



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

Item No. 3
Halifax Regional Council
August 4, 2015

TO: Mayor Savage and Members of Halifax Regional Council

SUBMITTED BY: Original Signed

Councillor Wayne Mason, Chair, Community Planning & Economic
Development Standing Committee

DATE: July 24, 2015

SUBJECT: Downtown I'm In Update

INFORMATION REPORT

ORIGIN

Motion by the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee at a meeting held on July 23, 2015.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Section 6 of the Committee's Terms of Reference – "The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee shall have an active interest in the Agencies and Initiatives that support Community and Economic development throughout HRM.

BACKGROUND

The Committee received a staff report on this matter at its July 23, 2015 meeting and recommended that the report be forwarded to Regional Council for Council's information.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee is a Committee of Regional Council comprised of six Councillors. The meetings are open to the public and the Committee's agendas, minutes, and reports can be viewed at Halifax.ca.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1: Staff report dated July 13, 2015

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 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Sheilagh Edmonds, Legislative Assistant

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

Item No.
**Community Planning and Economic
Development Standing Committee**
July 23, 2015

TO: Chair and Members of (Name of Community Council or Board)

SUBMITTED BY: **Original Signed by:**

Maggie MacDonald, Acting Managing Director, Government
Relations & External Affairs

DATE: July 13, 2015

SUBJECT: **Downtown I'm In Update**

ORIGIN

May 8, 2014 – Motion passed by the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee

MOVED by Mayor Savage, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that the Community Planning and Economic Development Standing Committee recommend Regional Council accept the Downtown . . . I'm In report, acknowledge the short and long term activities being carried out that respond to ideas raised at Downtown. . . I'm In and direct staff to pursue actions described in Table 1 of the March 28, 2014 staff report.¹

June 10, 2014 – Motion passed by Regional Council

MOVED by Councillor Mason, seconded by Councillor McCluskey that Halifax Regional Council accept the Downtown I'm In report, acknowledge the short and long term activities being carried out that respond to ideas raised at Downtown I'm In, and direct staff to pursue actions described in Table 1 of the March 28, 2014 staff report.²

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

HRM Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39, section 71(1) respecting the promotion of the Municipality and the establishment and development of new, and the expansion of existing institutions, industries

¹ See <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/SCcped/documents/140508CPEDMinutesHRM.pdf>

² See <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/documents/c140610.pdf>

and businesses.

HRM Charter, S.N.S. 2008, c. 39, section 75(1) respecting agreements for the provision of a service or a capital facility.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Community Planning and Economic Development standing committee receive this report and forward it to Regional Council for information.

BACKGROUND

In March of 2011, Council endorsed A Greater Halifax, Economic Strategy 2011-2016. The strategy calls for building a vibrant and attractive urban core. It outlines a number of urban core strategic priorities, including the following:

- directing and overseeing a pro-development policy environment;
- furthering liveability and attractiveness;
- reinventing the current approach to mobility; and
- celebrating and enabling a rich variety of cultural and creative opportunities.

Downtown ... I'm In was a project that was developed to advance these strategic priorities by meaningfully engaging a cross section of HRM citizens. The primary intent of the engagement project was to:

- conduct a meaningful public engagement about urban core
- solicit public input on low cost/high impact opportunities to improve the urban core
- inform the public about municipal policies and activities related to the urban core

The Downtown ... I'm In event blended public consultation with a public event.

On January 15, 2014, a Downtown ... I'm In presence went live on HRM's Shape Your City portal, inviting community input on how to make HRM's urban core more vibrant, welcoming and attractive. The pre-event communications strategy encouraged people to attend the February 8, 2014 engagement event and/or to fill out an online urban core survey.

Hosted simultaneously on February 8, 2014 at both City Centre Atlantic and Alderney Landing Market, the day-long community engagement event included keynote speakers (Charles Montgomery, Mark Brand, Gordon Stevens and Zane Kelsall) who spoke live at either Halifax or at Dartmouth and were simulcast to the other side of the harbour. Community engagement took place throughout the day of the event through facilitated table top discussion, a visioning wall and roving pollsters collecting survey responses on site. To further enrich and enliven the attendee experience, subject matter experts were on-site to answer questions on the urban core.

DISCUSSION

At the June 10, 2014 meeting of Regional Council, staff presented the report detailing the Downtown ... I'm In project, and the actions that had been identified as part of the project. Regional Council directed staff to pursue the actions described in Attachment 1 to staff's March 28, 2014 staff report. Regional Council also moved to acknowledge the short and long term activities being carried out that respond to ideas raised at Downtown ... I'm In.

- **Recommended Actions:** Recommended urban core revitalization actions were within HRM's existing scope of authority, only required direct municipal action, could be completed within the

2014-2015 fiscal year, could be completed with funds then allocated in the 2014-2015 budget, and would have immediate, tangible impacts. These small scale/low cost actions were detailed in Attachment 1 to staff's March 28, 2014 staff report³ (see Attachment A).

- **Tabled Actions:** Actions that would take months or years to implement, that would require legislative change, that would involve intergovernmental cooperation, or that would necessitate partnership with the private sector, were initially tabled. For ease of reference, the list of tabled actions identified in the March 28, 2014 staff report is reproduced in this report (see Attachment B).
- **In-Progress Actions:** Some actions were identified in staff's March 28 staff report as being already in progress. Staff noted that the initiatives addressed ideas and input gathered from Downtown ...I'm In and could be further enhanced with the feedback received from Downtown...I'm In. For ease of reference, the list of in-progress actions identified in staff's March 28, 2014 staff report is reproduced in this report (see Attachment C).

Implementation of Downtown I'm In actions items is ongoing and is being tracked. Staff have created a progress-update tables for Regional Council (see Attachments D,E and F). Tables 4, 5 and 6 provide updates on recommended actions, tabled actions and in-progress actions from staff's initial Downtown ... I'm In report (dated March 28, 2014).

Update Highlights:

- Fifteen picnic tables and Adirondack chairs were purchased for the Grand Parade.
- Thirty new bicycle racks and three bicycle repair stations were installed.
- Light level assessments and recommended upgrades were completed for six streets in the downtown core.
- An initial re-redesign of Halifax.ca web site was completed in 2014/15 to improve the user experience on mobile devices, general navigation and the accessibility of information.
- Art pieces have been unveiled at Canada Games Centre, Dartmouth Bridge Terminal, Dartmouth Cove and the Central Library.
- Additional wayfinding signage has been installed in the urban core.
- Africville Park ramp has been modified for harbour access to boaters.
- Public spaces have been activated along waterfront and Grand Parade with additional seating, signage and new vending bylaw that allows for additional vending options.
- An updated Special Events Task Force process for events, parades and street closures was approved by Regional Council.
- CBCL have completed and submitted the Concept Design and associated cost estimate for the Dartmouth Canal Greenway Project.
- An RFP was issued to select a partner to implement public Wi-Fi as a managed service (initial implementation focussed on deploying to the waterfront).
- Halifax Active Transportation Plan approved by Regional Council with an emphasis on building a walking and bicycling network in the urban core.
- Parking Roadmap multi-year plan in development to facilitate the use of technology for parking payment and parking supply-demand management.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications arising from this report. This report updates activities undertaken by HRM staff to implement the Downtown I'm In action items approved by Regional Council in June of 2014.

³ See <http://www.halifax.ca/boardscom/documents/StaffReportDIIMerged.pdf>

The recommended actions identified in staff's March 18, 2014 staff report (see Attachment A) were intended to be completed within approved 2014-2015 business unit budgets.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Community engagement took place before, during and after the day of the Downtown ... I'm In event. Public feedback was collected through electronic surveys (online forms and on-site pollsters), facilitated table discussions, question-and-answer (Q&A) periods, and vision walls.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental implications to this report.

ALTERNATIVES

1. The Community Planning and Economic Development standing committee may request changes to the type of information included in the Downtown I'm In update report.

ATTACHMENTS

1. **Attachment A** – Recommended Actions (originally from March 28, 2014 staff report).
2. **Attachment B** –Tabled Actions (originally from March 28, 2014 staff report).
3. **Attachment C** – In-Progress Actions (originally from March 28, 2014 staff report).
4. **Attachment D** – Progress Update – Recommended Actions
5. **Attachment E** – Progress Update – Tabled Actions
6. **Attachment F** – Progress Update – In-Progress Actions

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

Report Prepared by: Scott Sheffield, Developer, Government Relations & External Affairs, 490-3941

Attachment A

Recommended Actions
(originally from March 28, 2014 staff report)

Table 1: Recommended Actions – March 28, 2014 Staff Report

Participant Comment	Staff Response
"Bike racks."	HRM's AT group has been responsible for installing 350 bike racks in the urban core over the past eight years. Private sector developers have also installed additional bike racks. Up to 50 additional bike racks will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.
"Bike parking stations and quick repair stations."	HRM has one existing bicycle repair station on South Park Street. It is equipped with a tire pump and various basic bicycle tools. Dalhousie University has also installed bike repair stations at several locations on their campuses. 2 bike repair stations (one at each ferry terminal) will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.
"Picnic tables in more places to encourage al fresco eating and bring more people together."	10-15 picnic tables will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.
"Oversized board games." "Outdoor tables with checkered patterns to play chess/ checkers."	2-3 gaming sites be "installed" in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year. These gaming sites may include playing surfaces for outdoor play of chess, checkers or other commonly played board-games.
"More benches/ seating."	20-25 benches will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.
"Beautifying functional things (like bike racks, benches)."	Wherever feasible, artistic elements will be incorporated into municipal street furnishings purchased for installation in the urban core. This may include, but is not limited to, benches, tables, bike racks and gaming installations/surfaces. Purchasing decisions are to be made with a view to increasing the amount of functional art in the urban core. Four additional Dolphin Bike Racks will be installed at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal.
"Better Lighting for Safety!" "Lighting that is tailored to the pedestrian..."	Staff have conducted a lighting audit along Barrington Street (between Duke Street and Spring Garden Road) and Argyle Street (entire length). Lighting will be upgraded in at least 3 locations in the urban core. Lighting will be installed along the Dartmouth waterfront trail.
More public art."	4 pieces of public art will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year. "Public art" could be, but is not limited to, murals, 3-D art on buildings, sculptures, and art installations (including interactive

art). The public art would be placed on municipal property, or, where permissions are secured, publically facing/publically accessible private property that abuts the right-of-way.

More garbage containers and frequent collection.”

HRM staff has implemented a strategy to improve litter collection efficiency. A new supervisory structure has been implemented and scheduling and routing changes have been made to make better use staff resources. Locations of litter bins have been reviewed with downtown stakeholders. HRM has also renewed financial support of an enhanced maintenance partnership with HRM’s urban core Business Improvement Districts (BIDs). This partnership makes it possible for the BIDs to hire people in the Spring and Summer to collect garbage and remove graffiti in the urban core.

“Better advertising of events like for movies in the park, etc.”
“Advertise them [parks] more, as the place to be!”

Staff will consider options for better communicating events programming and HRM recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. Use of publicly accessible spaces to advertise urban core events will be explored. Mounting screens at the ferry terminals to improve communication with the public is in planning stages. Use and promotion of Apps and improved use of the HRM website to communicate urban core programming and recreational assets will also be explored as part of the HRM web transformation strategy and re-design.

“Better parking wayfinding signage.”

Staff will work with the Waterfront Development Corporation and Downtown Halifax Business Commission on parking wayfinding signs on Hollis, Sackville and Bishop Streets.

Attachment B

Tabled Actions
(originally from March 28, 2014 staff report)

Table 2: Tabled Actions – March 28, 2014 staff report

Participant Comment	Staff Response
"More access for boaters to moor boats."	The Halifax waterfront has over 1 km of public berth space, including 1500' of floating docks that are free to access during the day. Public boat launches are available at Mill Cove (in Bedford); Jubilee Road (in the Arm); Horseshoe Island (in the Arm); and at Seaview Park (in the Harbour). Staff will explore the possibility of opening up additional harbour access to boaters (boat slips and boat launches). Waterfront Development is currently in discussions with HRM to manage the wharves and docks at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth. Further discussions will be held with the Port of Halifax regarding the feasibility of expanded harbour access.
More activation of public spaces including temporary commercial uses in public spaces.	Staff will look to activate public spaces including by giving consideration to temporary commercial uses to encourage more public use of public spaces.
"Make downtown more dog friendly" "Allowing dogs on ferry..."	Staff will investigate the operational impacts and consider the feasibility of allowing dogs on the ferry.
Clear active transportation corridors (bike lanes and trails)	HRM currently plows approximately 35km of paved Active Transportation (AT) trails and unpaved linear park trails (located both within the urban core and outside of the urban core). Staff will consider the feasibility/advisability of Fall/Winter maintenance of additional urban core AT corridors, in particular the Dartmouth waterfront trail. Consideration of winter maintenance will be included in the AT Functional Plan Review.

Attachment C

In-Progress Actions
(originally from March 28, 2014 staff report)

Table 3: In-Progress Actions – March 28, 2014 Staff Report

Participant Comment	Staff Response
A number of responses to the Downtown...I'm In consultation referred to improved lighting in the urban core.	There is a plan to upgrade all municipal streetlights to LED lights. As part of this implementation, the successful proponent will have to design a lighting plan to current, recognized lighting standards for replacement lighting across the municipality including in the urban core.
Throughout Downtown...I'm In, the idea of streets closed to motor vehicles and geared towards pedestrians was frequently raised.	HRM's street closure policy for special events and parades is under review in response to a motion brought forward at Transportation Standing Committee. A report is expected to come to Transportation Standing Committee in summer 2014 in response to this motion. Feedback from Downtown...I'm In is being considered in this review.
"Municipal WiFi through the downtown core" came up frequently as an initiative of interest.	HRM staff is currently exploring the feasibility of providing free WiFi in the urban core. A free WiFi initiative would strengthen the bid to have HRM be declared a Smart City. The project is still in the exploratory stage. Staff anticipates that a recommendation report on free WiFi in the urban core will be put before Council in Free WiFi has also been included as an eligible project in the 5 Year \$50 million investment for the downtown
"Bike lanes into the downtown" is representative of many comments supportive of more bike lanes and a more bike friendly urban core generally.	HRM's Active Transportation (AT) program aims to help residents bike, walk, roll, blade and use "human power" to walk and bicycle more around the municipality. An AT Functional Plan provides policy direction for the development of an AT network in HRM. A 5-year review of the 2006 AT Functional Plan is ongoing and is expected to be completed in June 2014. The 5-year review will identify suggested bike lanes in the urban core with a focus on continuity/connectivity of bicycle infrastructure. Winter maintenance will also be included in the AT Functional Plan review. At the direction of Council and following from the Mayor's conversation on a healthy liveable community, staff will work to champion the development of a solution to the cycling connectivity challenges related to the Halifax Harbour Bridges re-decking project.
Parking awareness was raised several times through the process, an example: "Automatic parking inventory of parking spaces (automated meter), better system to identify parking areas."	Staff is currently engaged in an assessment of parking technologies as part of an ongoing review of the Regional Parking Strategy. Pay-by-plate parking solutions are being considered that may support automated, real-time communication of parking availability. Private sector and quasi-private sector parking providers in the urban core are also currently assessing the feasibility of real-time communication of parking spot availability. Staff will continue to work with the private sector to explore options for tracking and

communicating parking inventories.

“Active transportation trails (ATT) should be encouraged.”

Staff is currently working on the Dartmouth Canal Greenway Project to complete the Active Transportation connections in the Regional Trails System. The project envisions an integrated open space, park and trail system stretching from the Dartmouth waterfront to Lake Banook. The Canal Greenway will be the centre of many activities that include recapitalization of the storm water system, improvements to the existing intersection, and traffic control. HRM is working with partners, including Halifax Water Commission, Waterfront Development, Shubenacadie Canal Commission and private developers, to coordinate multiple projects and minimize disruptions to the public.

Attachment D

Progress Update
Recommended Actions

Table 4: Progress Update – Recommended Actions

No.	Action Item	Progress
1	<p>HRM's AT group has been responsible for installing 350 bike racks in the urban core over the past eight years. Private sector developers have also installed additional bike racks.</p> <p>Up to 50 additional bike racks will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.</p>	<p>Thirty new bicycle racks were installed last year. Staff are currently assessing damage to racks from winter operations, and preparing to replace any impacted racks, while continuing to handle requests for the installation of new racks</p>
2	<p>HRM has one existing bicycle repair station on South Park Street. It is equipped with a tire pump and various basic bicycle tools. Dalhousie University has also installed bike repair stations at several locations on their campuses.</p> <p>Two bike repair stations (one at each ferry terminal) will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.</p>	<p>In addition to HRM's existing bicycle repair station on South Park Street, three additional repair stations have been installed (one at each ferry terminal). The North End Business Association has installed a station at the Halifax North Memorial Library. The stations are equipped with a tire pump and various basic bicycle tools. Dalhousie University has also installed bike repair stations at several locations on their campuses and the Bridge Commission has one at the Halifax side of the Macdonald Bridge.</p>
3	<p>10-15 picnic tables will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.</p>	<p>A total of 15 picnic tables and Adirondack chairs were purchased for the Grand Parade.</p>
4	<p>2-3 gaming sites be "installed" in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year. These gaming sites may include playing surfaces for outdoor play of chess, checkers or other commonly played board-games.</p>	<p>Two picnic tables in the Grand Parade now have checker/chess boards painted on them.</p>
5	<p>20-25 benches will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year.</p>	<p>Increased number of benches in the Public Gardens and Parks.</p>
6	<p>Wherever feasible, artistic elements will be incorporated into municipal street furnishings purchased for installation in the urban core. This may include, but is not limited to, benches, tables, bike racks and gaming</p>	<p>Consideration is being given to incorporating artistic elements into the upcoming North Park Roundabout project.</p>

	installations/surfaces. Purchasing decisions are to be made with a view to increasing the amount of functional art in the urban core.	
7	Four additional Dolphin Bike Racks will be installed at the Dartmouth Ferry Terminal.	Six additional Dolphin bicycle racks were installed at the Alderney Ferry Terminal last Fall.
8	Staff have conducted a lighting audit along Barrington Street (between Duke Street and Spring Garden Road) and Argyle Street (entire length). Lighting will be upgraded in at least three locations in the urban core.	Light level assessments and recommended upgrades were completed for the following six streets in the downtown core: Argyle, Barrington(Duke to Spring Garden), Clyde(Birmingham to South Park), Brenton (Spring Garden to Clyde) and Sackville (Spring Garden to Brunswick). The LED Streetlight conversion implementation project includes the conversion of approximately 41,100 HRM streetlight luminaires to LED. Light design of all urban/suburban areas of the municipality to be based on the ANSI RB-8 Standard for illumination levels for all vehicular/ pedestrian applications. An RFP has been issued with a closing date of February of 2015. Staff anticipate that the RFP will be awarded by May 31 of 2015 and that LED conversion will Commence in July of 2015.
9	Lighting will be installed along the Dartmouth waterfront trail.	No update available.
10	Staff will consider options for better communicating events programming and HRM recreational opportunities to residents and visitors. Use of publicly accessible spaces to advertise urban core events will be explored.	To date community art programs & events have had individual Facebook pages for promotions. Most projects have media attention which has helped to draw on attendance and participation. Using digital screen signage at Lake Banook as a communication tool. During the Fall of 2014 a Halloween movie(attendance of 400) and a Christmas movie were screened. Social media was utilized through Corporate Communications. To date, community art programs and events have had individual Facebook pages for promotions. Most projects have media attention which has helped to draw attendance and participation. Currently using digital screen signage at Lake Banook as a communication tool. Opportunity for increased collaboration with Corporate Communications to ensure broad coverage through all channels available.
11	Use and promotion of Apps and improved use of the HRM website to communicate urban core programming and recreational assets will be explored as part of the HRM web transformation strategy and re-design.	An initial re-redesign of Halifax.ca was completed in 14/15 to improve the user experience on mobile devices, general navigation and the accessibility of information. A broader Web Transformation Strategy is in development that will take the municipality's presence on the internet to the next level, including further enhancing the design, improving how web content is managed through its lifecycle and creating a simple, consistent user interface for accessing current and future e-Services.

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| <p>12 Staff will work with the Waterfront Development Corporation and Downtown Halifax Business Commission on parking wayfinding signs on Hollis, Sackville and Bishop Streets.</p> | <p>During external stakeholder consultations for the Parking Roadmap, the opportunity for parking wayfinding signage was discussed as a priority item for implementation by the stakeholders. The Parking Roadmap, planned to be presented at TSC on January 22, 2015 identifies as a Year 1 (2015/16) initiative both the development of a parking brand and the implementation of parking finding signage in partnership with private parking providers.</p> <p>TPW conducted a comprehensive review of parking way finding signs for off-street lots in the DHBC and Spring Garden area. As a result, several additional signs were installed in October/November 2014. Staff are reviewing whether additional signs are required.</p> |
| <p>13 4 pieces of public art will be installed in the urban core during the upcoming fiscal year. "Public art" could be, but is not limited to, murals, 3-D art on buildings, sculptures, and art installations (including interactive art). The public art would be placed on municipal property, or, where permissions are secured, publically facing/publically accessible private property that abuts the right-of-way.</p> | <p>Pieces have been unveiled at Canada Games Centre and Dartmouth Bridge Terminal, a new mural has been created at Dartmouth Cove and the Central Library piece was unveiled with the opening of the library. North Park Roundabout - staff have been involved in incorporating public art into this project - completion 2015.</p> |
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Attachment E

Progress Update
Tabled Actions

Table 5: Progress Update – Tabled Actions

No.	Action Item	Progress
14	Staff will explore the possibility of opening up additional harbour access to boaters (boat slips and boat launches). Waterfront Development is currently in discussions with HRM to manage the wharves and docks at Alderney Landing in Dartmouth. Further discussions will be held with the Port of Halifax regarding the feasibility of expanded harbour access.	Africville Park ramp has been modified for additional access.
15	Staff will look to activate public spaces including by giving consideration to temporary commercial uses to encourage more public use of public spaces.	Public spaces have been activated along waterfront and Grand Parade with additional seating, signage, and new vending bylaw that allows for additional vending options. Temporary commercial uses on site would require appropriate zoning and development approvals.
16	Staff will investigate the operational impacts and consider the feasibility of allowing dogs on the ferry.	No update available.
17	Staff will consider the feasibility/advisability of Fall/Winter maintenance of additional urban core AT corridors, in particular the Dartmouth waterfront trail. Consideration of winter maintenance will be included in the AT Functional Plan Review.	In discussion with Active Transportation staff to identify priorities with respect to a very limited additional biking capability during the winter months.

Attachment F

Progress Update
In-Progress Actions

Table 6: Progress Update – In-Progress Actions

No.	Action Item	Progress
18	<p>Improved lighting in the urban core.</p> <p>There is a plan to upgrade all municipal streetlights to LED lights. As part of this implementation, the successful proponent will have to design a lighting plan to current, recognized lighting standards for replacement lighting across the municipality including in the urban core.</p>	<p>A Request For Proposal has been issued with a closing date of Feb 13, 2015.</p>
19	<p>Throughout Downtown...I'm In, the idea of streets closed to motor vehicles and geared towards pedestrians was frequently raised.</p> <p>HRM's street closure policy for special events and parades is under review in response to a motion brought forward at Transportation Standing Committee. A report is expected to come to Transportation Standing Committee in summer 2014 in response to this motion. Feedback from Downtown...I'm In is being considered in this review.</p>	<p>The increase in requests that HRM has received for special events and parades support these comments. Presently, over 120 events organizers have submitted event applications to hold events in 2014. This number does not include the 70+ street closure approvals for residential block parties that Traffic and Right of Way Services processes directly each year. Regional Council approved the 2014-010-ADM Special Events Task Force process for Events, Parades and Street Closures on August 5, 2014,</p> <p>The results of recent public engagement sessions in Halifax and Dartmouth, "Downtown I'm In", revealed that the public are keen to organize and participate in events that are seen as integral to community vitality and prosperity, local economic development and that are held literally "on their streets". The increase in requests that HRM has received for special events and parades support these comments.</p> <p>These ongoing requests have resulted in continued fine-tuning of processes and staff alignments to assess and deliver the necessary approvals in a timely manner. From the application process to the final approval by the Right of Way Engineer, there are practices that are formal in nature but have not been sanctioned by Regional Council within the Administrative Order.</p> <p>The most important change as it relates to feedback received from the Downtown I'm In is the amendment to the abutter approval process. In the past Event Organizers had to receive sign off/ approval from all affected abutters of the event site before receiving approval.</p> <p>Under the new Special Events Admin Order, a closure can be approved without the abutter approval, however if a closure is</p>

approved then the event organizer must notify all affected commercial & residential abutters as per section 18 of the bylaw.

- 20** "Municipal WiFi through the downtown core" came up frequently as an initiative of interest.

HRM staff is currently exploring the feasibility of providing free WiFi in the urban core. A free WiFi initiative would strengthen the bid to have HRM be declared a Smart City. The project is still in the exploratory stage. Staff anticipates that a recommendation report on free WiFi in the urban core will be put before Council in October 2014. Free WiFi has also been included as an eligible project in the 5 Year \$50 million investment for the downtown.

On October 21, 2014, Regional Council approved a staff recommendation to proceed to the Request for Proposal(RFP) stage to select a partner to implement public Wi-Fi as a managed service. The service will aim to be deployed to key corridors in the downtown core (Halifax and Dartmouth) with an initial implementation focussed on deploying to the waterfront in support of the 2015 Tourism season.

- 21** "Bike lanes into the downtown." is representative of many comments supportive of more bike lanes and a more bike friendly urban core generally.

HRM's Active Transportation (AT) program aims to help residents bike, walk, roll, blade and use "human power" to walk and bicycle more around the municipality. An AT Functional Plan provides policy direction for the development of an AT network in HRM. A 5-year review of the 2006 AT Functional Plan is ongoing and is expected to be completed in June 2014. The 5-year review will identify suggested bike lanes in the urban core with a focus on continuity/connectivity of bicycle infrastructure. Winter maintenance will also be included in the AT Functional Plan review. At the direction of Council and following from the Mayor's conversation on a healthy liveable community, staff will work to champion the development of a solution to the cycling connectivity challenges related to the Halifax Harbour Bridges re-decking project.

Making Connections, 2014-2019 Halifax Active Transportation Plan was approved by Regional Council in September 2014. "Making Connections" identifies the Regional Centre as a focus area for the development of bicycle infrastructure. The plan contains a number of recommended projects and programs to improve conditions for walking and bicycling throughout the municipality. The plan contains 2019 targets for cycling that include an emphasis on building a bicycling network in the Regional Centre. Plans have been completed for bike lanes on Hollis Street and University Avenue and are ready for implementation in Spring 2015. Construction of an active transportation bridge across the rail cut and extension of the Halifax Urban Greenway in the vicinity of SMU is planned for 2015. Community engagement on expanding the network of bike lanes with the Regional Centre will begin in early 2015.

- 22** Parking awareness was raised several times through the process, an

The Parking Roadmap - a multi-year plan that provides the framework to guide progress towards the provision of an

example: "Automatic parking inventory of parking spaces (automated meter), better system to identify parking areas."

Staff is currently engaged in an assessment of parking technologies as part of an ongoing review of the Regional Parking Strategy. Pay-by-plate parking solutions are being considered that may support automated, real-time communication of parking availability. Private sector and quasi-private sector parking providers in the urban core are also currently assessing the feasibility of real-time communication of parking spot availability. Staff will continue to work with the private sector to explore options for tracking and communicating parking inventories.

effective parking service for Halifax within the three specific topics of governance, use of technology for parking payment and parking supply-demand management - is planned to be delivered to TSC January 22, 2015. Projects and initiatives designed to increase awareness on parking are identified. Year 1 (2015/16) initiatives include the development of an on-line portal for information on parking, the completion of parking supply mapping in GIS and the development of a parking "brand" that will be used to identify publically accessible parking.

Data on specific parking space availability is integrated with the planned Year 2 (2016/17) parking payment solution project that, dependent on the solution implemented, could provide real time space availability data for on-street parking. Some private parking locations have real-time communication of space availability. A Year 3 (1017/18) project would be to install digital signage at key locations leading into high parking demand areas indicating where off-street parking is available and to integrate private parking supply data. External stakeholder consultation is identified as key measures of success for parking on an ongoing basis to ensure open communication and partnership development.

23 "Active transportation trails (ATT) should be encouraged."

Staff is currently working on the Dartmouth Canal Greenway Project to complete the Active Transportation connections in the Regional Trails System. The project envisions an integrated open space, park and trail system stretching from the Dartmouth waterfront to Lake Banook. The Canal Greenway will be the centre of many activities that include recapitalization of the storm water system, improvements to the existing intersection, and traffic control. HRM is working with partners, including Halifax Water Commission, Waterfront Development, Shubenacadie Canal Commission and private developers, to coordinate multiple projects and minimize disruptions to the public. A number of items require work with partners, more consideration of policy or operational implications or additional information and analysis in order to implement.

Detailed design has commenced. The cradle fabrication is complete and the Inclined Plane park site on Prince Albert Road will be prepped to receive the cradle in the Spring of 2015

- CBCL have completed and submitted the Concept Design and associated cost estimate. The Concept has been circulated to internal HRM stakeholders for feedback and Detailed Design has commenced.
- Cradle Fabrication: Construction of the Cradle has been completed in a rented warehouse in Burnside that is equipped with an overhead crane to facilitate moving. The cradle will be moved outside for storage in the warehouse compound until spring when the Inclined Plane park site on Prince Albert Road will be prepared to receive the cradle.
- Power House: HRM has initiated the process to complete the AutoCad drawings of the Power House. The drawings will be used for the Design Build RFP and to coordinate building elements. HRM has had discussions with HRM building inspections concerning occupancy of the building, fire rating and building classification.
- Soil Testing: Environmental testing of the former Starr Manufacturing site is completed, the degree of site contamination confirmed, and material to be removed off-site during excavation of the archaeological elements has been identified.

- RFP #14-167 Canal Greenway – Re-exposure of

Archaeological Resources: The package for excavation closed under budget and was awarded this week through the HRM process. The recording of the exposed archaeological resources will serve as the basis for detailed design of the Inclined Plane section of the Canal Greenway over the winter.

Staff are also exploring the possible extension north of the Dartmouth Waterfront Trail from Alderney Landing to Shore Road.
