



Capital Health

HALIFAX REGIONAL
MUNICIPALITY

JAN 15 2013

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MUNICIPAL CLERK

Transportation Standing Committee
c/o Office of the Municipal Clerk
PO Box 1749
1841 Argyle Street 4th Floor
Halifax, NS B3J 3A5

January 14, 2013

Dear Members of the Transportation Standing Committee,

The Halifax Community Health Board (HCHB) submits this letter in reference to the upcoming Active Transportation decision at Regional Council regarding the location of the first North-South Cycling route on the Halifax Peninsula. This is an important decision for Regional Council that will impact our community's ability to develop as a safe, livable and sustainable city, and advance the goals of the Regional Plan. The HCHB recognizes that helping citizens overcome barriers to living more physically active lives supports the creation of healthier people and healthier communities. We urge you to support the recommendation of a continuous bicycle route with bike lanes connecting the northern and southern portions of the peninsula using the Agricola, North Park, Bell Road and South Park (Crosstown Connector) alignment in the spring of 2013.

Of the proposed routes, the Crosstown Connector alignment best connects the places where people live, work and play on the peninsula; it would bring cyclists directly to or near the MacDonald Bridge, the North End business district, the Halifax Common, downtown, Dalhousie and Saint Mary's Universities, Point Pleasant Park, hospitals, and the shipyards. The flat grade, lack of buses, and relatively low traffic volumes already make Agricola Street a highly cycled route, and increase the appeal and accessibility of the route for cyclists with varied levels of experience.

The HCHB believes construction of the bicycle route on the Agricola-South Park Corridor (Crosstown Connector) would demonstrate clear commitment to increasing mobility in HRM through investment in active transportation in the regional centre as outlined in 2012's Regional Plan 5 Year Review. The HCHB sees an opportunity for Regional Council to take this important step towards making our city a healthier, safer and more enjoyable place to live, work and play. We hope Council will take the first step in increasing HRM's capacity for safe, active transportation by supporting the Crosstown Connector.

Sincerely yours,

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Kelly Fenn
Co-Chairs, Halifax Community Health Board

Sheri Roach

To learn more about *Our Healthy Future*, visit www.ourhealthsurvey.ca

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