



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 05**  
**Halifax Regional Council**  
**January 12, 2016**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

**SUBMITTED BY:** Original Signed by Director  
Bruce Zvaniga, Director of Transportation and Public Works

Original Signed by Director  
Brad Anguish, Director of Parks and Recreation

**DATE:** November 16, 2015

**SUBJECT:** Development Plan for the Cyril Smith Park Trail Expansion and Completion

---

### **INFORMATION REPORT**

#### **ORIGIN**

Regional Council, May 12, 2012, item 11.6 .1 Councillor Smith – Request for Staff Report re: Cyril Smith Park Trail Expansion and Park Development. MOVED by Councillor Smith, seconded by Deputy Mayor Karsten, that Halifax Regional Council request a staff report for public consultation on a Development Plan for the Cyril Smith Park trail expansion and completion. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

#### **LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

*Halifax Regional Municipality Charter*, Section 79 (1), The Council may expend money required by the Municipality for; (k) recreational programs; (x) lands and buildings required for a municipal purpose; (ah) playgrounds, trails, including trails developed, operated or maintained pursuant to an agreement made under clause 82(c), bicycle paths, swimming pools, ice arenas and other recreational facilities;(ai) public grounds, squares, halls, museums, parks, tourist information centres and community centres.

#### **BACKGROUND**

Cyril Smith Park is a 30 hectare park surrounding Big Albro and Martin Lake in North Dartmouth. It provides a public beach, sport field, and a formal and informal trail network at a district level. It also functions to buffer the lakes from development and provide access for sport fishing. The park presents some unique challenges owing to its rocky and boggy terrain. As well, the narrow configuration of park property on the west side of Albro Lake puts park users almost in private backyards. To the north, of Highway 111, it infills part of the lake.

HRM's 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan was approved by Regional Council in September 2014. The Plan identifies the priority projects and other initiatives to meet objectives for increased

bicycling and walking modal share, for completion of the bicycling and walking network, and for safety and promotion. The Plan only addresses those “trails” which are defined as multi-use facilities for both bicycling and walking. The Plan calls these facilities “Active Transportation Greenways” which are at least three metres wide, are typically paved in the urban and suburban parts of the municipality, and are separated from motor vehicles in order to appeal to the broadest range of ages and experience levels. The Plan also identifies an active transportation greenway “vision” for a connected regional main spine network of these multi-use facilities.

At one time Cyril Smith Park was considered as a location for one of these “main spine” active transportation greenways; however, the 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan only has existing and proposed routes near to and connecting to the Park, not through it.

## **DISCUSSION**

The 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan identifies capital projects and supporting initiatives to help increase the number of residents who walk and bicycle as part of their transportation between origins and destinations such as home, work, school, services and recreation. The Plan identifies the type of “trail” or “multi-use facility” that supports this goal as an “Active Transportation Greenway”. Trails such as foot paths, loop trails within parks and mountain bike trails are examples of “trails” which are park amenities, but are not part of the active transportation network in the Municipality.

There are no Active Transportation Greenways proposed for Cyril Smith Park in the Plan. Attachment “A” illustrates the existing and proposed AT facilities in this area. There are two proposed AT routes near the Park which would serve to provide access to the Park and to and from neighbourhoods in the area. They are:

- 1) A proposed on-road route using Albro Lake Road and Leaman Drive. Albro Lake Road is proposed as a bike lane and Leaman Drive is proposed as a local street bikeway. There are currently no active planning projects to implement these facilities. Such a planning process would happen when either street is being considered for resurfacing.
- 2) A proposed and partially constructed on-road and off-road route between the AT bridge over Victoria Road at Brule Street and the Burnside Drive overpass over Highway 111. This route connects the Highfield Transit Terminal, area services and schools, and Jason MacCullough Park up to the intersection of Burnside Drive and Highway 111. In 2015, HRM built an AT Greenway that connects Leaman Drive to Highfield Drive and that continues up to the Burnside Drive AT bridge over Highway 111.

The 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan identified a proposed AT bridge over Highway 111 that would extend from a point in Cyril Smith Park to the Dartmouth Crossing development. This was considered as a location where surplus panels from the Macdonald Bridge Bikeway and Pedway could be used to build a bridge. It was later determined that the surplus panels were not suitable for long crossings such as over a 100 series highway. There are no further plans to develop this additional AT bridge within the life of the 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan because: a) there are no planned AT Greenways through Cyril Smith Park or on the other side near Dartmouth Crossing; and, b) the existing AT bridge crossing of Highway 111 at Burnside Drive connects this area of North Dartmouth to Burnside Park and through to Dartmouth Crossing using Commodore Dr.

Until other priority connections move forward, consultation and master planning for the expansion of the trails system in Cyril Smith Park is premature.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications related to this Information report.

**COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

The development of the 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan involved extensive community engagement.

**ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1. Map of Proposed and Existing Routes Near Cyril Smith Park from 2014-19 Active Transportation Priorities Plan

---

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.php> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210, or Fax 902.490.4208.

Report Prepared by:       David MacIsaac, Active Transportation Supervisor 902.490.1665  
                                  Peter Bigelow, Manager Parks and Planning 902.490.6047

---

Attachment 1. Map of Proposed and Existing AT Routes near Cyril Smith Park from 2014-19  
Active Transportation Priorities Plan

