

**switch**  
open street sundays





## What is Switch: Open Street Sundays?

Switch is a weekly event that encourages people to enjoy their city by walking, biking, skating, dancing, and moving around the their city safely and comfortably. Just like the Skating Oval on the Common was instantly embraced by the HRM community, Switch will offer the opportunity for everyone - pedestrians, joggers, bicyclists, skaters, etc.- to get to many destinations on the Halifax peninsula in new and healthy ways.

Featuring an interconnected network of fixed routes throughout the city, **Switch is not about street closures - it is about opening streets** to a greater variety of transportation modes and the route will remain permeable to vehicles.



Switch is inspired by Bogotá, Columbia's **Ciclovía**, which translates to “bike way” or “bike path.” In Bogotá, approximately 1.5 million people (30% of the population) now participate every Sunday and holiday from 7am to 2pm on more than 70 miles of city streets. The long-term effects of Ciclovía in Bogotá have been a safer city where people can travel with ease, and a new vision of public space.

## Why Switch: Open Street Sundays in Halifax?

Switch is a transformative, ongoing event without infrastructure costs; Switch makes use of the existing network of streets and trails.

It also provides **public health benefits** by encouraging people to use alternative modes, such as walking, cycling and public transit on a regular basis.



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**Another benefit** is a reduction in vehicle use, which means less traffic congestion, less wear on existing infrastructure, and improved air quality. All of these things improve the quality of life for all Haligonians.

Switch creates **new economic opportunities** for existing businesses and temporary vendors by regularly increasing pedestrian traffic and enabling new sales in new places.

**Neighborhoods and communities benefit** from the attention and inclusion in the Switch network.



### **Our Goals for Switch:** Open Street Sundays

- Enable people to explore alternative modes of transportation in comfort and safety
- Demonstrate HRM's long-term vision for an active transportation network
- Demonstrate benefits to merchants of making room for other transportation modes
- Make physical activity enjoyable & give people a sense of freedom
- Remove barriers to accessing the peninsula and promote a vibrant downtown
- Enable and encourage exploration of new parts of the city

### **What is the ideal route for Switch?**

The Switch route in Halifax should educate people about how easy it is to bike, walk or take public transit, as an alternative to driving. The ideal route should connect diverse neighborhoods with a variety of appealing destinations such as the very popular Seaport Farmer's Market, Spring Garden Road, the Public Gardens, Point Pleasant Park, Historic Properties and the Halifax Common.

Providing participants with a feeling of safety and isolation from traffic is key to ensuring that Switch is a special event, with a quality of experience that continues to attract new and repeat users. Temporary barriers will be set up along the route to control traffic, while police and Switch volunteers will ensure safe interactions between cars and event participants at intersections.





## Proposed route details

A 5km route beginning at Hydrostone Market and finishing at Point Pleasant Park will be closed to traffic.

The route will include activity nodes where there is music, entertainment, food, street vendors, yoga, dance and other activities and performances.

Route remains open from 8am-2pm

Switch participants will conform to the rules of the road, stopping at signalized intersections and stop signs. Police will be at signalized intersections to manage traffic barricades and ensure cars are not entering the route. The route will be permeable to cross from the east and west at signalized intersections. The PDC will continue to work closely with the Special Event Task Force to confirm the final route and traffic configuration.



## Current Supporters

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Cities & Environment Unit

Dalhousie Office of Sustainability

Ecology Action Centre

Halifax Cycling Coalition

Heart and Stroke Foundation of Nova Scotia

Mountain Equipment Co-Op

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