Session Agenda

Session One: 1:30pm to 3:30pm

1:30pm Welcome and Introductions

1:40pm to 2:00pm HRM Staff Presentation

2:00pm to 2:10pm Question Period

2:10pm to 3:30pm Open House & Discussion Tables

Session Agenda

Session Two: 6:00pm to 8:00pm

6:00pm Welcome and Introductions

6:10pm to 6:30pm HRM Staff Presentation

6:30pm to 6:40pm Question Period

6:40pm to 8:00pm Open House & Discussion Tables

Why We Are Here?

1. Provide an overview of the new Rural Active Transportation Program

2. Learn the community perspective on:
   - sidewalks or multi-use pathways in Hubbards
   - the proposed area tax rate
   - the preliminary area rate boundary

3. Answer other questions and take suggestions

Example of a sidewalk and multi-use pathway on Trunk 3 in Hubbards
Source: Hubbards Community Plan

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Rural Active Transportation (AT) Program

Area Rate Engagement
March 4, 2024

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Background: Rural AT Program

Active Transportation Priorities Plan and Integrated Mobility Plan provide direction for Rural Active Transportation Program.

Establish a **rural pedestrian program** that includes:

- a **financing mechanism** which recognizes that rural pedestrian safety is affected by regional traffic;

- criteria **to prioritize development in village centres**, hamlets, or other rural areas of concentrated pedestrian activity;

- and **opportunities for cost sharing** with other orders of government.

HALIFAX INTEGRATED MOBILITY PLAN

Making Connections:
2014-19 Halifax
Active Transportation
Priorities Plan

halifax.ca/activetransportation   HALIFAX

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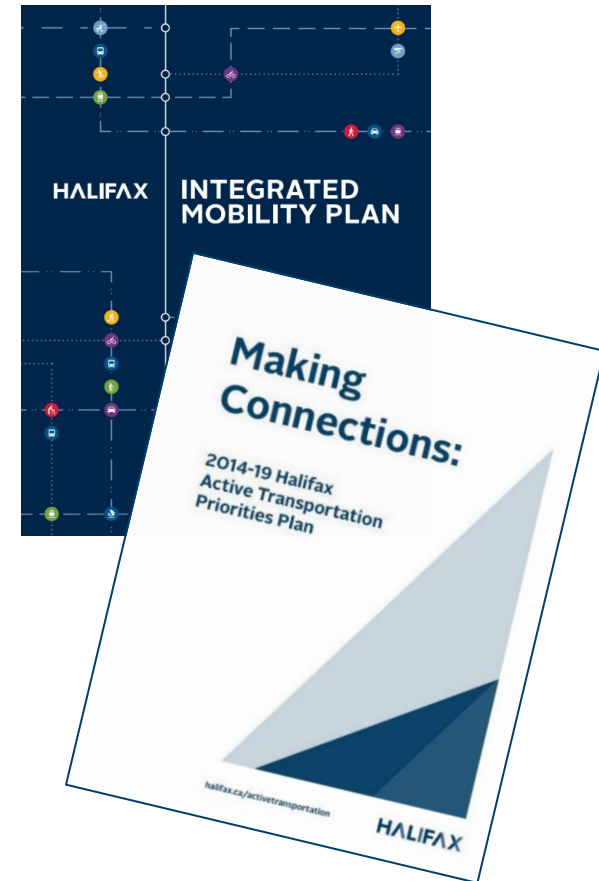
Background: What is a sidewalk or multi-use pathway?

Sidewalk. Pedestrian only.

Multi-Use Pathway. Pedestrian & Cycling (and other rolling activities)

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Background: Why do we build sidewalks and multi-use pathways?

- Improve **safety** by providing designated space for pedestrians and cyclists

- Make it easier for people to improve their **physical and mental health**.

- Facilitate **community development.**

- Enhance community cohesion through **creating connections**.
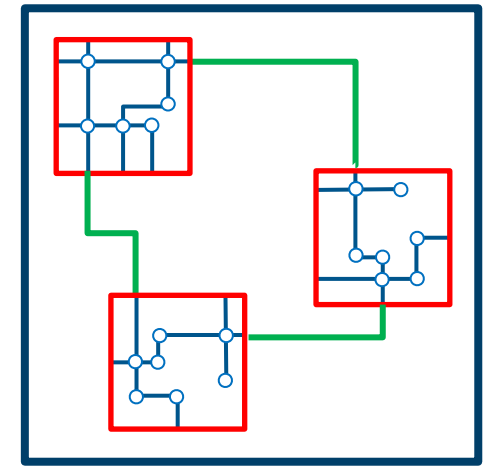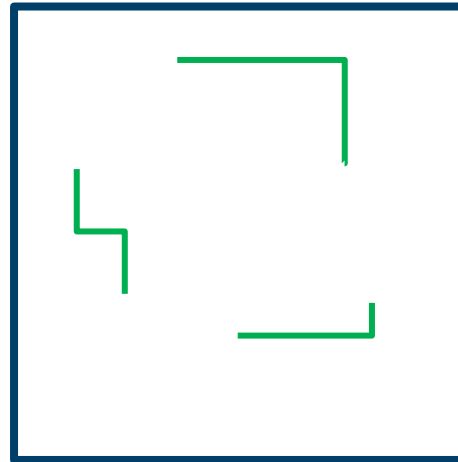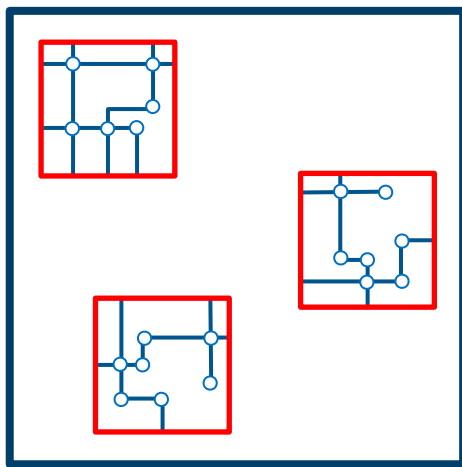

Multi-Use Pathway

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Rural AT Program: Overview

<u>Rural Active Transportation Program</u> (approved February 8, 2022):

1. Sidewalks and multi-use pathways in **rural community centres**.

2. Long term vision for **"spine" connections between rural community centres**

3. Continued **support for community-led trails and greenways with** HRM's existing Active Transportation Grant Program (e.g., St. Margarets Bay Trail).

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

RURAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION
FRAMEWORK REPORT

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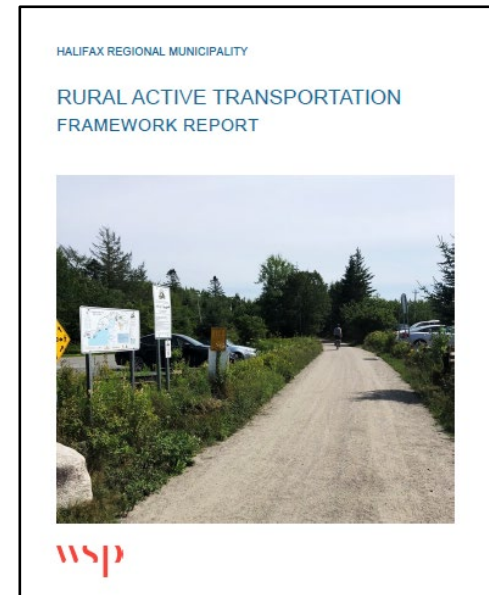
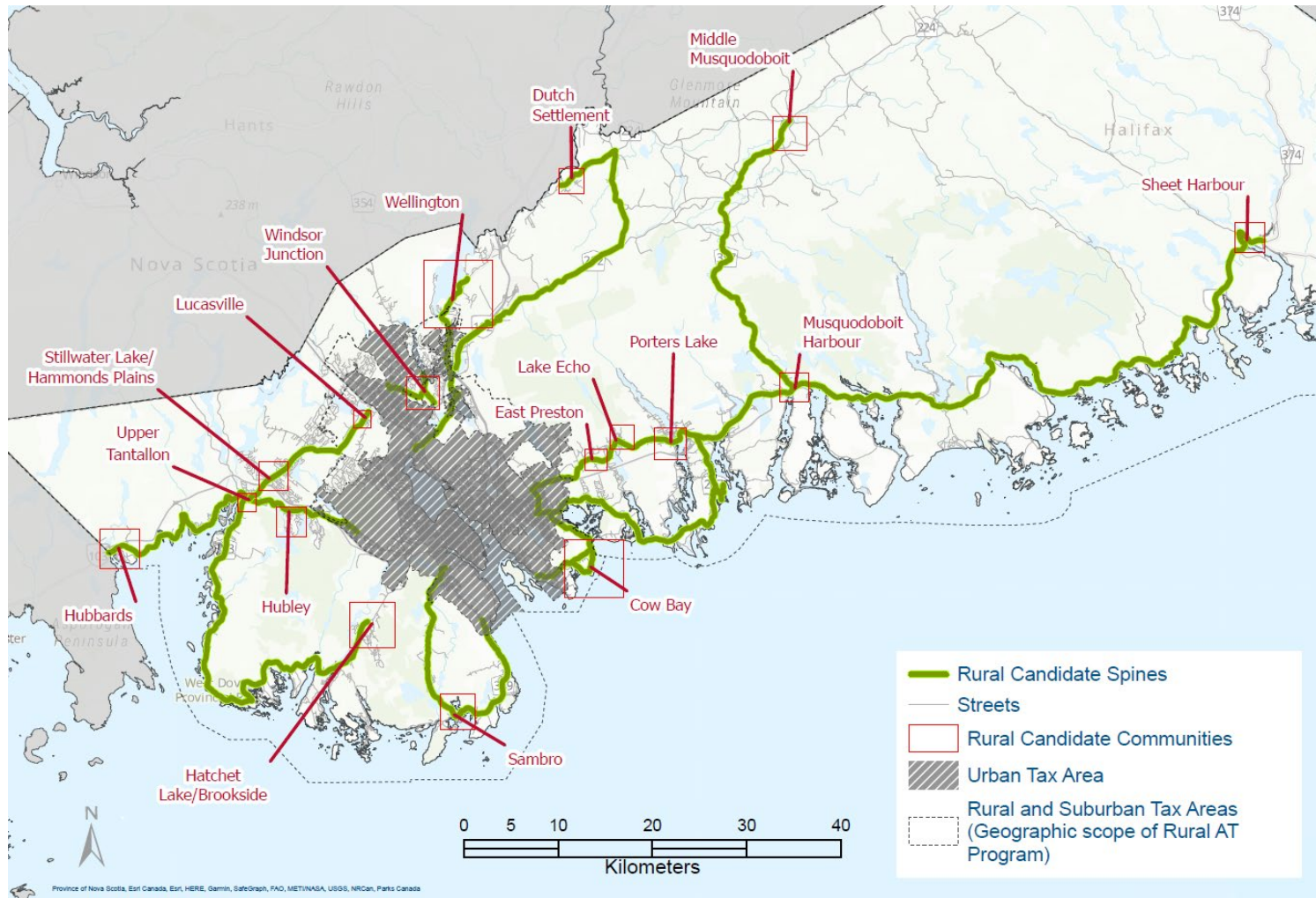# **Rural AT Program:** Building a Rural Active Transportation Network

Rural Community Centres with sidewalks and multi-use pathways

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"Spine" Connections **Between Rural Communitie Centres**

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Connected Rural Network of Active Transportation Infrastructure

Rural AT Program: Rural AT Network Vision

Sidewalks and Multi-Use Pathways in Rural Community Centres: Implementation Timeline

2023	Determine five priority communities from the seventeen rural candidate communities and a <u>preliminary</u> area rate boundary for each.
2024	Engage property owners and residents on proposed area tax rate, and <u>preliminary</u> area rate boundary. Prepare report to seek Regional Council direction.

If recommended, and approved by Regional Council…

2024 to 2032	…candidate rural communities will enter planning, and design phase for their initial sidewalk or multi-use pathway, planned to be completed no later than 2032.

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Sidewalks and Multi-Use Pathways in Rural Community Centres: Prioritized Communities

All 17 candidate communities were prioritized based on criteria such as population density, safety, equity, community planning and advocacy, and number of local or regional destinations.
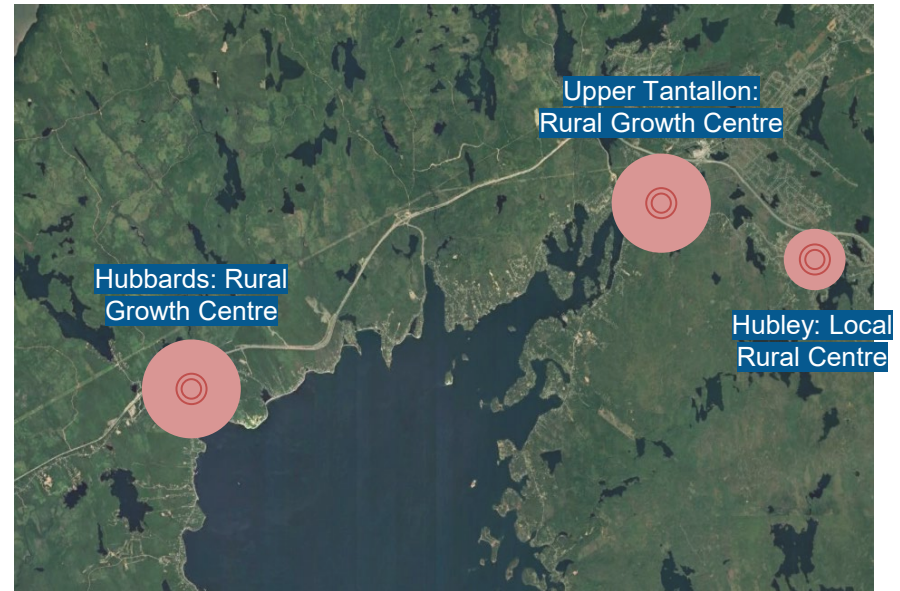
The five prioritized communities are:

- Hubbards
- Porters Lake
- Lucasville
- Musquodoboit Harbour
- Upper Tantallon

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Prioritized Communities: Why was Hubbards Prioritized?

☑ Local destination

☑ Rural Growth Centre

☑ Hubbards Community Plan

☑ Traffic volumes, speeds, and collision rates

☑ Village Core (concentrated commercial and service area)

☑ High number of pedestrians and cyclists

Rural Growth Centres Map (Regional Plan, 2014)

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Prioritized Communities: <u>Preliminary</u> Area Rate Boundary for Public Feedback
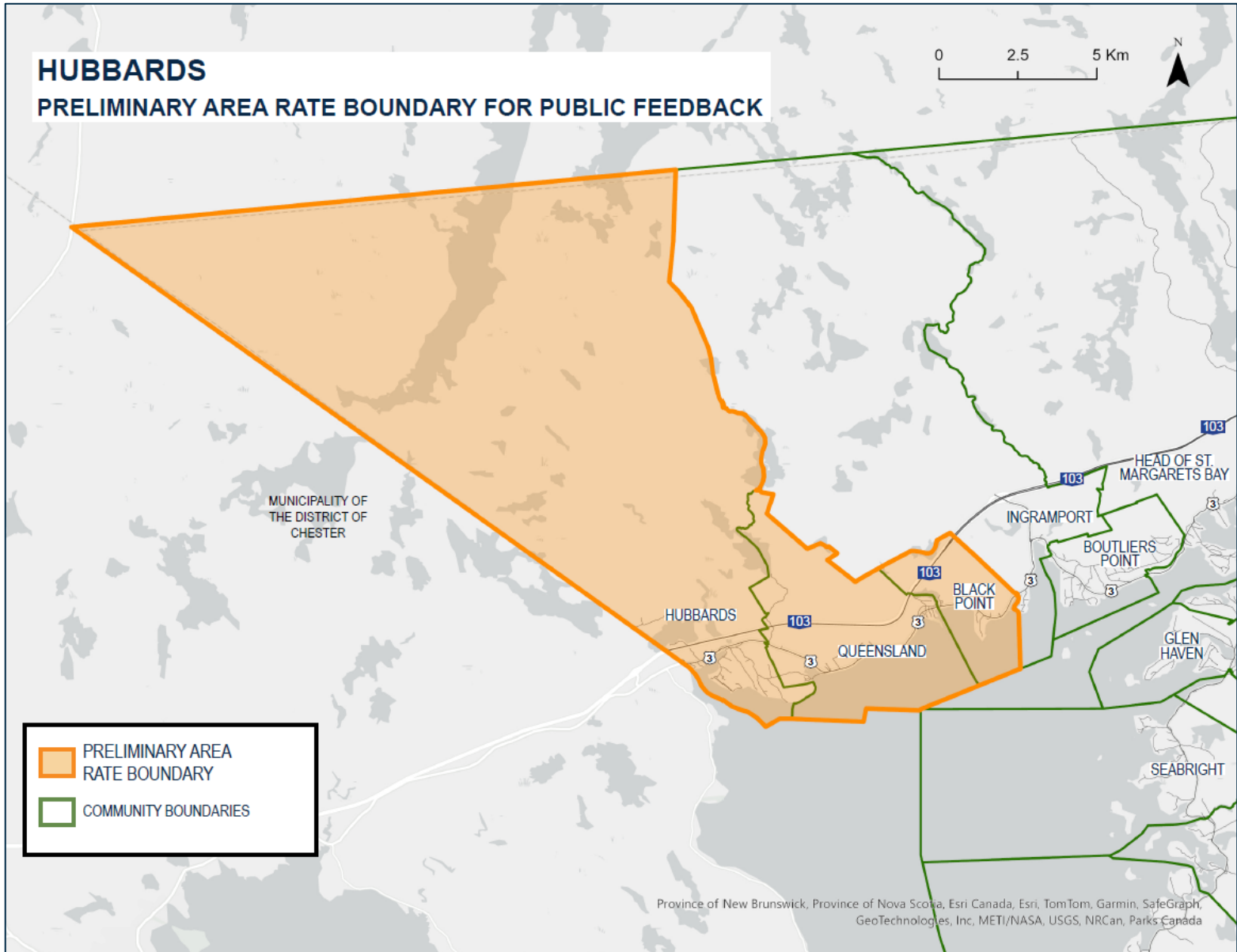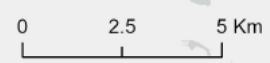
Purpose of Area Rate Boundary:

- Capture communities that use the area of the potential new sidewalks or multi-use pathways.

- Recognizing that pedestrian safety is affected by regional traffic.
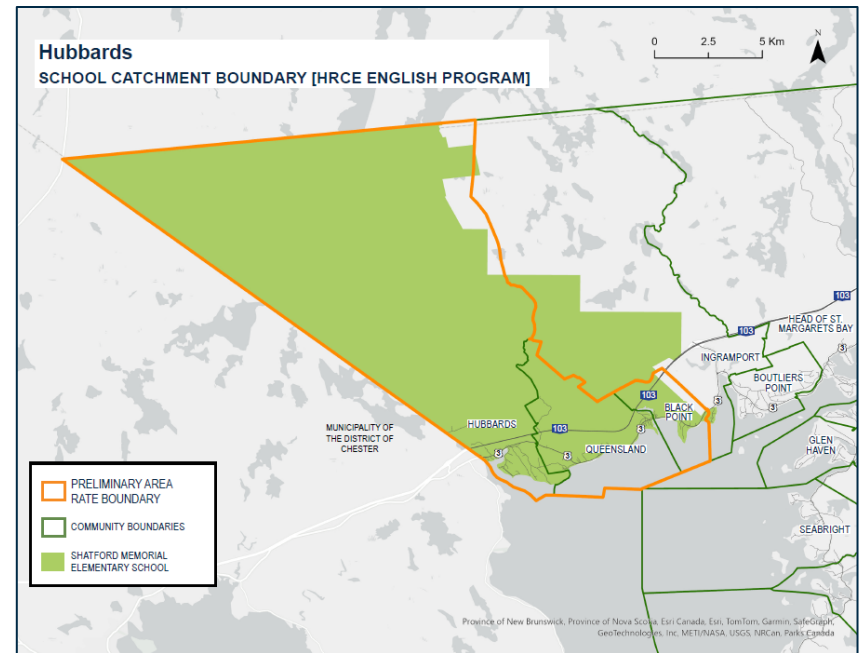
School Catchment Boundary for Shatford Memorial Elementary School

HUBBARDS
PRELIMINARY AREA RATE BOUNDARY FOR PUBLIC FEEDBACK

Property Tax Rates: Residential Property Rates & Services

Halifax Regional Municipality	
Hubbards	**Urban Area**
Rural General Rate = $0.616	Urban General Rate = $0.649
Additional Rates and Services Applied to All Properties	
Sup. Education = $0.019	Sup. Education = $0.019
Climate Action = $0.020	Climate Action = $0.020
Provincial Rates = $0.313	Provincial Rates = $0.313
Additional Rates and Services Applied to Some Properties	
Not Included	Transit = $0.091
Not Included	Fire Protection = $0.012
Not Included	Right-of-Way = $0.011
Total Property Tax Rates	
$0.968	**$1.115**

All rates shown are per $100 of taxable property value

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Property Tax Rates: Residential Property Rates & Services

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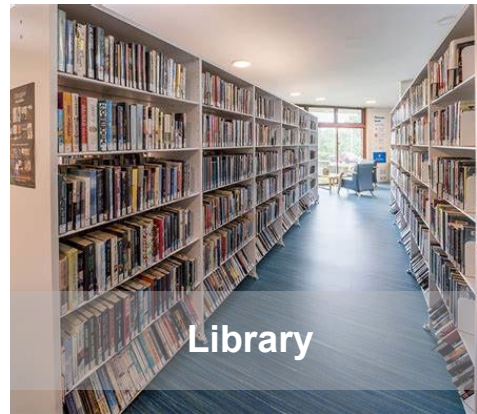HALIFAX

Municipal Tax Rates: Residential Property General Rates & Services

Rural General Rate = $0.616	Urban General Rate = $0.649
Policing (RCMP), Solid Waste, Community Facilities (Recreation, Libraries, Community Centres), Recreational Programs, Parks, Trails, Sport fields and Playgrounds, Fire Suppression, Streetlighting, Administration, Planning	Policing, Solid Waste, Community Facilities (Recreation, Libraries, Community Centres), Recreational Programs, Parks, Trails, Sport fields and Playgrounds, Fire Suppression, Streetlighting, Administration, Planning
Not Included	Sidewalks

Urban General Rate $0.649 – Rural General Rates $0.616 = $0.033 (3.3 cents)

All rates shown are per $100 of taxable property value

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Municipal Services: Examples of Existing General Rate Services in Hubbards

RCMP

Library

Hubbards Recreation Centre Park

Solid Waste Removal

St. Margarets Bay Trail

Recreation Programs

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Municipal Taxes: Reason for Proposed Area Tax Rate for Sidewalk or Multi-Use Pathway Eligibility

- An area rate of **3.3 cents /$100** of assessed taxable (capped) property value was chosen because:

  - **3.3 cents is the difference** between the urban general tax rate and rural general tax rate; and,

  - the construction and maintenance **of sidewalks (or multi-use pathways) is the difference** in eligible services between the urban general tax rate and the rural general tax rate.

Area Tax rate: Overview

- Applied after the initial sidewalk or multi-use pathway is substantially completed and applied in perpetuity.

- Communities paying the rate are eligible for additional sidewalks or multi-use pathways in perpetuity.

- Will not increase as additional sidewalks or multi-use pathways are constructed.

- Collected funds can <u>only</u> be used for communities who are paying the area rate.

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Area Tax Rate: Taxable Property Value & Tax Increase Per Year

Assessed Taxable (capped) Property Value	Tax Increase to Property Owner (per year values)
$100 - $100,000	$0.033 - $33
$100,000 - $200,000	$33 - $66
$200,000- $300,000	$66 - $99
$300,000- $400,000	$99 - $132
$400,000 - $500,000	$132 - $165
$500,000 - $1,000,000	$165 - $333
$1,000,000 - $2,000,000	$333 - $666

Area Tax Rate: <u>Preliminary</u> Area Rate Boundary Revenue

The estimated funds collected from the preliminary area rate boundary for Hubbards is **$76,482.48 per year**.

This number can change based on community feedback on the <u>preliminary</u> area rate boundary.
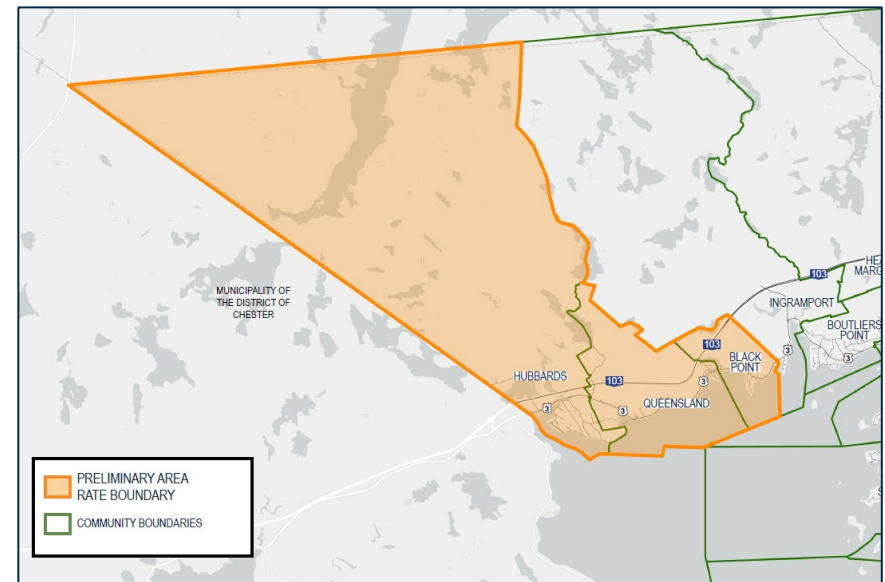
Current preliminary area rate boundary for public feeback

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Sidewalk or Multi-Use Pathway Locations

If the proposed area rate is approved by Regional Council, the next step would be to conduct, planning, and design to determine the locations of the sidewalks or multi-use pathways.

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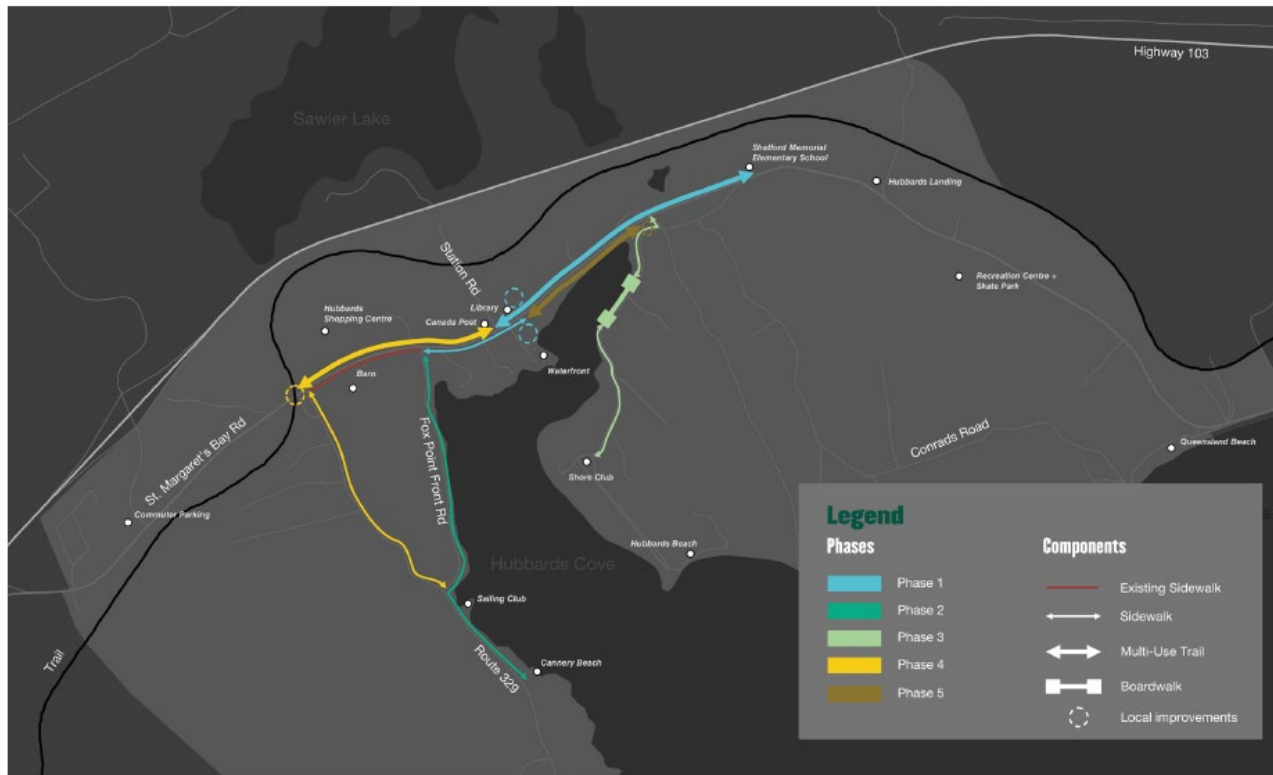
Estimated Costs

The cost to construct a sidewalk or multi-use pathway is **$1.5 million to $4 million per kilometer**. This could include; stormwater piping, ditch filling, land acquisition, drainage, rock breaking, streetscaping, and/or a retaining wall. Maintenance is **$11,000 per year, per kilometer**.

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Public Engagement: Learn More & Provide Feedback

- Letters to Residents and Property Owners
- Shape Your City webpage (public engagement platform)
- Survey (Open until April 15th)
- halifax.ca webpage (municipal website)
- Social media posts; location targeted ads
- Regional Councilor Newsletter
- Public Meeting and Open house
- Pop-ups (if needed)

Area Rate for Sidewalks and Multi- Use Pathways in Rural Community...

The municipality is hosting community engagement in five rural communities to determine commun...

Read More

Contact Project Manager, Emma Martin
martinem@halifax.ca or 902-490-4920

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Conclusion: Key Takeaways

- Looking to understand community perspectives to advise Regional Council recommendation on the following:
    - Is the community interested in having sidewalks or multi-use pathways in Hubbards?
    - Does the community understand and support the proposed area tax rate?
    - Does the community agree with the <u>preliminary</u> area rate boundary?

- We are aiming to take area tax rate and area rate boundary recommendations for the five priority communities to Community Council and then Regional Council in Spring 2024.

Thank You!

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Questions for Community

1. Do you think that Hubbards is a good location for sidewalks or multi-use pathways? Why or why not?

2. Do you understand and support the proposed area tax rate? Why or why not?

3. Do you agree with the preliminary area rate boundary? If not, where do you think the boundary should be?

4. Do you have any other comments or questions?

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