

Item No. 10.4.1
Halifax Regional Council
May 3, 2011

TO: Mayor Kelly and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice-Chair, Transportation Standing Committee

DATE: April 13, 2011

SUBJECT: Active Transportation Corridors

ORIGIN

March 31, 2011 - Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting

April 13, 2011 - Transportation Standing Committee meeting

RECOMMENDATION

The Transportation Standing Committee recommends that Regional Council consider during budget deliberations the reallocation of Capital Budget funds or some other option to incorporate Two Million dollars (\$2,000,000.00) funding per year over the next five (5) years for the construction of major, high priority Active Transportation corridors, with public consultation.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the March 31, 2011 Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, staff provided members with a presentation entitled “Big Ideas for Active Transportation in HRM”, which outlined the following five major active transportation corridor projects: Employment Centre Spines (Burnside, Bayers Lake, Peninsula & Woodside), Connect & Extend the Linear Parkway (Clayton Park to Spryfield), The Bedford Sackville Spine, Complete Alderney Connections, and Blitz Arterial Sidewalks.

Following the staff presentation, the Active Transportation Advisory Committee approved a motion recommending that the Transportation Standing Committee consider the implementation, beginning in 2011, of the 5 Active Transportation Projects for incorporation into the multi-year planning cycle.

This item was addressed at the April 13, 2011 meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee. Staff provided the same presentation to the Transportation Standing Committee. Following the presentation, the Transportation Standing Committee approved a motion recommending that Regional Council consider during budget deliberations the reallocation of Capital Budget or some other option to incorporate \$2,000,000.00 funding per year over the next five years for the construction of major, high priority Active Transportation corridors, with public consultation.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

This will affect current and future budgets. Additional funds could be included in the Capital Budget but, unless the tax rate is increased, there would have to be corresponding reductions in the Capital or Operating budgets. There may also be future operating costs. There would likely be lead time for design and delivery of any new projects.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality’s Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

That Active Transportation Advisory Committee is made up of three members of Council, along with representatives appointed from the Halifax Regional Trails Association, The Ecology Action Centre’s TRAX Program, Halifax-Dartmouth Bridge Commission, Province of Nova Scotia Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal, Bicycle Nova Scotia, Halifax Cycling Coalition, HRM’s Youth Advisory Committee and HRM’s Accessibility Advisory Committee,

and four citizen members at large including a senior citizen member. Meetings are open to the public and agendas, reports, and minutes are posted online.

The Transportation Standing Committee is comprised of eight members of Council representing districts throughout the Municipality. Meetings are open to the public (unless identified otherwise) and agendas, reports, and minutes are posted online.

ALTERNATIVES

Council could choose to not approve the recommendation of the Transportation Standing Committee or to make amendments to the recommendation.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Report from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee to the Transportation Standing Committee dated April 5, 2011, with attached staff presentation and minute extract.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant

Original Signed

Report Approved by: Bruce Fisher, MPA, CMA , Acting Director of Finance 490-4493

Transportation Standing Committee
April 13, 2011

TO: Transportation Standing Committee

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed
Councillor Jennifer Watts, Vice Chair, Active Transportation Advisory
Committee

DATE: April 5, 2011

SUBJECT: Overview of Active Transportation Strategy and Implications for the
2011/ 2012 Budget

ORIGIN

March 31, 2011 Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

The Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee consider the implementation, beginning in 2011, of five Active Transportation projects, as outlined in Attachment "A" of this report, for incorporation into the multi-year planning cycle.

BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION

At the March 31, 2011 Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting, staff provided members with a presentation titled "Big Ideas for A.T. in HRM" which outlined "five big ideas" which would provide the foundation of a solid Active Transportation network. The five big ideas are Employment Centre Spines, the Connection and Extension of the Linear Parkway, the Bedford Sackville Spine, the Completion of Alderney Connections and, a Blitz of Arterial Sidewalks. The estimated cost for this initiative is \$24 million.

Following the staff presentation, the Committee moved the following motion:

MOVED by Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Mr. MacPhee, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee consider the implementation, beginning in 2011, of the 5 Active Transportation Projects for incorporation into the multi-year planning cycle. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

BUDGET IMPLICATIONS

There are no budget implications with this report.

FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT POLICIES/BUSINESS PLAN

This report complies with the Municipality's Multi-Year Financial Strategy, the approved Operating, Project and Reserve budgets, policies and procedures regarding withdrawals from the utilization of Project and Operating reserves, as well as any relevant legislation.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Active Transportation Advisory Committee meetings are open to the public. Agendas and reports are posted on the HRM website.

ALTERNATIVES

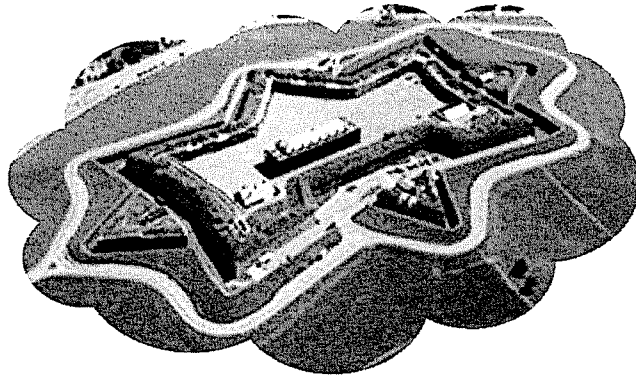
No alternatives were provided.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment "A":	Big Ideas for A.T. in HRM – Staff Presentation
Attachment "B":	Draft Extract of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes Dated March 31, 2011

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Shawnee Gregory, Legislative Assistant, 490-6521



Big Ideas for A.T. in HRM



five big ideas

+

funded properly

+

for five years

=

foundation of solid A.T. network

Context

Three existing AT programs continue to make

Community Connections:

1/ Regional Trails - \$750,000/year

2/ Sidewalks - \$2,500,000/year

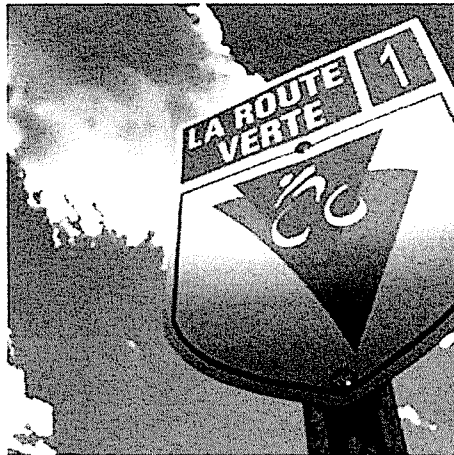
3/ Bike Lanes + Other A.T. Plan - \$500,000/year

PLUS \$2-10 million/year for the BIG IDEAS

For REGIONAL Connections

Criteria

1. “Shovel Ready” i.e. little or no land assembly
2. Potential for High Use
3. Connects major origins to destinations
4. Fills gaps/ Finishes existing projects
5. Contributes to building a regional AT network

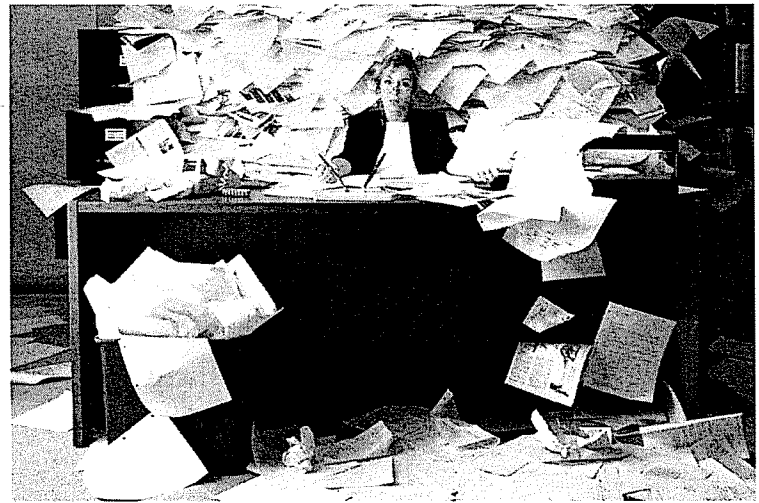


Big idea number one:

Employment Centre Spines (\$5,000,000)



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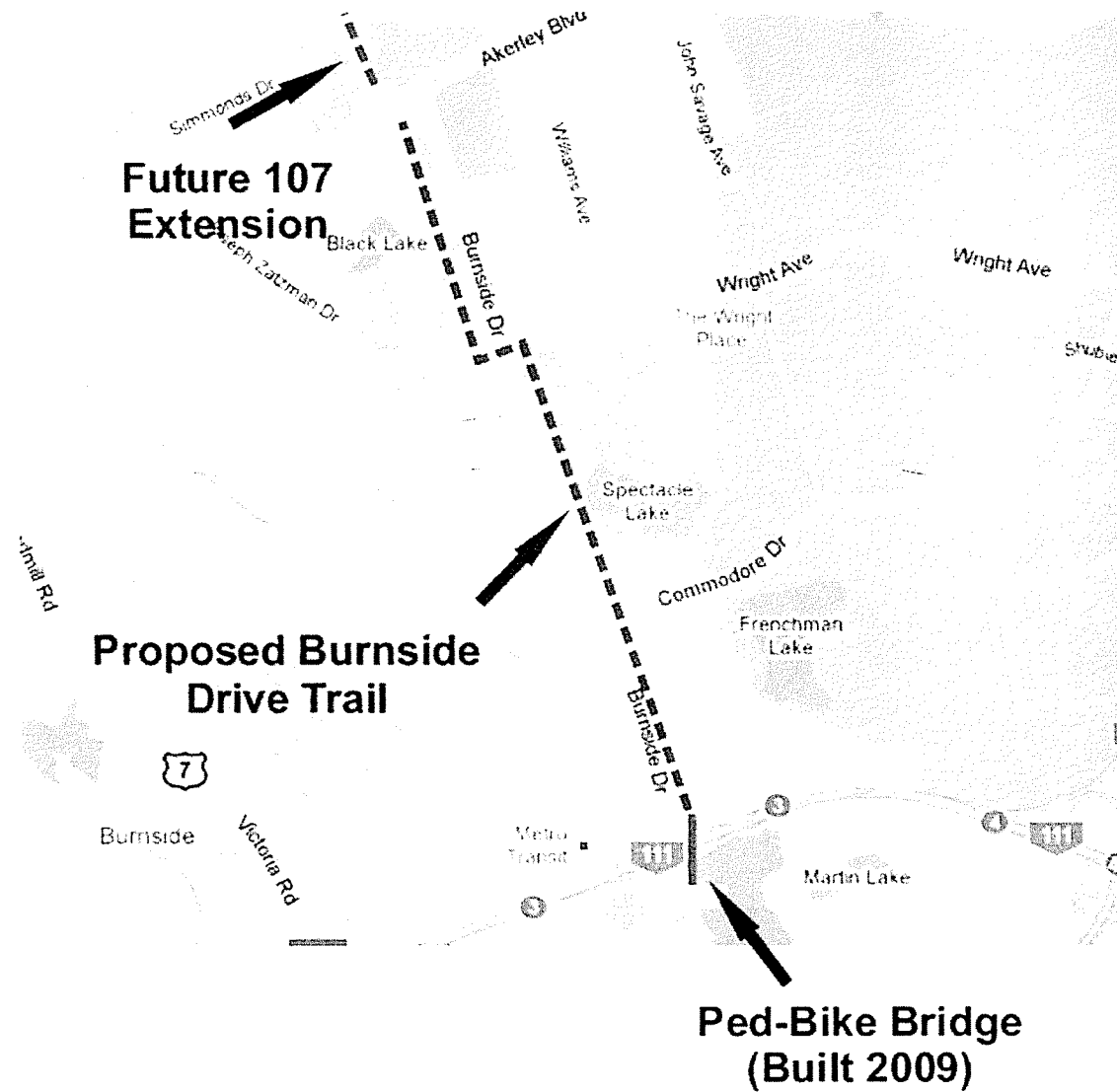


L I V E

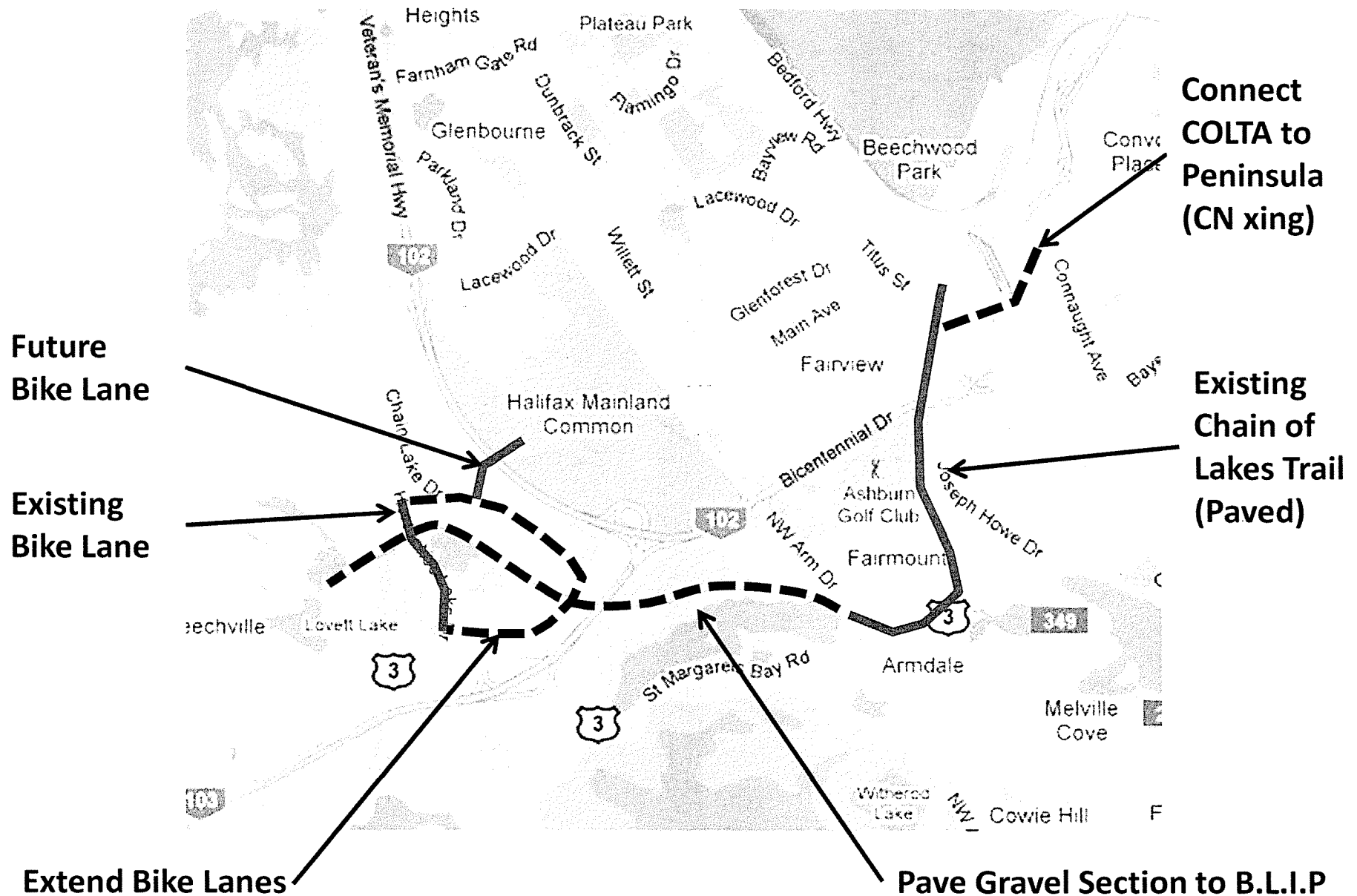


W O R K

A. Burnside Spine

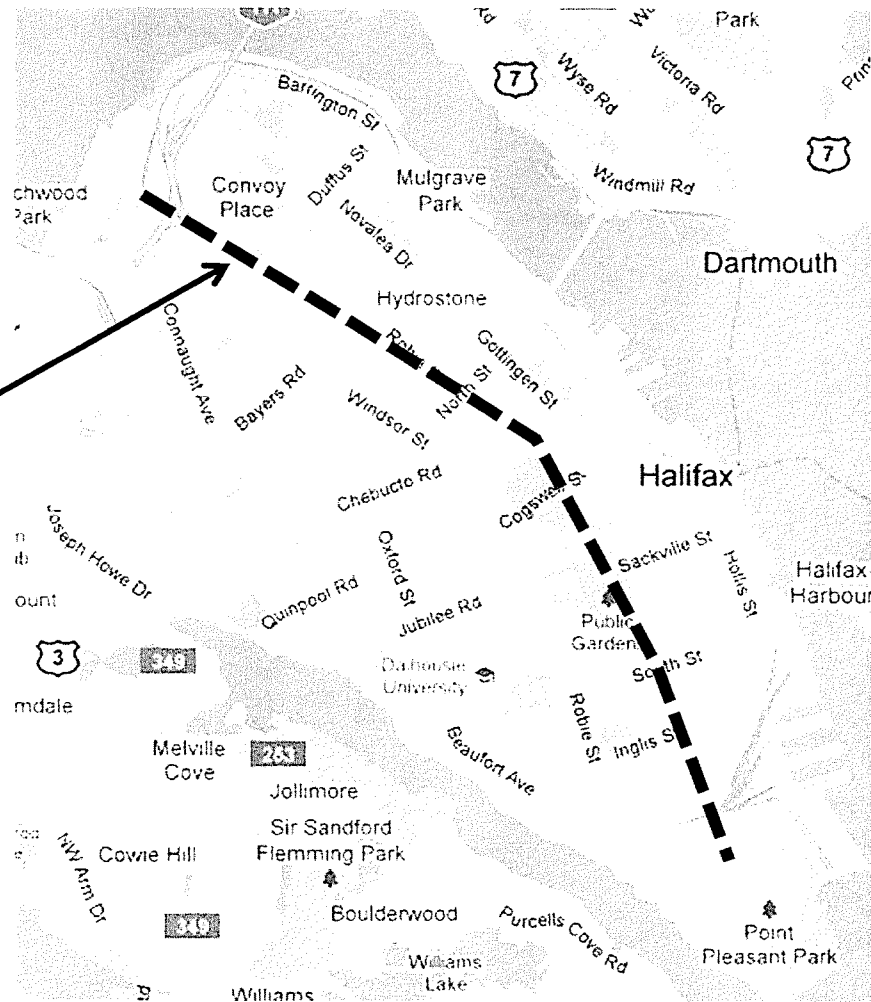


B. Bayers Lake Spine



C. Peninsula Spine

**Complete a North-South
Peninsula Bike Lane
(i.e. Cross-Town Connector)**



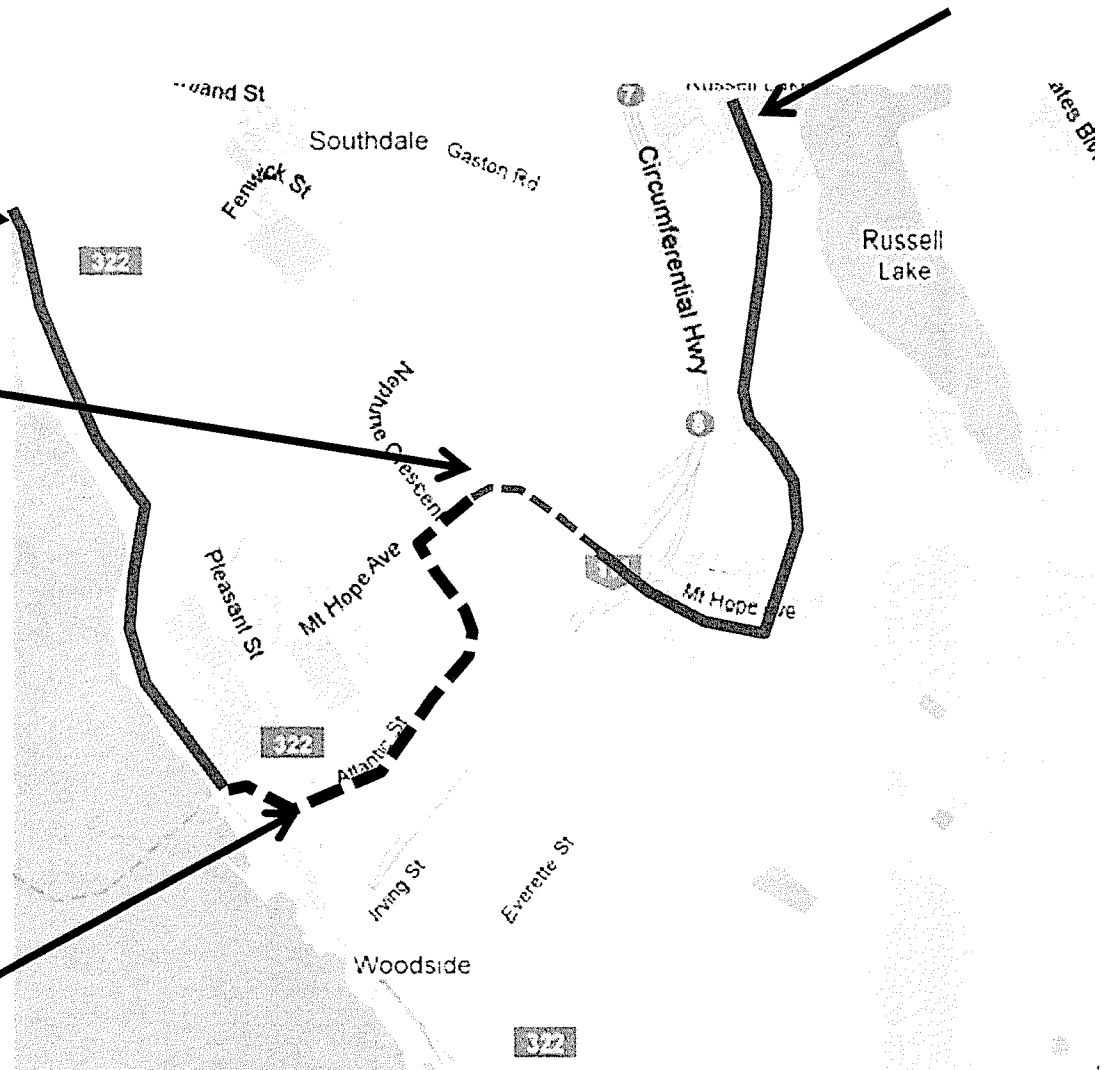
D. Woodside Spine

Existing Baker Drive Trail
(connects to PERA Trail network)

Existing Dartmouth Waterfront
Greenway

Mount Hope Extension
complete summer 2011

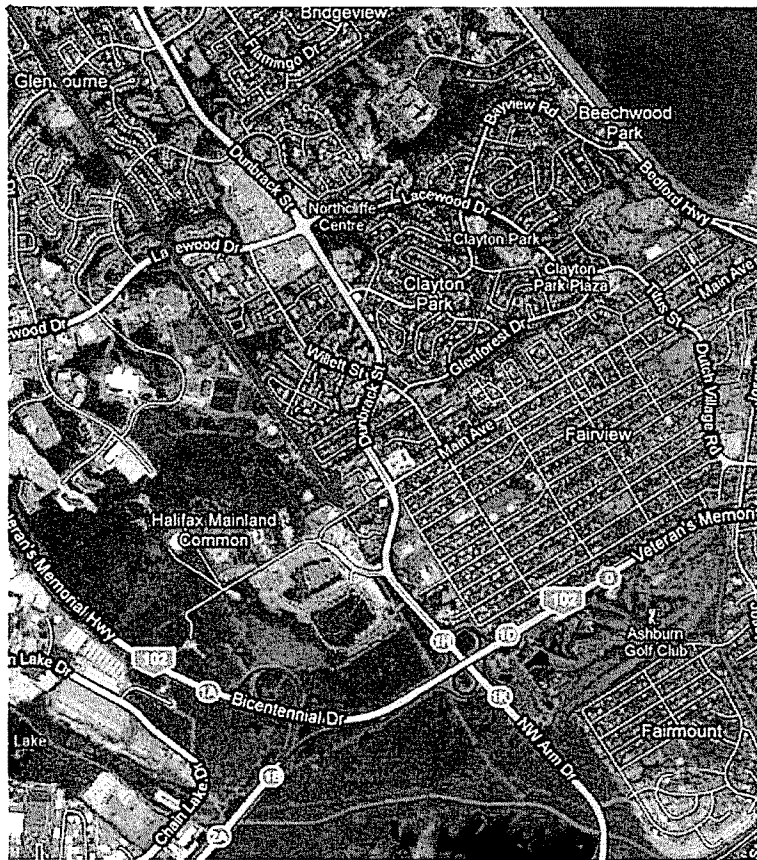
Extend Trail to Woodside Ferry
Terminal and Greenway



Big idea number two:

Connect + Extend Linear Pkwy

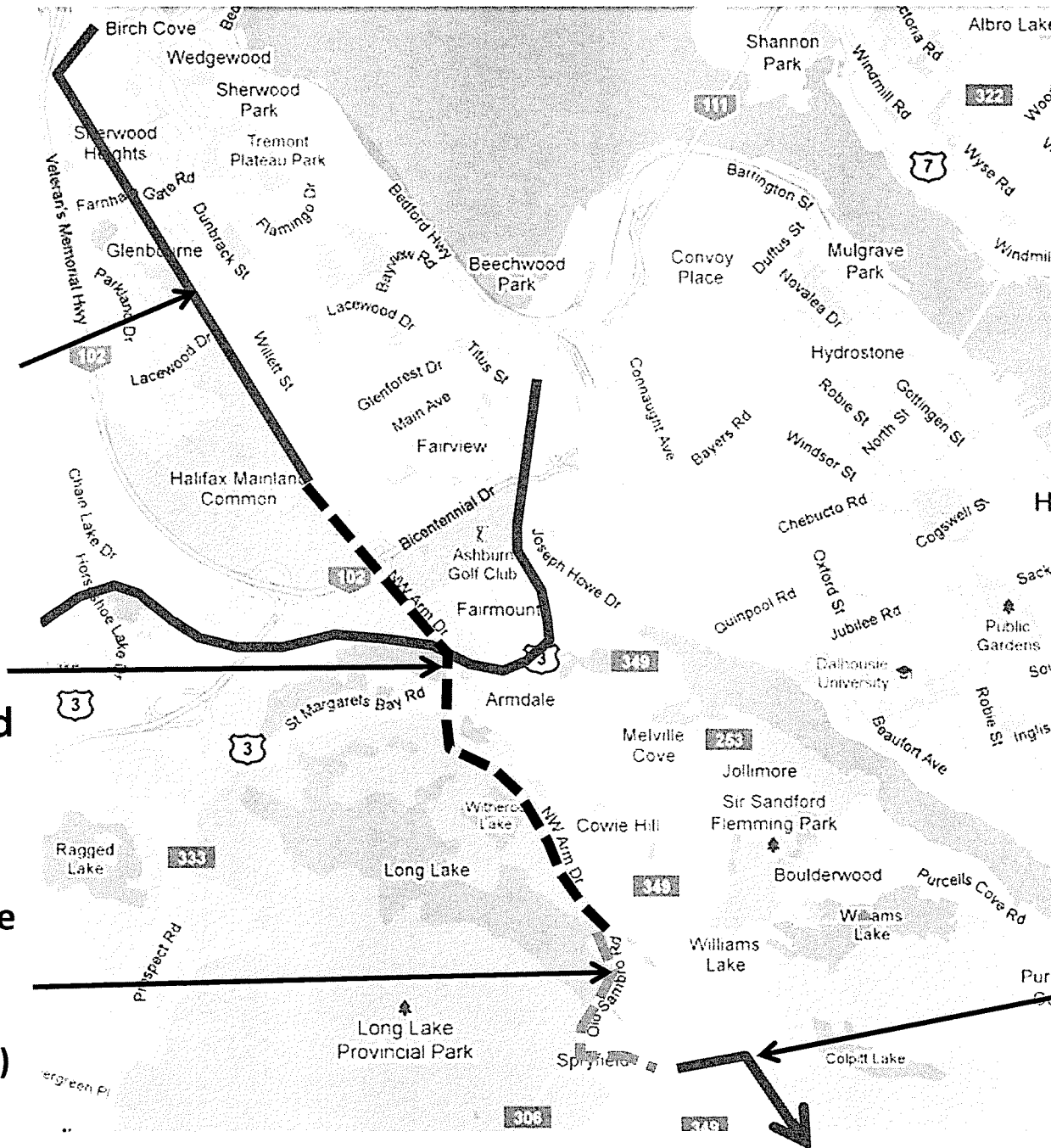
(\$2,000,000)



**Pave
Existing
Linear
Parkway**

**Extend it &
Connect to
COLTA & Old
Sambro Rd**

**Install bike lane
& connect
McIntosh Run
(Sidewalk exists)**

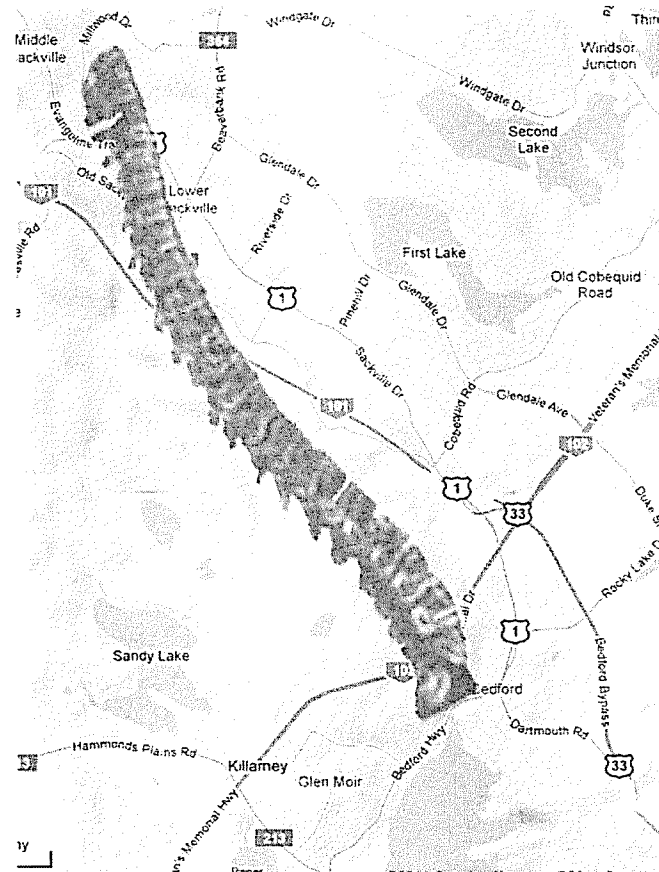


2.
CONNECT
&
EXTEND
LINEAR
PKWY
Clayton Park
to
Spryfield

**McIntosh
Run Trail**

Big idea number three:

The Bedford Sackville Spine (\$4,000,000)

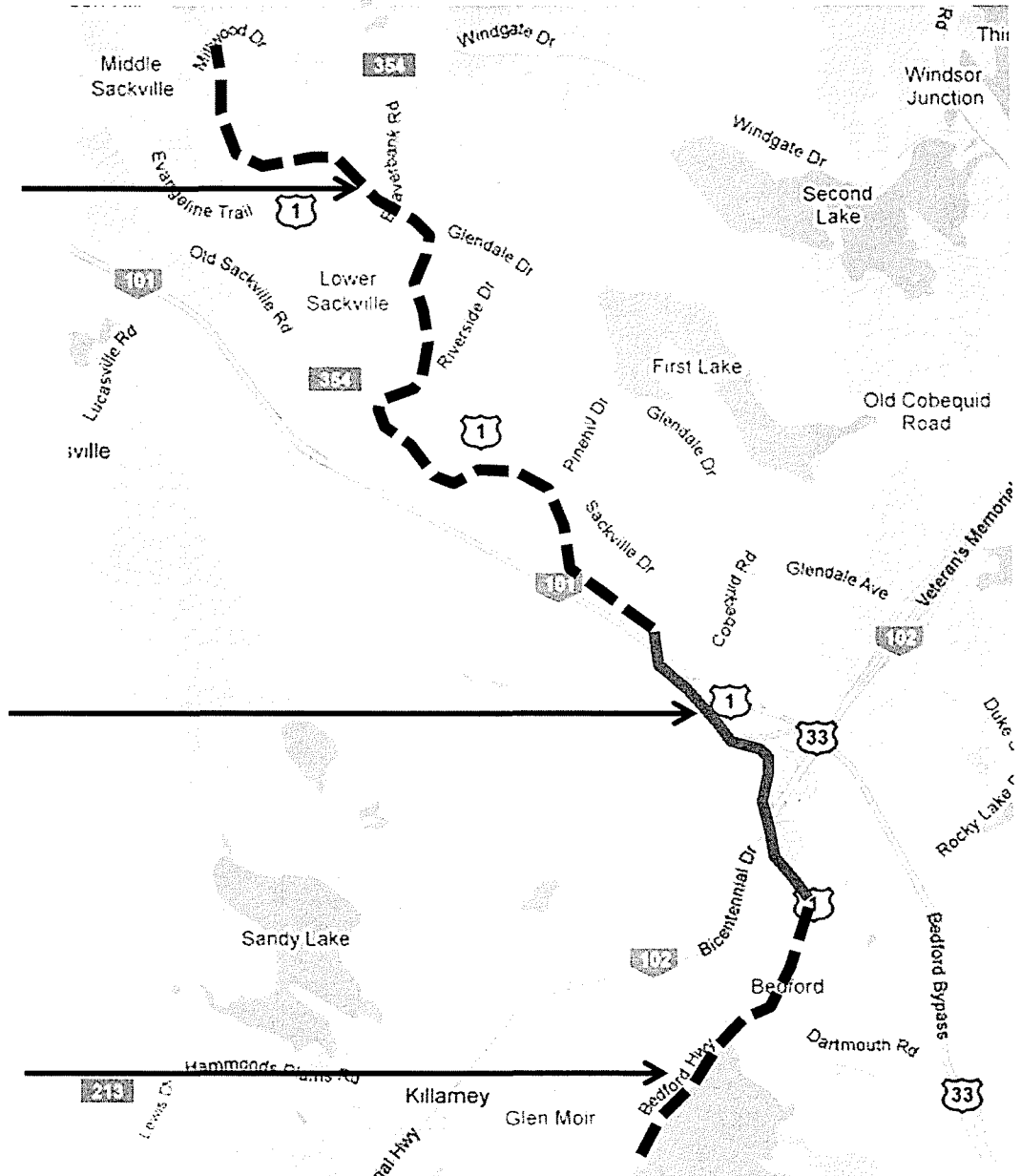


3. The Bedford Sackville Spine

Build Trail along Little Sackville River

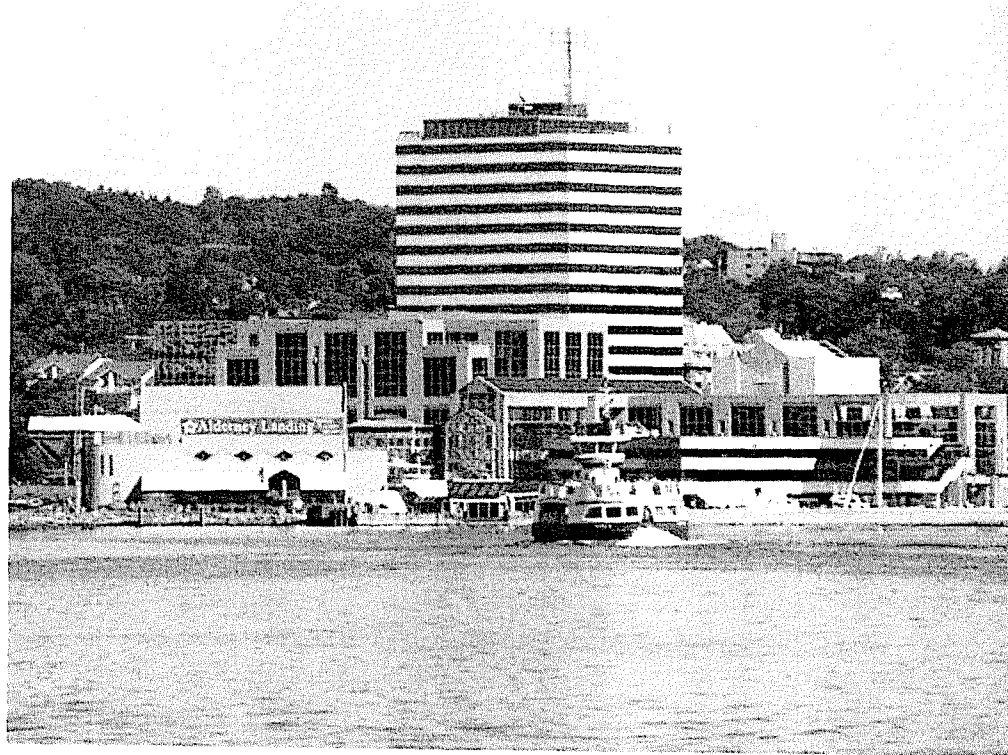
Pave Existing Bedford - Sackville
Greenway Connector

Extend Greenway via Shore Drive to
DeWolfe Park



Big idea number four:

Complete Alderney Connections (\$3,000,000)



4. Complete Alderney Connections

To:
Bridge

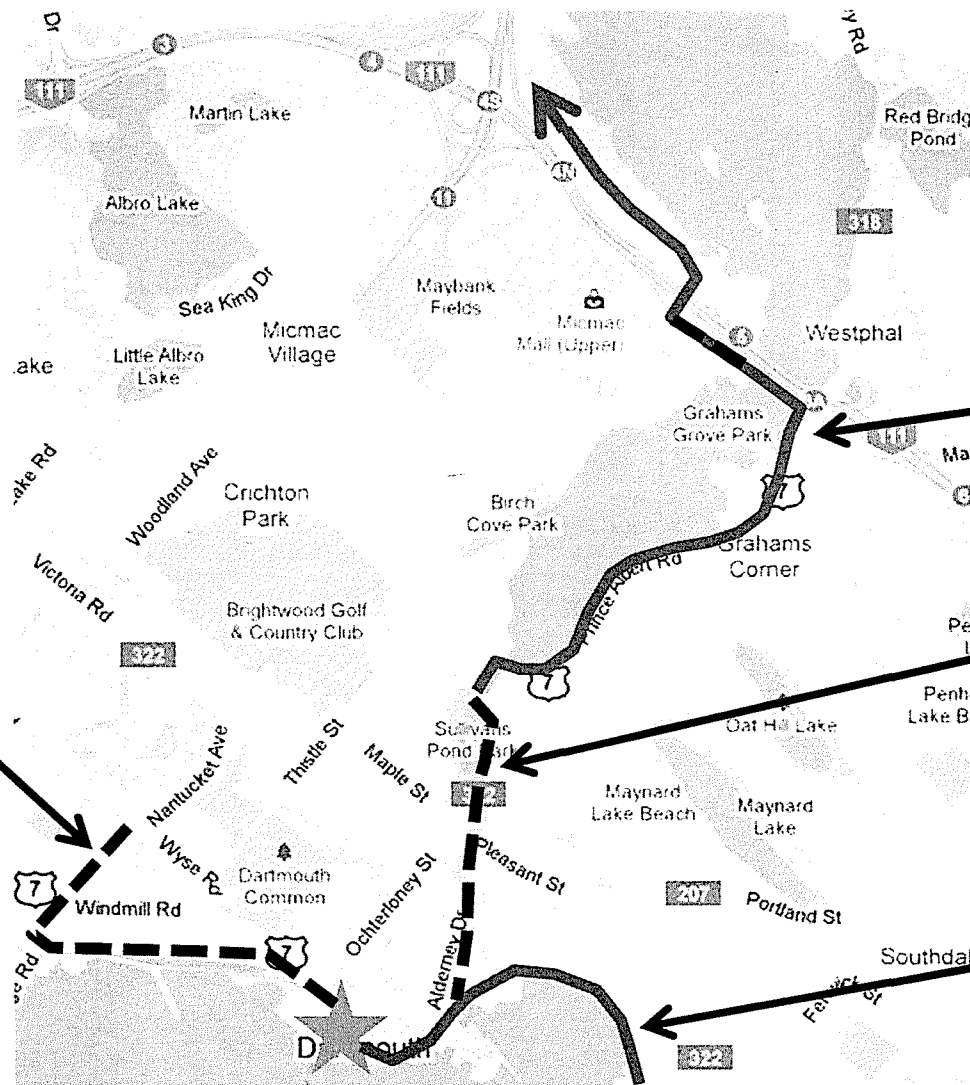
From:
Shubie

**Alderney to Bridge
(combo trail +
sidewalk/bikelane)**

**Existing TCT (need
to fill a few small
gaps)**

**Complete Canal
Greenway corridor**

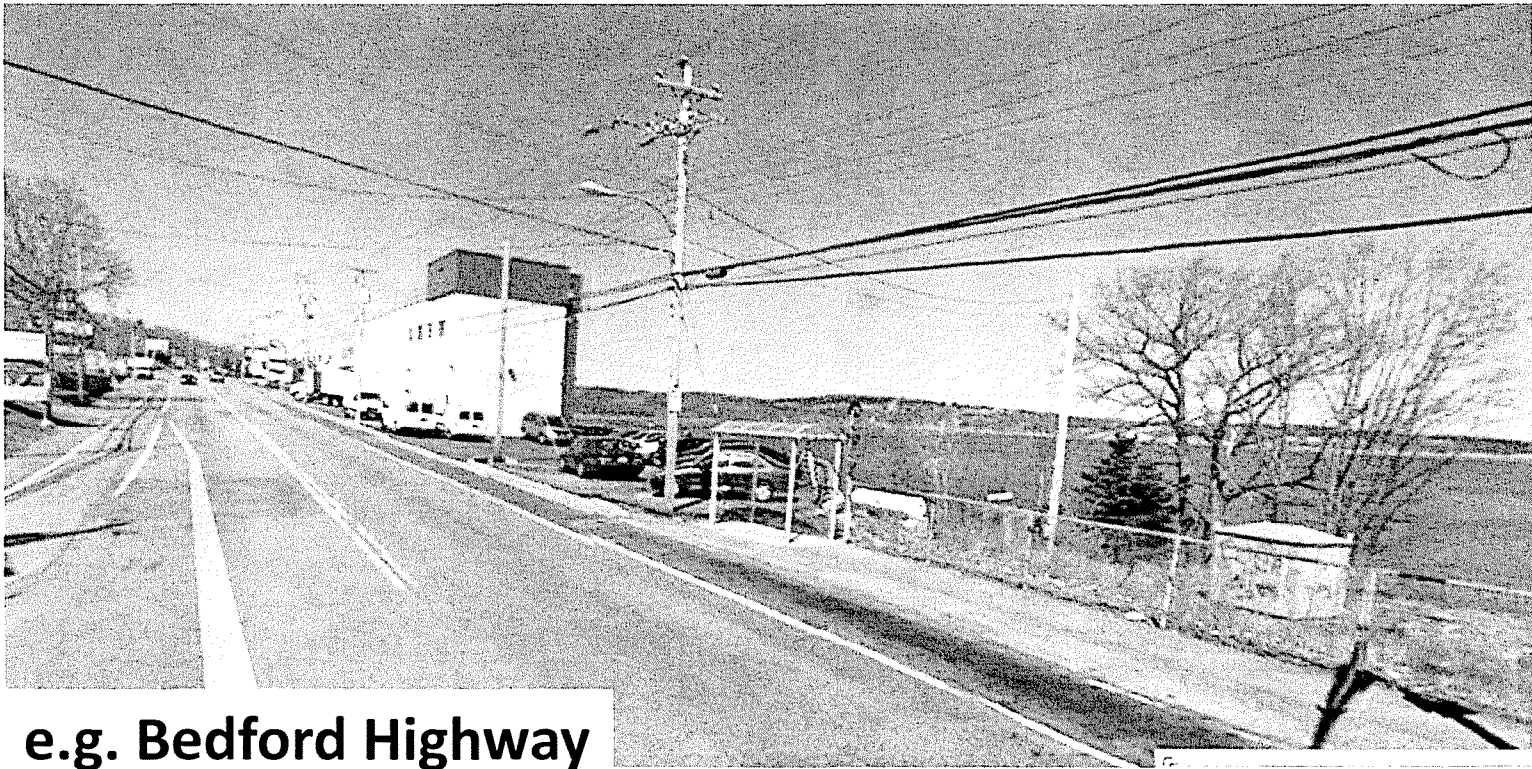
**Dartmouth
Waterfront Trail**



Big idea number five:

Blitz Arterial Sidewalks

(\$10,000,000 +)



e.g. Bedford Highway

5. Blitz Arterial Sidewalks

Accessible Bus Stop???



e.g. Wright Avenue

Extract of Draft Active Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes – March 31, 2011

8.2.1 Overview of Active Transportation Strategy and Implications for the 2011/ 2012 Budget – Vice Chair

A presentation was submitted.

Councillor Watts met with staff close to a month ago to discuss how to advance the Active transportation Strategy. Staff were asked to present five key projects to the committee within the budget parameters.

Today, staff will recommend five key projects that the Committee can advance by forwarding them to the Transportation Standing Committee for review.

Ms. Hanita Koblents, Active Transportation Coordinator, provided a verbal presentation on five key projects that HRM could undertake to advance the Active Transportation Strategy. Currently, the top three priorities are a) regional trails program, b) side walk program, and c) bike lanes. The five key projects suggested by staff and, outlined in the presentation, will be in addition to the current activities.

There was much discussion during and following the staff presentation:

- Ms. Pugh suggested that the Province may for the shoulders of trails, but the province and HRM have not yet reached the point of cost sharing discussion.
- Councillor Hendsbee pointed out that the graphic map should be revised to include the St. Margaret's Bay bike lane. Also included in the maps should be transit connectors, bus and ferry terminals.
- Mr. Scrutton noted there are no sidewalks on Burnside Drive, and having bike lanes is only one aspect of the Active Transportation Strategy.
- Ms. Koblents noted that there are many projects that could move forward, the key is to make them priorities and put resources towards them. The list for sidewalk construction has roughly 250 on it, but there are only approximately 8 installed per year.
- Councillor Hendsbee suggested that the Nova Scotia Bikeways Plan be reviewed in order to advance some of those action items.
- Mr. Scrutton cautioned that the Committee not concentrate solely on bike lanes, rather look at the broader issues of Active Transportation (AT).
- Ms. Pugh noted that the Nova Scotia Bikeways Plan was not endorsed as a final route. The municipalities have the final say in the design.
- Councillor Hendsbee requested that the eco-tourism routes be brought into the mix and attempt to advance some of the provincial initiatives.
- Mr. Plug pointed out that both the Chain of Lakes and St. Margaret's Bay trails meet those concerns.
- Mr. Bedard noted that the AT Plan would have to be reviewed at year end and pushing these five suggestions until then may be a good idea.
- Mr., Scrutton agreed with the five projects proposed by staff and requested that more work be focussed on safe routes to school.

Extract of Draft Active Transportation Advisory Committee Minutes – March 31, 2011

- Ms. Koblents suggested that Ms. Anne Sherwood, Design Engineer, attend an upcoming meeting to inform the Committee on how school routes rate within the list of criteria for sidewalks.
- Councillor Hendsbee requested a measurement of the AT Plan to review what was planned and what was completed.

MOVED by Mr. Scrutton, seconded by Mr. MacPhee, that the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that the Transportation Standing Committee consider the implementation, beginning in 2011, of the 5 Active Transportation Projects for incorporation into the multi-year planning cycle. MOTION PUT AND PASSED.

Discussion followed:

- Mr. Soward offered to come back to the Committee with information on some of the key actions in the Nova Scotia Bikeways Plan.
- Councillor Hendsbee requested that the Halifax Regional Trails Association review the presentation on the five projects and have an opportunity to respond.
- Councillor Watts noted that the next meeting of the Transportation Standing Committee was scheduled for April 13, 2011. Budget deliberations start on April 28, 2011.
- Mr. Peter Bigelow, Manager of Real Property Planning, could not provide budget details for the five projects, but advised that they be registered. These may not be the projects that move forward; rather this is a strong recommendation for serious investment of approximately \$4,000,000 a year for five years.