



Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal
Office of the Minister

PO Box 186, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada B3J 2N2

AUG 18 2020

Her Worship Pam Mood
Mayor, Town of Yarmouth
NSFM President
1809 Barrington Street, Suite 1304
Halifax, Nova Scotia
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Dear Mayor Mood:

Thank you for your July 20, 2020 letter to Premier Stephen McNeil regarding the development of a Comprehensive Nova Scotia Active Transportation Network. As Minister of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal (TIR), I have been asked to respond to your inquiry.

As stated in your letter, the pandemic has increased interest in and demand for active transportation infrastructure across the province, particularly in rural areas. Bicycle Nova Scotia's (BNS) proposal for a Complete Active Transportation Network, the federal government's announcement to develop a national active transportation strategy and the Nova Scotia Federation of Municipalities' Main Street document all align and complement each other.

Active transportation, and more generally physical activity, is a shared responsibility amongst several provincial departments and agencies (e.g. Tourism and the Nova Scotia Health Authority). At the provincial level, there are committees and teams promoting cooperation between departments on active transportation and they work with municipalities, federal departments, not-for-profits, and organizations involved in active transportation. These groups include the Provincial Active Transportation Team (PATT), Interdepartmental Committee on Trails (ICT), and the Accessibility Directorate. There is representation from most departments on each of these groups to enable coordination of efforts.

To provide some information on how the province is working to enhance active transportation throughout the province, listed below are some departmental activities.

TIR has a long-standing relationship with BNS on cycling initiatives. The most significant partnership with BNS is to complete the provincial cycling network known as the Blue Route. TIR is committed to continuing its work with BNS on the Blue Route, as it makes up most of the cycling network and requires the use of provincial roads.

Communities, Culture and Heritage (CCH) launched the *Let's Get Moving* action plan in 2018. *Let's Get Moving* is a five-year plan to encourage Nova Scotians to be more physically active. It includes improving access to funding and builds on existing networks, facilities, and programs. CCH also works very closely with municipalities to develop and implement active transportation and Municipal Physical Activity Plans.

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CCH and Lands and Forestry lead the ICT, and they launched the Shared Strategy for Trails in Nova Scotia in August, 2019 with the Nova Scotia Trails Federation.

Energy and Mines provides funds related to green infrastructure projects which include active transportation networks. Funding is provided through the Climate Change Mitigation sub-stream of the federal government's Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

Municipal Affairs and Housing recognizes the importance of planning for active transportation and used the Integrated Community Sustainability Plan and the Municipal Climate Change Action Plan to encourage municipalities to plan better for active transportation. There are also plans to enable funding for active transportation in the future.

Lastly, PATT developed a forthcoming Active Transportation Policy Framework that will work to further coordinate active transportation initiatives.

The BNS' Active Transportation Network document as proposed requires partnerships with municipalities and other government departments. Government is committed to continue to work with these partners and stakeholders to provide support as details of the proposal are determined.

The coordination is already underway and, together with these newer strategies and announcements, will assist in guiding the advancement of active transportation in Nova Scotia.

We look forward to future discussions with regard to how these projects may unfold and thank you for continuing to support active transportation.

Sincerely,



Lloyd P. Hines
Minister

- c: Honourable Stephen McNeil, Premier of Nova Scotia
- Honourable Derek Mombourquette, Minister of Energy and Mines
- Honourable Randy Delorey, Minister of Health and Wellness
- Honourable Leo Glavine, Minister of Communities, Culture and Heritage
- Honourable Geoff MacLellan, Minister of Business
- Royden Trainor, Senior Executive Director, TIR Strategic Policy and Corporate Services
- Elizabeth Pugh, Special Projects Engineer, TIR