



NOVA SCOTIA  
FEDERATION OF  
MUNICIPALITIES

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Honourable Stephen McNeil  
Honourable Lloyd Hines  
Honourable Derek Mombourquette  
Honourable Randy Delorey  
Doctor Robert Strang  
Via email

July 20, 2020

**Re: Development of a Comprehensive Nova Scotia AT Network**

Dear Premier McNeil, Minister Hines, Minister Mombourquette, Minister Delorey and Doctor Strang,

This letter is to convey the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' interest in exploring the development of a comprehensive active transportation network across Nova Scotia.

Recently, the federal government announced the development of a *National Active Transportation Strategy*. This was in part the result of NSFM advocacy work with federal MPs calling for this strategy, and its subsequent sponsorship of the Federation of Canadian Municipalities' resolution passed in 2018 at FCM's annual general meeting. Since that time, Nova Scotia MP Andy Fillmore has been assigned the honor of developing the strategy, and increasingly, the federal government has signaled their desire to support and fund progressive transportation systems that are both mindful of climate change imperatives, and of our need for safe and efficient travel by healthful modes of transportation.

While the *National Active Transportation Strategy* was born before our current COVID reality, the pandemic has only served to highlight the existing and latent demand for active transportation infrastructure in our cities, towns, and rural areas; and has emphasized the need for more human scale development.

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To this end, we imagine a comprehensive network in Nova Scotia that will connect our communities via roadways and main streets, providing safe and joyful active travel and opportunities to collaboratively set the stage for economic activity, infrastructure planning, tourism, and social vitality.

NSFM's Board of Directors has consistently recognized these principles and they can be found firmly reflected in our joint Department of Municipal Affairs and Housing/NSFM Partnership Framework.

Informally, and formally, the Province has received a proposal from Bicycle Nova Scotia entitled, *A Complete Active Transportation Network for Nova Scotia: Seizing Opportunity in the New Normal*. It contains a blueprint for how federal, provincial, municipal, and local leaders can work together to develop the envisioned network. NSFM believes that now is our best opportunity to take action on this ambitious plan.

While much of the conceptual work has been done, to truly seize upon this opportunity in a timely manner, we request that leadership from the federal and provincial governments, NSFM, and Bicycle Nova Scotia convene to begin developing a program, which will attend to the necessary details, such as funding, governance, planning, roles and responsibilities, capacity, oversight, and timeline.

Municipalities across Nova Scotia and indeed your government, have done much in the past decade to support active transportation, but more work remains to be done. Now is the time to work together to seize this opportunity to efficiently use available funding opportunities and build upon our existing foundations in active transportation to improve our health, environment and economy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Mood', written in a cursive style.

Mayor Pam Mood, NSFM President

CC: Andy Fillmore, Member of Parliament for Halifax

Leo Glavine, Minister, Communities, Culture and Heritage

Paul Lafleche, Deputy Minister, Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal

Geoff MacLellan, Minister, Department of Business

Bernie Miller, Deputy Minister, Department of Business

Chuck Porter, Minister, Municipal Affairs and Housing

Joanne Macrae, Chief of Staff for Andy Fillmore, MP for Halifax