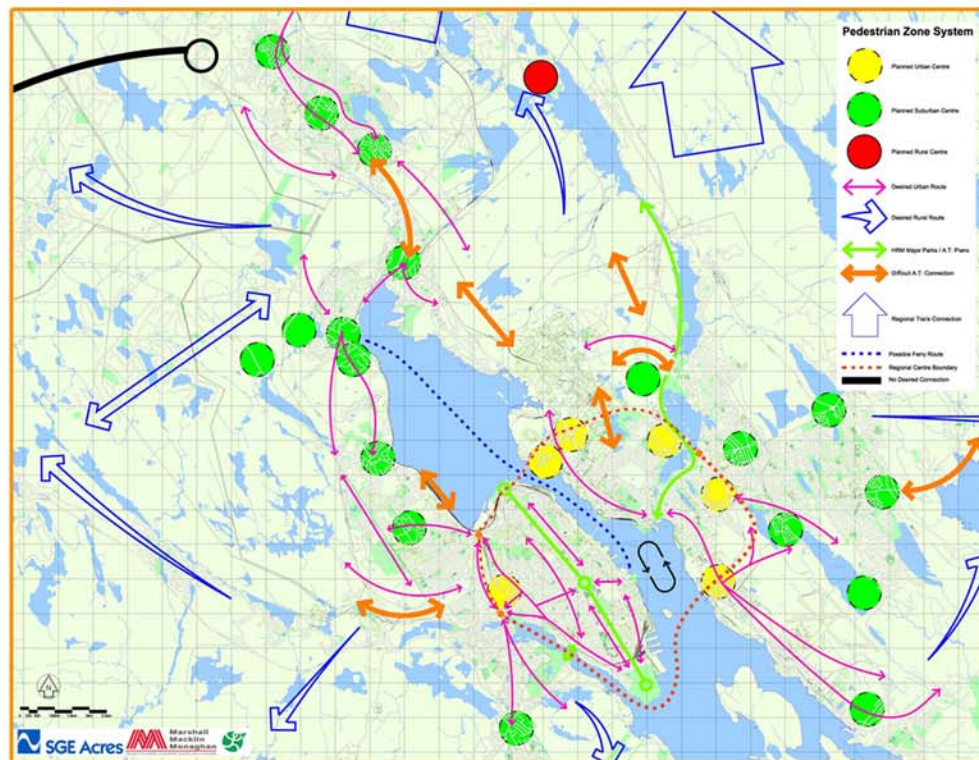
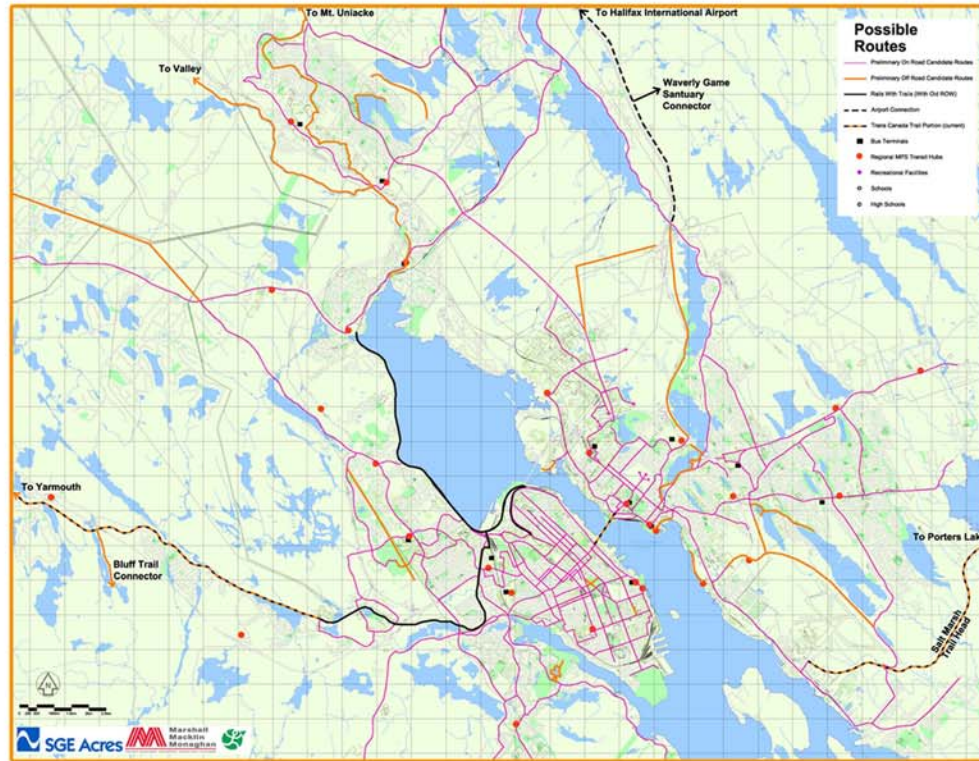
“Create a well-connected, safe and functional Active Transportation Plan that involves input from the general public, community trail groups and active transportation advocates.”

**Study Objectives**

1. Define an urban, suburban and rural active transportation network
2. Identify priority problem areas in the current network and recommend solutions.
3. Propose the integration of the active transportation network with the transit system to encourage inter-modal trips.
4. Review safety and risk management issues.
5. Identify and address environmental impacts.
6. Develop policies and proposed wording for municipal standards, rules and regulations.
7. Recommend a phasing and implementation schedule, including cost estimates and potential funding mechanisms, for the proposed network.



A focus of the Possible Routes is to connect to existing public transit terminals and planned growth areas as outlined in the draft Regional Municipality Planning Strategy. The routes also recognize the needs of both longer distance AT enthusiasts and shorter distance AT commuters through a system that connects practical destinations within the Municipality while also providing quality off-road recreational routes that reach into rural areas and tourist attractions such as the Trans Canada Trail.



**WHERE ARE WE NOW?**

In a series of public meetings outlined below, the project team will bring the Possible Routes to the public, to gain insights and to help refine the network. We encourage you to attend and would be happy to answer questions during any of the three evening sessions.

**Monday November 14th**  
 Cole Harbour District High School Cafeteria  
 2 Chameau Crescent

**Wednesday November 16th**  
 Sackville High School Cafeteria  
 1 Kingfisher Way

**Thursday November 17th**  
 Halifax West High School Cafeteria  
 283 Thomas Raddall Drive

Doors open at 6:30  
 Presentation and Workshop begin at 7:00  
 Wrap Up 8:30

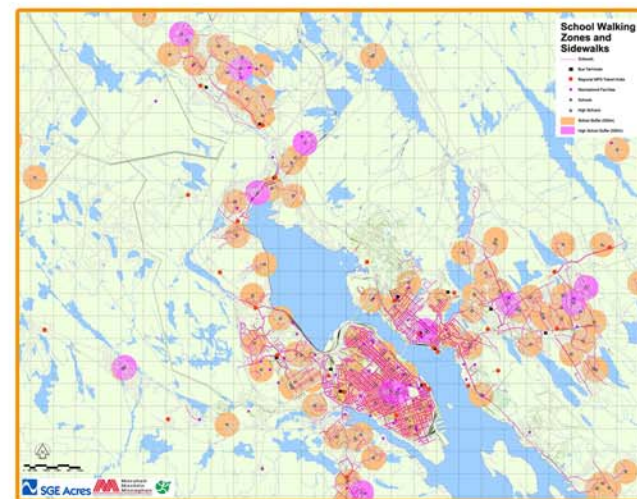


If you are not able to attend in person, please feel free to complete the comment sheet on the back of this newsletter and forward to either of the two contact persons provided if you have any suggestions about the Plan or comments you would like to add. Once the draft network has been refined through this process, a proposed on and off-road AT system will be completed and work will begin in more detail regarding specific facility types and supporting policies for plan implementation.

**NEXT STEPS**

When finalized, the project team will move the proposed AT network forward with an implementation strategy that includes a phasing schedule. The detailed design stage of the project will provide a number of on and off-road design options for network links tailored for urban, suburban and rural areas.

The study will be completed in early 2006. Implementation will then become a longer term initiative of HRM and partners. Implementation of the plan and how the creation of a comprehensive AT system should best be phased into the existing transportation network will be determined by the HRM Regional Council.



The Active Transportation Plan will include policies that require active transportation networks to be included as part of community development, schools and other public facility locations.

**The Plan will also include:**

- A draft Pathway and Bikeway Map for the urban – suburban commutershed.
- A new active transportation zone around the suburban core which limits or prohibits motorized use of all terrain vehicles (ATV's).
- Rural area roads and “K” class roads.
- Draft trail by-laws for dogs and ATV's on trails.
- A framework for education and promotion.