



Herding Cats:

HRM's approach to
evidence based
transportation planning

How to herd cats

- 1) Use evidence to identify achievable objectives in line with strategic plans or strategic planning
- 2) Plan for those objectives
- 3) ??????????
- 4) Achieve your stated goals.



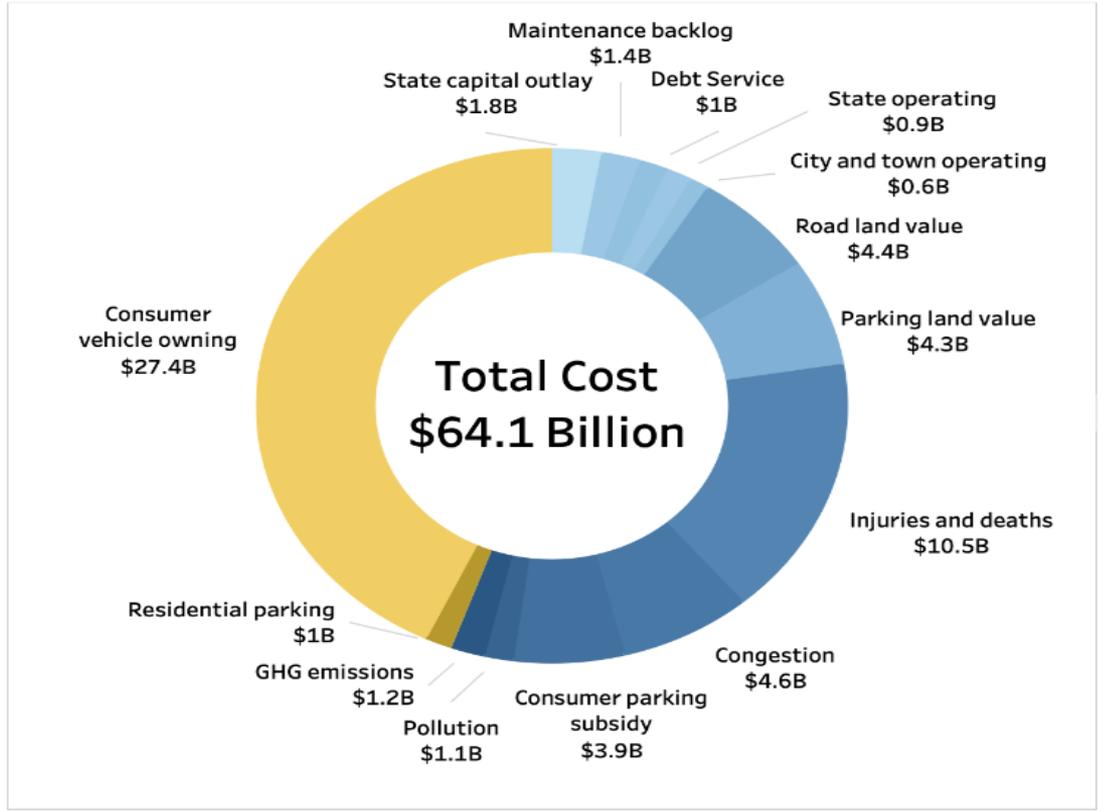
Well maintained: The evidence

How much do our roads cost us?

Do we know?

<https://research.hks.harvard.edu/publications/getFile.aspx?Id=3856>

Annual cost of the vehicle economy in Massachusetts

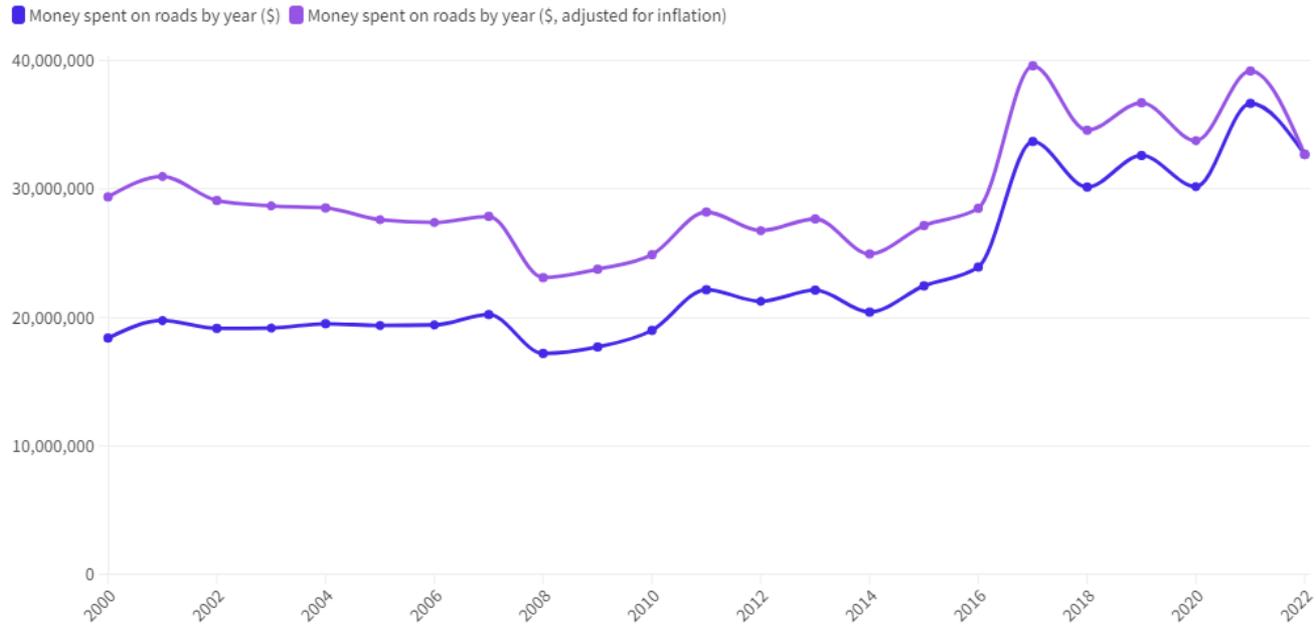


Well maintained: The evidence

Halifax spent more than \$32-million on roads in 2022 alone. That figure projects to climb higher by 2024.



Last year, the HRM spent \$32,690,000 on its roads. What if a greater share of that money was used on active transportation instead?



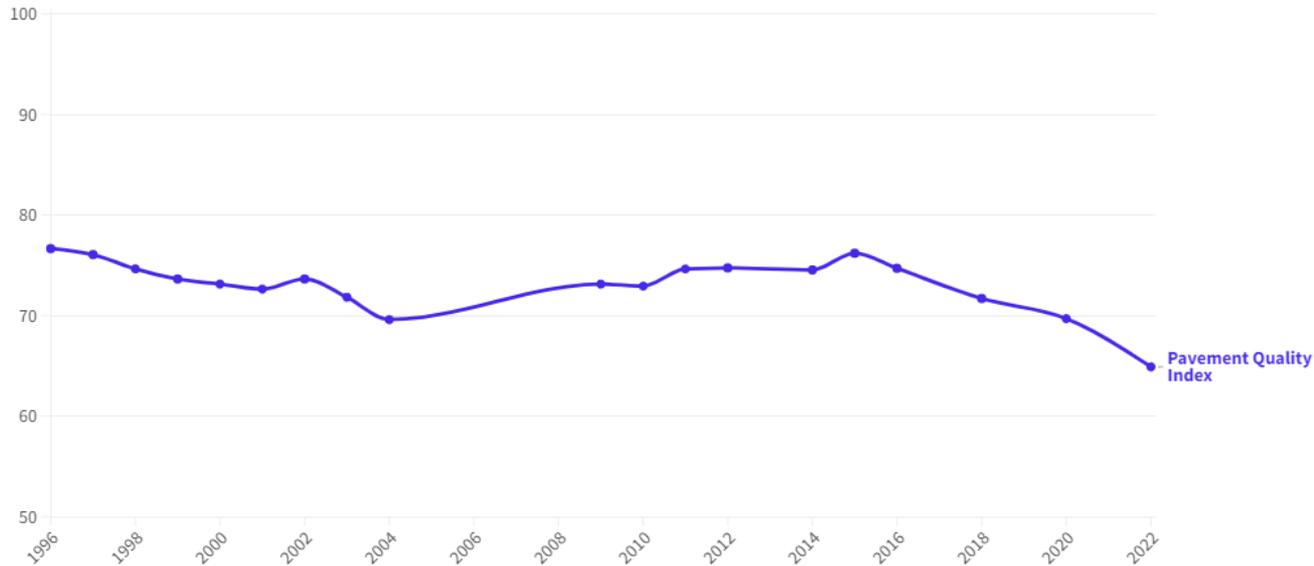
Sources: [HRM budgets, 2000-2022](#) (compiled by Matt Stickland, The Coast), [Bank of Canada inflation calculator](#)

Well maintained: The evidence

The quality of Halifax's roads has worsened since 1996

As Halifax's road network has expanded, the HRM's ability to maintain those same roads has fallen behind—and it won't catch up

The Pavement Quality Index is used to score streets from excellent (100) to poor (0). The lower the score, the more potholes, cracks and other pavement issues.



Source: [HRM budgets, 1996-2022 \(compiled by Matt Stickland, The Coast\)](#) • Note: Surface Duress Index was extrapolated to 2016 and Pavement Quality Index to 2015 and then averaged to achieve a coherent picture of HRM's road condition over time.

Well maintained: TLDR

Is there any evidence to suggest that Halifax's automotive infrastructure is sustainable?

Is there any evidence to suggest that an automotive infrastructure monopoly is in line with HRM's priorities?

Is it possible to build a transportation network that can be well maintained in line with HRM's priorities?

No

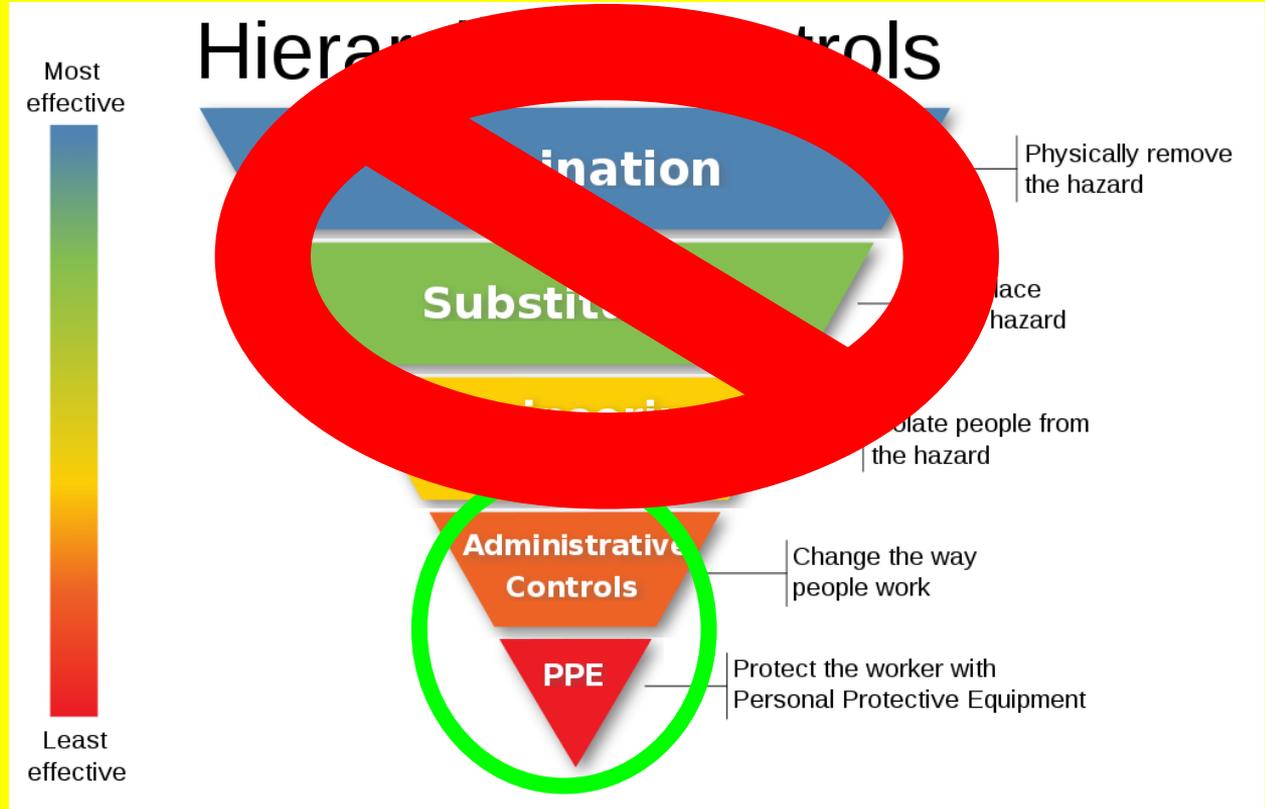
Yes

Safe Streets: The evidence

3Es of Street safety:

- Engineering
- Education
- Enforcement

What approaches has the HRM traditionally used keep cyclists safe?



Safe Streets: The evidence

Slow the Blazes Down: 30km/hr streets

<https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/231116atac921pres.pdf>

<https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/231116atac921waleshandout.pdf>

<https://cdn.halifax.ca/sites/default/files/documents/city-hall/boards-committees-commissions/231116atac921.pdf>

Slow the Blazes Down - A Major Behavioural Change

Halifax Regional Municipality
Active Transportation Advisory Committee
November 16, 2023

Safe Streets: The evidence

Does the city of Halifax design safe streets?

Does council have the power implement streets designed for 30km/hr?

What are you doing with that power instead?

No.

Streets vested in Municipality

318 (1) All streets in the Municipality are vested absolutely in the Municipality.

(2) In so far as is consistent with their use by the public, the Council has full control over the streets in the Municipality.

(3) No road, or allowance for a road, becomes a street until the Council formally accepts the road or allowance, or the road or allowance is vested in the Municipality according to law.

(4) Possession, occupation, use or obstruction of a street, or a part of a street, does not give and never has given any estate, right or title to the street.
2008, c. 39, s. 318.

[14.1 Councillor Purdy \[PDF\]](#)

Motion:

That the Transportation Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report outlining the options for removal of the traffic islands on Colby Drive, including any draft amendments that might be required to the Traffic Calming Administrative Order (2021-005-OP).

Safe Streets: TLDR

There are 17 reasons why Halifax's transportation network is not meeting council's strategic priorities for said transportation network

Councillors

[Regional Council](#) is comprised of Mayor Mike Savage and 16 Councillors. Together they represent the main legislative and governing body for Halifax Regional Municipality and its 16 districts. Councillors also sit on boards, committees and commissions, and community councils in the district where they've been elected.

Here is a list of Councillors contact information: [Councillor Contact List](#) [PDF]

Smooth flow of traffic: Physics

How much space does each car need?

Where and when does it need it?

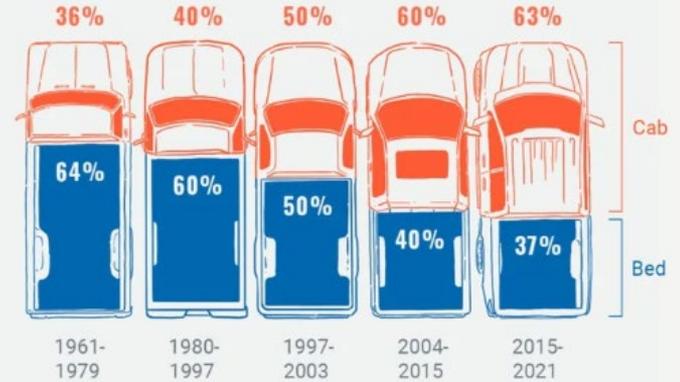
How many choke points does the city have?

Is there enough space, physically, in the HRM, accommodate everyone driving a car and meet your transportation goals? (spoiler alert: no)

What are the consequences, intended or otherwise, of prioritizing car traffic?

Shifting gears

How the Ford F-150's design has changed over the years.



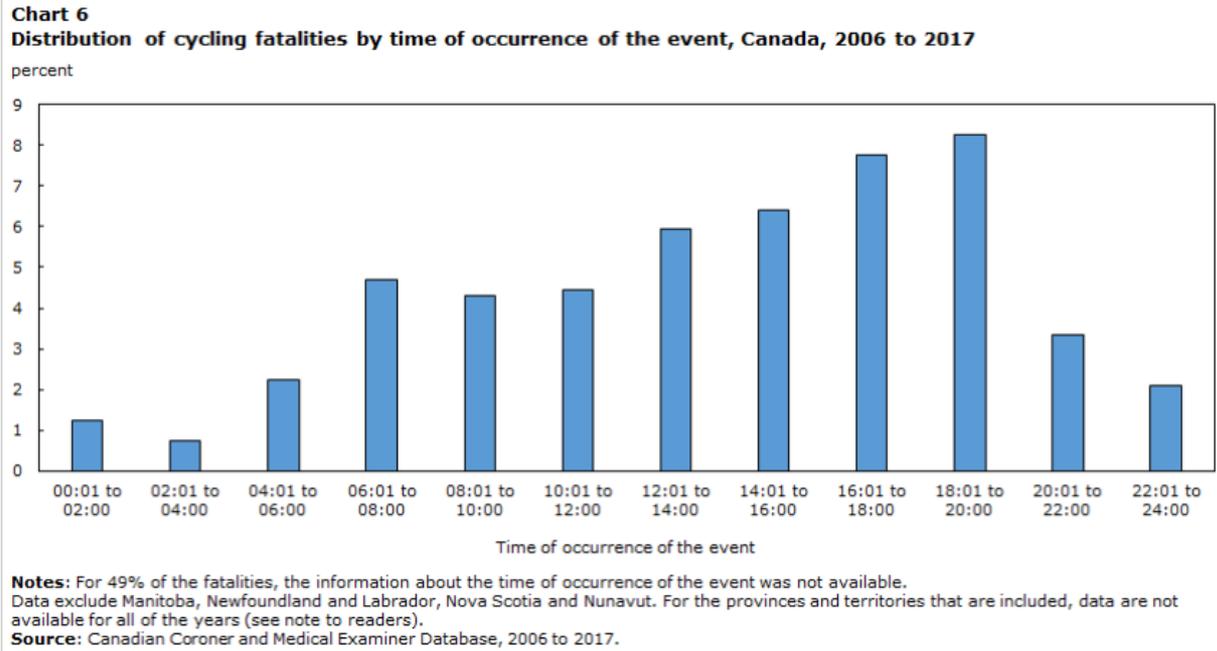
DATA: Axios

the HUSTLE



Smooth flow

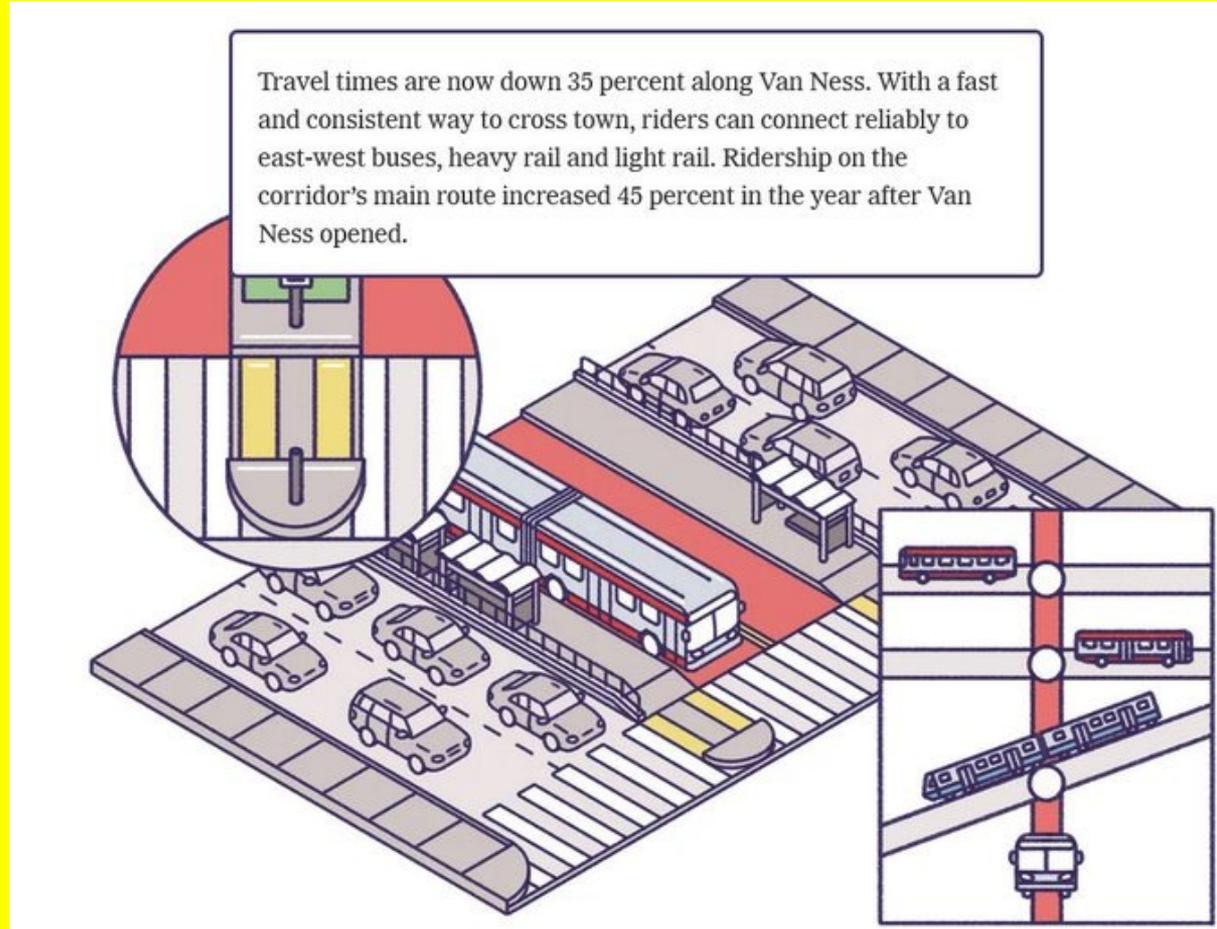
Prioritizing traffic flow in design is often done to alleviate congestion at peak road network use times. But even though rush hour is when most people are using the transportation network, it is not when most (~75%) vulnerable road users are dying. Why is that?



Smooth flow

What type of street design is effective at increasing the flow of traffic, meeting modal shift, safety and climate goals?

Why aren't we building those streets when with our annual recap budget?



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How to herd cats

- 1) Use evidence to identify achievable objectives in line with strategic plans or strategic planning
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- 3) Leadership from elected officials
- 4) Achieve your stated goals.



Questions?