

AGRICOLA STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Agricola Street Enhancement Project.

Agricola Street is a truly unique part of Halifax's urban core, with a distinct built form, a vibrant street-life, lots of pedestrians and cyclists, and an ever expanding retail and restaurant scene mixed with a range of services and professional agencies. Over the past 5 years the area has seen a lot of new and proposed residential developments which are increasing density and bringing more people into the area. The role of Agricola as a local retail/service area and destination neighbourhood is growing stronger. Enhancement of the street, through smart design and complete street principles, will ensure the needs of all users are addressed while retaining the area's distinct character — which makes it such an interesting, attractive, and welcoming place to be.

What is a Complete Street.

Complete Streets make it easy to cross the street, walk to shops, and bicycle to work. They are streets for everyone, designed and operated to enable safe access for all users, including pedestrians, bicyclists, motorists and transit riders of all ages and abilities.

Goals.

- To enhance the look, feel, function, and unique identity of Agricola Street for residents, businesses and visitors alike.
- To encourage and support use by pedestrians and cyclists, and provide for the needs of all ages and abilities.
- To foster business investment and neighbourhood pride through maintenance and beautification efforts.
- To develop an appropriate and genuine "complete street" concept for Agricola Street.

Work to Date.

- 2015 - 2017: North End Business Association (NEBA) and Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) worked together to bring the initial concept plan to HRM to foster support and buy-in.
- 2015: NEBA formed the Agricola Street Enhancement Committee to advise, provide direction, and assist in this initiative.
- 2017: NEBA and HCC co-hosted the Agricola Street Workshop with Gary Toth. Business owners, cyclists, residents and HRM staff attended to explore new ideas for the street.

Why Agricola Street is Ready for a Complete Street Redesign.

- Agricola Street re-paving is scheduled for 2018. This is a key opportunity to make improvements that will enhance the safety and attractiveness of the area for all users.
- Agricola Street was approved in the 2014 Active Transportation Plan as a designated priority active transportation corridor, identified as a location where improvements are needed to make the street more pedestrian and cyclist friendly.
- Centre Plan designates Agricola Street as a "Corridor" with the objectives of strengthening it as a neighbourhood destination with commercial and retail uses focused on local service, creating a complete street that demonstrates high quality streetscaping while prioritizing pedestrians, and creating safe and comfortable public realm for all ages and abilities.
- The ECO-Bicycle counter on Agricola Street demonstrates the consistent volume of cyclists on the street (estimated 500 trips per day Oct-Nov 2016), necessitating the need for improvements to make the corridor safer and easier to ride a bike.
- In Halifax's Economic Growth Plan 2016-2021, Action 61 states: "Develop a long-term streetscaping program for the Regional Centre", which recognizes the importance and need for improvement in BIDs.
- HRM recently (2017) adopted NACTO Street Guidelines, making it possible to implement bump-outs along the our roadways.
- Agricola Street is ready and long-over due for improvements,

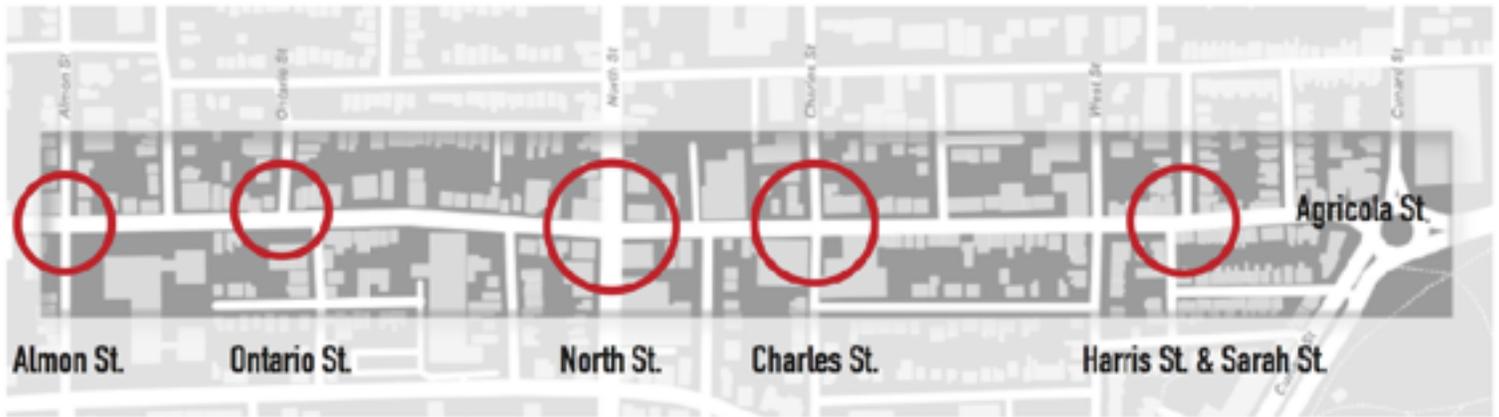
Next Steps.

- NEBA, SWITCH! and HCC will organize a demonstration of street improvement ideas using the "Lighter, Quicker, Cheaper" methodology during SWITCH Halifax 2017.
- A stakeholder engagement session and survey will be conducted in the fall of 2017 to get input from local business owners, residents, and users of the street.
- An improvement plan for Agricola will be developed and support sought from HRM for implementation.
- NEBA will continue to work with HCC and HRM to make this a reality.

Proposed Bump-Out Locations.

There are 5 proposed locations for bump-outs and streetscaping interventions as they relate to the repaving of Agricola. Each bump-out

location needs to be individually assessed and considered before approval. Design and details will vary from location to location. Bump-outs are only one phase of the streetscaping vision for Agricola.



Features of the Agricola Street Improvement.

Elements such as bump-outs and curb extensions at the suggested intersections provide additional capacity for local businesses to have patio seating, add enhancements to the urban environment and increase opportunities for street furniture.

Bump-outs are also traffic calming measures that improve the safety of vulnerable road users, particularly people who walk or ride bikes on Agricola Street, by reducing the speed of vehicles.

We are advocating for the following improvements:

- Curb extensions
 - 4-way-stop intersections
 - 3 metre widths for traffic lanes
 - Reduction of speed limit
 - Removal of street designation as a thoroughfare truck area
- (Note: Minimal to no loss of parking is required, and delivery vehicles will still be able to access the street.)

