



MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF WEST HANTS
Active Transportation Policy

1. Policy Statement

Municipality of the District of West Hants Council hereby adopts the policies contained in the Addendum respecting active transportation within the Municipality of the District of West Hants as directed by the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan.

2. Purpose

To support and improve the active living and well-being of residents, visitors and the environment by providing alternatives to vehicular based transportation.

3. Definition

Active transportation is a broad term that refers to all forms of human-powered or non-motorized movement, including, but not limited to: walking, cycling, skateboarding/longboarding, horseback riding, roller-blading, paddling, and skiing/snowshoeing. There is clear evidence of the advantages associated with designing cycling and pedestrian friendly communities, which enable and encourage residents to be more active by walking and biking for recreation and utilitarian purposes. West Hants Council recognizes, in adopting the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan, the importance of providing both rural and urban residents, as well as visitors, with improved infrastructure for safe and enjoyable self-propelled transportation.

4. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles form the foundation of this Policy:

1. Provide education and awareness
2. Make it safe and convenient
3. Provide community connections
4. Implement the right interventions in the right places
5. Make it fun and attractive
6. Be strategic and opportunistic
7. Work together

5. Goals

The goal of this Active Transportation Policy is to trigger a cultural shift in the Avon Region where active transportation is regarded as a safe, convenient and celebrated mode of transportation for all residents. This active transportation network will offer fun and safe opportunities for increasing awareness of the social, economic and environmental benefits of using active modes of transportation.

ADDENDUM TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

Approaches and Procedures

1. Education and Awareness

- a) Recognize the need to raise awareness of the active transportation options available to citizens in the Avon Region. The benefits of active healthy living, recreation, and sustainable communities may be supported through special events and promotions.
- b) Recognize that efforts to raise education and awareness amongst all road users can help improve actual and perceived safety. This will foster a culture that embraces sharing of active transportation corridors with a positive attitude.
- c) Recognize that education and awareness measures must include the needs, rights, and responsibilities of all users.
- d) Active transportation routes may be designated as shown in Section 5.4 of the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan (pages 68-73).

2. Connectivity

- a) Recognize that reducing travel times is a crucial component to making active transportation a feasible mode of transportation.
- b) Active transportation solutions shall strive to create a connected and comprehensive network with dedicated and useable space for pedestrians, cyclists, and other active transportation users; protection and refuge; greater visibility; stable pathways; predictable traffic movements; more appropriate functional speeds and options for route selection.
- c) Take advantage of opportunities to make simple connections in the existing network that would significantly improve travel times for active transportation users.
- d) When land use planning documents (i.e. Land-Use By-laws, Municipal Planning Strategy, Sub-division By-law) are being reviewed, active transportation principles will be considered for incorporation. This includes mechanisms, including but not limited to: density incentives, easements, healthy community checklists, and expanded street design guidelines.

3. Infrastructure Design and Amenities

- a) Recognize that active transportation infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: safe crossings, traffic calming measures, multi-use trails, opportunities for rest and end of trip facilities.
- b) Consider the specific active transportation needs of people of all ages and abilities in all street design, trail, parkland, public space, multi-use trails, and bikeway projects.
- c) All new development may incorporate active transportation in the initial phases of planning. Subdividing and developing land identified as adjacent to or integral to the continuity of the active transportation network shall be required to provide infrastructure for active transportation.
- d) Recognize that integrating appropriate facilities into the initial design of street projects and public spaces avoids the expense of retrofits later.
- e) Install and maintain, as budgets permit, signage for all active transportation facilities.

4. Safety and Attractiveness

- a) Safe, convenient, accessible pedestrian and multi-use corridors, as well as appropriate landscaping and lighting shall be considered as part of any development or redevelopment.

5. Collaboration

- a) Actively seek opportunities to partner with other levels of government, businesses, and communities to achieve the objectives of the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan, including but not limited to: bike racks on public transportation (where applicable), paved shoulders, benches, signage, waste sorting receptacles, and bike racks on active transportation routes.

6. Regulation

- a) Acknowledge the safety benefits of following Provincial regulations as it pertains to vehicle speeds on streets.

7. Budget

- a) Recognize the need for sustained funding of active transportation, including, but not limited to: infrastructure improvements and maintenance, staff support, and for education and awareness initiatives.
- b) Annual review, by staff, of active transportation improvement opportunities as part of the budget process.
- c) Active transportation route improvements shall be implemented as funds allow and in conjunction with implementation of the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan and the West Hants Parks and Open Space Plan.



POLICY

CORC-001.00

8. Measurement and Evaluation

- a) Recognize the need to establish indicators for measuring the effectiveness of the active transportation policy.
- b) Recognize the need to evaluate the outcomes of indicators and adjust any aspect of the Avon Region Active Transportation Plan in accordance with the goals of the policy.

I, Rhonda Brown, Municipal Clerk of the Municipality of the District of West Hants, the Province of Nova Scotia, do hereby certify that this is a true copy of the policy as adopted by the Council of the Municipality of the District of West Hants at a meeting duly called and held on the 11th day of July, 2017.

R. N. Brown
Municipal Clerk

<i>Adoption</i>	
<i>Notice to Council:</i>	June 27, 2017
<i>Approval:</i>	July 11, 2017
<i>Description:</i> Initial approval of the Active Transportation Policy CORC-001.00	