

Experience our streets
in a whole new way.

FREE!

SEPT. 9th
9AM – 2PM

Live Music
Yoga • Zumba
Food • Bike Valet
Tai Chi • Meditation
Spinning Classes
Sidewalk Chalk
more! ...

switch

open street sundays

Agricola St. – Bell Rd. – South Park

Switch transforms Halifax streets into a safe,
fun, festive and car-free public space.

switchhfx.ca



Switch: Open Street Sundays

Presentation to ATAC

November 15, 2012

Supporters



Breakhouse®



NOVA SCOTIA QUEST

SWITCH PROJECT GOALS

- Recurring , long-term initiative
- Build a culture of community involvement
- Support a shift to sustainable transportation modes



INAUGURAL SWITCH

Sunday, September 9th, 2012

- 2-km route closed to vehicle traffic
- 3 Activity Nodes along the route
- 40 + community partners
- 3000 + participants from 9 am to 2 pm



- Local community and business involvement
- Demonstrated use of street network for active transportation
- Tested a new model for managing an open streets event in Halifax
- Attracted young and old participants



LESSONS LEARNED / CHALLENGES

- Lack of a clear approval process
- Securing HRM support
- Abutter sign-off
- Costs
- Need for police at intersections
- Moduloc fencing on South Park St. (why not french barricades?)
- EHS station on Agricola



HOW TO IMPROVE SWITCH?

- Timing - longer and later (e.g., 10 am to 4 pm)
- More on-street activities
- Need to reach out to more groups
- More communication and marketing from all groups
- More food and entertainment
- More signage
- Volunteers could play a greater role at intersections
- More bike rentals along the route

- Develop Switch initiatives in other communities
- Build partnerships with HRM, ISIS, Stepping Up partners and others
- Set regular dates for next year (3 for 2013?)
- Develop an Open Streets policy for HRM
- Partnerships with Bike Week, Dalhousie Student Union
- United Way application
- Support from Dept. of Health for up to 3 years
- Build buy-in at political and staff level

- Clarify and streamline the approvals process (i.e., Open Streets policy)
- In-kind support from the sign shop
- Fund a Switch event as part of Bike Week in 2013