



Halifax Regional Trails Association

www.hrta.ca

January 16, 2017

Mayor Savage and Halifax Regional Council
PO Box 1749
Halifax Nova Scotia
(via email)

Dear Mayor Savage and Councillors:

RE: Funding for active transportation recreational trails

The Halifax Regional Trails Association (HRTA) is an umbrella group representing **23 separate volunteer not-for-profit associations** that are active in developing, managing and promoting trails in the Halifax Regional Municipality. HRTA member groups follow an **active transportation philosophy** that promotes human-powered activity for the recreation and well-being of citizens. Through our volunteer efforts, we have been able to leverage HRM funds to raise an additional \$10M to build more than 300 kms of trails in HRM.

Over the years, the management of the HRTA trail program has been shunted between various HRM Departments. Currently, the program is managed through Transportation and Public Works. Because of this shift in departments and new active transportation priorities, funding is now only available for active transportation linear –commuter trails – trails that take travellers to work, workplace meetings, school or to go shopping.

HRM staff tells us that **active transportation recreational trails** fall under the Parks and Recreation Division, but there is no funding program to support these recreational trails developed and managed by HRTA member groups. **HRM needs to address this lack of funding for recreational trails.** The **2006 Active Transportation Plan** clearly states the importance of Active Recreation yet there is nothing in place to support this.

HRM's data from the **2014 Trail Use Monitoring Survey** shows that most people use the trail system during the midday, weekends and non-peak commuting hours which clearly indicates that they are using the trails for recreation.

We want HRM to establish an **additional funding program for active transportation recreational trails** so that trail groups can access some core funding for trail improvements. This core funding can be used to leverage additional funding from provincial and private sources.

We would be pleased to meet with staff and HRM Council to discuss the trail program and its economic, environmental and social benefits to our municipality's residents and visitors. We will be calling Mayor Savage's office to follow-up.

Sincerely,

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Co-Chairs, Halifax Regional Trails Association

Representing:

Halifax Urban Greenway Association
Chain of Lakes Trails Association
MacIntosh Run Watershed Association
Shubenacadie Canal Commission
Cole Harbour Park and Trails Association
Atlantic View Trail Association
Carolls Corner Mastadon Trail
Friends of McNabs Island Society
Halifax Urban Greenway Association
Lawrencetown Cole Harbour Trail
Connector Association
Penhorn Lake Trail Association
Shore Active Transportation Association
Shubenacadie Watershed Environmental
Protection Society

Musquodoboit Trailways Association
Porters Lake/Myra Road Wilderness Area
Association
Preston & Area Trails Association
Sackville Rivers Association
Second Lake Regional Park Association
Friends of First Lake Society
Beaverbank Kinsac Trail
Beechville Lakeside Timberlea Rails to Trails
Association
St. Margaret's Bay Rails to Trails
The Bluff Trail: Woodens River Watershed
Environmental Organization

c.c.

Jacques Dubé, Chief Administrative Officer
Brad Anguish, Director, Parks and Recreation
Bruce Zvaniga, Director, Transportation and Public Works