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HALIFAX, NOVA SCOTIA

Corridor for cyclists

City to pick one of four
north-south routes
for a bike lane / **Page 5**



A cyclist signals as she travels on Brunswick Street in Halifax last week. The city plans to designate a north-south route on the Halifax peninsula as a bike thoroughfare.

(CHRISTIAN LAFORCE / Staff)



Proposed routes for the north-south bike corridor. (Halifax Regional Municipality)

Council ponders route for bicycle corridor

By IAN FAIRCLOUGH
Staff Reporter

The public has had its say. Now it's up to Halifax regional council to come up with a route for a bike corridor to run in a north-south direction through Halifax.

Four routes — the Connaught Avenue corridor, the Windsor Street-Vernon Street corridor, the Agricola Street-Young Avenue corridor and the Novalea Drive-Gottingen Street corridor — are being considered, but it could even be a slightly different route.

Dave McCusker, the municipality's manager of strategic transportation planning, said public interest in the plans has been high. Two public meetings to discuss the options were held March 29 and April 3.

McCusker said the municipality wants the corridor to encourage more cycling in the city.

"Over the last five years or so, we've done bike lanes on a number of streets . . . most have been in suburban areas where there's room to work with, but it's a little more challenging working on the Halifax peninsula, working with the limited amount of street space, but it's important to build that as part of an overall network."

He said that means trying to find a way to work marked bike lanes into the street network.

He said the public meeting achieved its purpose of generating discussion.

"People are aware now that there are issues with on-street parking and with perceived safety for bicyclists and whether the (proposed) bike lanes are located where people actually want to bike to," said McCusker.

"This is part of what we were hoping to get discussion on and we certainly got it."

He said part of the criteria for selecting a route is the proximity to existing bike corridors and trails.

He said businesses in some areas have expressed concerns about losing parking spaces to a bike route, and that is something that has to be considered.

"It's difficult doing on-street bike lanes and still maintain on-street parking, and that was the biggest concern of businesses," he said.

The north-south corridor isn't the only one being worked on as part of the municipality's transportation plan. Other routes currently being worked on include projects on Hammonds Plains Road, Cole Harbour Road, Bissett Road and Burnside Drive.

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