

REPORT COMPILED BY Meghan Doucette, Interim Executive Director, Halifax Cycling Coalition Julien Lacroix, Neighbourhood Planner (Student Intern), North End Business Association

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1 | INTRODUCTION

The North End Business Association (NEBA) and the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) held a Stakeholder Information Session on July 17th, 2018 to present and discuss the Agricola Street Improvement Plan. The purpose of the Information Session was to inform businesses, residents, and property owners in the area surrounding Agricola Street between Cunard Street and Almon Street of the upcoming recapitalization project (repaving) from the city and the proposed activities that will see streetscaping improvements take place over a few years. The goal is to develop a program that engages all stakeholders in the enhancements being planned for Agricola Street.

2 | PROJECT BACKGROUND

2014: NEBA & HCC CONCEPT PLAN

NEBA and HCC collaborated on developing an enhancement plan for Agricola Street that included curb extension at intersections between North and Cunard. This concept plan was presented to Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) for consideration in 2015.

2014: NEBA ESTABLISHES THE AGRICOLA STREET ENHANCEMENT COMMITTEE

The Agricola Street Enhancement Committee was established in 2014 to provide input and guidance into the initiative. It is chaired by Frank Evans, and is made up of a number of Agricola Street business and property owners.

2015: BIKE CORRAL

HCC piloted a bike corral project at the intersection of Agricola and Charles. Although there were some challenges with setting up this pilot project, it ultimately was very successful, and the bike corral program continues.

2017: GARY TOTH WORKSHOP

To bring ideas and information together as a part of the ongoing discussion about Agricola Street Enhancement, NEBA and HCC, in cooperation with the Licensed Professional Planners Association of Nova Scotia (LPPANS), hosted a workshop featuring Gary Toth. Gary Toth is the Senior Director of Project for Public Spaces, specializing in planning, design and education to help individuals and governments create and sustain public spaces that build stronger communities.

The Agricola Street workshop brought together a dedicated group of stakeholders including representatives of HRM, HCC, NEBA, Agricola Street businesses, and local residents. The intent of the workshop was to inspire everyone to think out of the box to develop a shared vision for Agricola Street, and identify the next steps that will advance this important project. The report summarizing this workshop is available on the NEBA website (About > Reports & Documents > Agricola Workshop Report):

https://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/4f95e8_d763521c1ce1488ab5b64773a48094b4.pdf



2017: HRM ADOPTS THE INTEGRATED MOBILITY PLAN (IMP)

NEBA, HCC, and HRM have met a number of times over the past 4 years to advance work on this initiative. One of the biggest impediments was the HRM Red Book (street engineering standards) did not allow for curb extensions. The adoption of the Integrated Mobility Plan and NACTO (National Association of City Transportation Officials) standards changed that, allowing for the initiative to proceed.

2018: HRM GREEN LIGHTS RECAPITALIZATION WITH COMPLETE STREET ELEMENTS

On May 15th, 2018, NEBA and HCC met with urban design staff from HRM to discuss the Agricola Street Enhancement project with regards to the new Integrated Mobility Plan and how new policies address Complete Street projects. Hanita Koblents, Urban Designer with the municipality, gave a presentation about the breadth of work being planned for the recapitalization project on Agricola Street slated for 2019, including a budget. Koblents also presented the Complete Streets policies in the IMP and what that means for Agricola. The total budget for the recapitalization project is approximately \$485,000, with 15% (\$72,750) set aside for the addition of Complete Street elements.

A breakdown of the costs for various types of complete street interventions was presented to NEBA and HCC (Appendix B). HRM had prepared a concept map of Agricola with all the possible interventions, including curb extensions, installing tree lawns, and planting street trees. HRM, NEBA, and HCC discussed at length the pros and cons of each of the interventions.

2018: PREFERRED RECOMMENDATIONS DETERMINED

Subsequent to this meeting, NEBA met with the Agricola Street Enhancement Committee, and HCC met with their Infrastructure Committee to relay this information and to begin developing a preferred set of recommendations on where to allocate funds. Detail design of the project will begin in fall 2018. NEBA and HCC will provide HRM with their recommendations on where to spend the limited budget by mid-August 2018.

NEBA and HCC planned and hosted an information session to share these recommendations with stakeholders and to receive feedback before submitting our final recommendations.







3 | AGRICOLA STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN INFO SESSION SUMMARY

The Agricola Street Improvement Plan Stakeholder Information Session was held at Chain Yard Urban Cidery (2606 Agricola Street) on Tuesday, July 17th, 2018 from 09:30 to 11:00. Invitations were sent electronically to the NEBA and HCC memberships. Invitation brochures were delivered to both commercial and residential properties along Agricola Street between Cunard and Almon. A public event page was also created on Facebook.

The Information Session was open to the public. A mix of people attended the Information Session including business owners, property owners, residents as well as NEBA and HCC committee members. There were 21 members of the community, three staff members from NEBA, and one staff member from both HCC and HRM (See List of Participants, Appendix A). There were also three media representatives from Global, All Nova Scotia, and The Star Halifax.

The session began with an introduction from Executive Directors Patricia Cuttell (NEBA) and Meghan Doucette (HCC). They welcomed everyone to the Information Session and also gave a brief background of the work they have done on the project over the last few years. Following this introduction, Hanita Koblents, urban designer with HRM, gave a presentation outlining the new complete street policies from the Integrated Mobility Plan and the new way the city is looking at streets. She also gave a brief history on plans that had been submitted to the city previously. Koblents then gave a breakdown of the budget for the scheduled recapitalization project for Agricola Street (\$485,000) and the complete street budget (15% of total budget, \$72,750), and had a list of possible complete street elements and their cost.

Following Koblents' presentation, the floor was opened to questions. The questions and comments can be found in Appendix D. The rest of the Information Session was an open house, where attendees could walk around to look at the information panels and ask questions. Information from the panels can be found in the following section "INFORMATION PANELS". Attendees were also asked to leave comments on post-it notes. These were collected and the comments can be found in Appendix D.



INFORMATION PANELS

Four information panels were created for the information session to describe some of the key objectives of the streetscaping project on Agricola Street. These objectives include: complete streets, curb extensions, street greening, and placemaking.

Complete Streets

Complete streets make cities more walkable, bikable, and livable. The Complete Streets concept challenges the idea that streets are primarily for moving cars. Complete Streets are not only about reallocating physical space, but also about recognizing streets as important symbolic and social spaces. Complete Streets form one of four foundational policies in Halifax's Integrated Mobility Plan (IMP). The IMP prioritizes modes with walking being the highest priority, then cycling, transit, and vehicles.

Traffic Calming

On streets in our city, the space between the fronts of buildings is divided between vehicle lanes, sidewalks, and sometimes bikes lanes. Complete Streets recognize that space should be shared equitably between these pieces of infrastructure. Complete Street design allows for better and safer integration of these uses. The Plan for Agricola is to implement a series of permanent and temporary curb extensions along the street to slow traffic and make bicycles and pedestrians more of a priority.

Social Space

Streets are places where residents come together. Streets can be gathering spaces; a space where you see your neighbours, a space to sit down on a bench and rest under a shady tree, a space to have lunch on a restaurant patio. Streets are public areas where everyone should feel safe, comfortable and welcome. Complete Streets recognize that streets are not only important for moving people and goods, but that streets are also destinations. This plan will reinforce Agricola as a destination neighbourhood and a commercial high street.

AGRICOLA STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN



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Curb Extensions

Curb extensions, or "bump-outs", increase the width of the sidewalk while also reducing the width of the road. They have many varied benefits. Curb extensions transform underutilized space into new public space. For example, curb extensions at the intersection of Argyle Street and Prince Street in Halifax have replaced no parking zones on the corners of the intersection with space that can be used by people, cafes, buskers or art.

Safety at Crossings

Curb extensions increase comfort and safety for pedestrians by narrowing the distance to cross the road, by improving the visibility of crossings, and by reducing motor vehicle speeds. For those who experience limited mobility, curb extensions can make crossings feel less intimidating. The curb extensions planned for Agricola Street will narrow two crosswalks and will slow traffic.

Creating a place for People

Curb extensions are important improvements to the public realm. They provide space for people to gather and rest. They can include benches or restaurant patio furniture. They can improve the aesthetic of a street by creating new space for trees and plants. Curb extensions on Sackville Street and Spring Garden Road provide added amenity space to busy pedestrian areas and compliment seasonal restaurant patios and temporary sidewalk extensions.

Defining a District

Curb extensions that are installed at different points along a street can help unify the visual character and pedestrian-friendly, commercial function of the district. On Bronson Avenue in Ottawa, curb extensions have improved the pedestrian realm with shorter crossings, benches, and landscaping. The improvements on Agricola Street will help define the area's character and will make it easier and more appealing for customers to shop in the district.

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Street Greening

Greening a street means adding more trees, plantings, or ecologically sustainable landscape features to make beautiful places.

Street Trees

Trees are an important addition to any street for many reasons. They aesthetically enhance streets, they provide shade and shelter, they help keep the air in our cities clean, and can often help with stormwater management. There are two ways for installing street trees to make beautiful places:

- 1. Trees planted in tree lawns: Planting trees in tree lawns (the strip of grass between the sidewalk and the street) is the more simple of the two options. Because water can easily permeate the ground, installation costs are relatively low (around \$500).
- 2. Trees planted in the hardscape: Trees planted in the hardscape, such as the sidewalk, require more extensive infrastructure below the hard surface. A basin is installed with loose-packed soil to allow for roots to grow and for water to permeate from the street into the ground. These requirements mean that installation costs are higher (around \$15,000), but help ensure the long-term survival of the trees. This option is used in areas with high foot traffic, where grass may not survive.

On the Verge

The verge is the space between the sidewalk and the road. It can be grass or paved, and is where you typically find street signs and utility poles. The verge can also be a space for landscaping and placemaking. When the verge is grass, it is easy to add flowers, shrubs and other plantings. When the verge is paved, it is possible to place planters to add both greenery and informal seating on the street. The North End Business Association is looking to create an "On the Verge" program that will support businesses and residents who want to invest in beautifying their verges.

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Placemaking

"...Placemaking inspires people to collectively reimagine and reinvent public spaces as the heart of every community. Strengthening the connection between people and the places they share, Placemaking refers to a collaborative process by which we can shape our public realm in order to maximize shared value. More than just promoting better urban design, Placemaking facilitates creative patterns of use..." - Project for Public Spaces

Through the Agricola Street Improvement Plan, we hope to enhance and strengthen our unique community character.

Public Art

Public art serves as a way for a community to explore it's cultural identity. The Placemaking concept incorporates public art as a way to get people engaged in creating a neighbourhood that has meaning for them. Public art should be by the community, for the community. Pictured below is a bike corral installed by the Halifax Cycling Coalition and painted by local Indigenous artist, Sam'Gwan. Another type of public art is called street tattooing, where the street is painted. An example of street tattooing can be seen nearby on Black Street. The Agricola Street Improvement Plan will look at ways of incorporating public art reflective of the community and its people.

Gathering Places

Project for Public Spaces found that there are four key attributes that make a great places, including: sociability, uses and activities, comfort and image, and access and linkages. Some of the ways to measure if a place is sociable, or a great gathering place, is to assess the street life, evening use, civic participation, social networks, and the number of women, children and elderly people using the street. The new curb extensions, benches, street trees and art will contribute to making Agricola Street a place where people can gather and connect.

AGRICOLA STREET IMPROVEMENT PLAN

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4 | ALTERNATIVE APPROACHES

NEBA and HCC have identified hard infrastructure, including concrete curbs as being the top priority for investment from HRM during the scheduled repaving and streetscaping on Agricola Street. It has been determined that the cost of six curb extensions will fit within the streetscaping budget set aside by HRM. These hardscape curb extensions provide the foundation upon which other elements can be added over time, such as street trees, benches, and parklets. In addition, NEBA has developed a four year plan to continue to built upon these initial elements. This plan will include a tree and bench donation program, an "on the verge" program, placemaking initiatives, gateway signage, and more. NEBA and HCC are committed to working together, along with HRM and the businesses on Agricola Street to continue to add amenities to Agricola Street. The goal being to enhance comfort and safety for people walking and riding bikes on Agricola Street.

With the above priorities in mind, NEBA and HCC have considered two main options for using HRM's streetscaping budget for the Agricola Street repaving project, with a sub option identified (option A (2)) as part of option A as a contingency for fire truck needs on West Street. The three options are listed below, followed by a recommendation for what has been identified as the preferred choice by both parties.

OPTION A (1)

Option A (1) would include concrete curb extensions on the northeast corner of North Street, the southwest corner of North Street, the northeast and northwest corners of Charles Street, and the southeast and southwest corners of West Street.

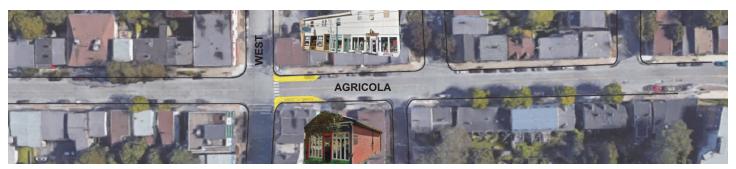
BENEFITS

- Benefits are distributed along the street
- Provides a foundation of hard infrastructure, upon which, more temporary measures can be added over time

DRAWBACKS

Only focuses on hard infrastructure and not additional amenities





OPTION A (2)

Option A (2) would include concrete curb extensions on the northeast corner of North Street, the southwest corner of North Street, the northeast and northwest corners of Charles Street, the northeast corner of Harris Street, and the southwest corner of Sarah Street.

Option A (2) is an alternative to Option A (1), which can be used in the event that HRM engineers determine during the detailed design phase that no bump-outs can be installed at West Street because of the turning requirements of fire trucks exiting the fire station on West Street. The benefits and drawbacks are similar for both A options.





OPTION B

Option B would include concrete curb extensions on the northeast corner of North Street, the southwest corner of North Street, and all four corners of Charles Street.

BENEFITS

· Provides an example of what a fully built-out intersection could look like

DRAWBACKS

- Provides a limited benefit to the rest of the street, with all focus and investment going to the Agricola and Charles intersection
- Uncertain when and if HRM will decided to invest more in streetscaping on Agricola Street
- Does not achieve traffic calming along the entire length of the street



5 | **RECOMMENDATION**

NEBA and HCC recommend that HRM implement our alternative "Option A (1)" as part of the repaving scheduled to take place on Agricola Street in 2019. Option A (1) would include concrete curb extensions on:

- 1 the northeast and southwest corner of North Street;
- 2 the northeast and northwest corners of Charles Street;
- 3 the southeast and southwest corners of West Street.

This option will allow for improvement to Agricola Street to be distributed along the street at key intersections where there is a lot of pedestrian activity. In the event that curb extensions impede fire truck traffic on West Street we recommend implementing "Option A (2)".

6 | NEXT STEPS

- 1) Submitting recommendations to the city: NEBA and HCC will submit their recommendations as to where to spend the \$72,750 allocated to Complete Street elements when HRM undertakes the recapitalization project along Agricola Street. These recommendations will be submitted mid-August to allow HRM to begin the detailed design of the project in the fall, with the intention to begin construction in spring/summer 2019.
- 2) Switch Halifax 2018: Switch Halifax 2018 will provide the opportunity to test some Complete Street interventions along Agricola Street. NEBA and HCC will be inviting groups specializing in planning, landscape architecture, urban design and community development to design and install temporary curb extensions along the street. These curb extensions should be designed in a way that resemble permanent curb extensions while using a light, quick and easy approach. NEBA will reimburse up to \$150 for five participating groups for their installation. The curb extensions will be judged by Hali-famous people and the winning group will receive a great prize. The ideas from Switch Halifax will help advance the idea of complete streets and provide ideas for future streetscaping interventions on the street -- whether ideas are successful or help identify things to improve upon. Switch 2018 will happen on September 23rd, 2018.
- 3) Phased Agricola Street Improvement Plan: NEBA has approved \$5000 a year for three years to invest in more street elements including benches, plants, trees and more. NEBA and HCC will determine the donation process for trees and benches, as well as the budget to be allocated to each phase and activity of the plan, such as the "On the Verge" program.
- 4) Working with developers and property owners: NEBA will develop an information package for developers and property owners that communicates the vision for Agricola. This will create the opportunity to have streetscaping elements included in new developments to further strengthen the character of the Agricola area. Key developments/ development opportunities are located at Agricola and May, and the Bloomfield School site.



7 | APPENDICES

Appendix A - LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

PARTICIPANTS

Courtney Nickers (Agricola Holistic Health/ NEBA Board)

Tom Jockel (Property Owner - Agricola)

Henry Jockel (Property Owner - Agricola)

Cindy James (Petite Urban Pooch)

Frank Evans (Smith's Bakery/ ASE Committee)

Peter Williams (Resident - Agricola)

Renae Perry (Compass Distillers)

Myra Coulter (Resident - Agricola)

Krista Armstrong (Local Source/ Lion & Bright)

Tasso Dikaios (Time & Space Media/ ASE Committee)

Bill Dunlop (Hfx Furniture Clinic)

Sam Gallagher (Local Source)

Pierre Stevens (Ukpik Art/ Resident - North)

Mandy Raining Bird (Ukpik Art/ Resident - North)

Grant Ruffinengo (Carlo Auto/ NEBA Board)

Brad Stoilov (RBC)

Amanda Lundrigan (RBC)

Dan Jockel (Home-based)

Evyeneia Dexter (Foxy Moon Hair/ NEBA Board)

Bruno Ruffinengo (Carlo Auto)

Jolyn Surain (Nurtured)

HOSTS/GUESTS

Partricia Cuttell (NEBA)

Julien Lacroix (NEBA)

Amy Grant (NEBA)

Meghan Doucette (HCC)

Peter Henry (HCC Infrastructure Committee)

Hanita Koblents (HRM)

MEDIA

(Global)

Ben Wood (All NS)

(The Star Halifax)

Appendix B - LIST OF COSTS

Recapitalization Budget: \$485,000

Complete Streets budget (15% of total budget): \$72,750

Curb extensions: \$10,000 - 20,000 each New tree lawns: Approx. 1,500 each

Trees in grass: \$550 each

Trees in hardscape: \$15,000 each

Bike racks on curb extensions: \$200 each Benches on curb extensions: \$800 each

Right sizing roadway/ extending sidewalk (Charles to West): Approx. \$50,000

Appendix C - TIMELINE AND PHASES



Appendix D - COMMENTS + FEEDBACK FROM INFO SESSION

Comments - Presentation Discussion Period (NOT verbatim)

- There should be more crosswalks along the entirety of the street. If we are promoting pedestrianfriendly streets, we need to make them safe and walkable. This will create a district.
- The addition of new businesses on the southern part of Agricola with see more pedestrians in the area. Crosswalks need to be added to support this.
- There should be bump-outs south of West Street, seems like this portion is lacking attention.
- Crosswalks along Charles should be adjusted so people are not required to cross Charles several times while walking down the street.
- What are the costs of installing curb extensions?
- - RESPONSE: \$10,000 \$20,000, depending on drainage infrastructure relocation.
- Power lines should be buried as part of this project.
- RESPONSE: HRM attempts integration with any construction project. Power lines will likely not be buried as part of this project due to the high cost. Electric cables must be buried in concrete, which could cost upwards of \$4 million.
- The interventions made on Agricola should set the precedent for developers to include similar complete street/ streetscaping elements in any future developments.

Comments - During Open House Period (NOT verbatim)

- Crosswalk at Randy's Pizza corner/ new cafe at Woodill
- Consider restricting motor vehicle traffic to the street during certain hours of the day. Only allow delivery trucks to make deliveries during certain hours of the day.
- Create top 10 wants, and determine 5 priorities
- Budget too small
- Pedestrianized-street, add trees and planters -- space for humans.
- Work with business owners to help fund streetscaping/placemaking/infrastructure improvements as a benefit to them.

Comments - Post-it Notes

- "Off topic But please consider re-coordinating walk for school kids Oxford to Gottingen. Safer -- less confusing"
- "Have been a resident of Agricola St area over 50 years. Thanks for this initiative!! Can you include info on history of "Agricola" as a name on your signage? (Connection to NS agricultural history)"
- "Great stuff. Six curbs to focus on first"
- "Two new businesses corner of Woodill + Agricola -- more meter or 2hr parking please"
- "Cindy James interested in contributing to the committee"
- "More receptacles for 'poop' etc. on the Cunard end -- two close together, one could be moved"
- " Great idea!"

Appendix E - MEDIA

Mini-makeover on Halifax's Agricola St. aims to make life better for pedestrians and cyclists

By YVETTE D'ENTREMONT StarMetro Halifax Tues., July 17, 2018

HALIFAX—The budget might be small, but those behind the planned mini-makeover of Agricola St. in Halifax's North End plan to get a big bang for their buck.

The Agricola Street Improvement Plan was the topic of discussion Tuesday morning as the North End Business Association and the Halifax Cycling Coalition hosted an information session for Agricola St. businesses, residents and the general public.

The Agricola streetscape project is expected to begin in the spring/summer of 2019. (YVETTE D'ENTREMONT/STARMETRO)

They shared details of the Agricola streetscaping project, scheduled to begin in the spring/summer of 2019. Planned improvements for the busy thoroughfare include curb extensions (bumpouts), tree planting, benches and signage.

"We've seen Agricola grow and change so much over the past four years and a lot of that has been driven by small businesses and private investment, so we're very excited to see (Halifax Regional Municipality) coming to the table and working with us to do some street improvements," said Patricia Cuttell, executive director of the North End Business Association.

"These street improvements are not just an aesthetic piece. It's also about pedestrian safety and cycling safety. It's really about, 'How do we calm the traffic on Agricola so that the street is more accessible and safe for all users?""

Read more:

Opinion | New 'stoplet' shows Halifax might get Spring Garden streetscaping right Halifax council votes to ban weekend vehicle access on Argyle St. this summer Halifax tops Toronto, at least when it comes to nixing an eyesore of a downtown highway The project will piggyback on a planned street repaving slated for next spring or summer, pending budget approval.

https://www.thestar.com/halifax/2018/07/17/mini-makeover-on-halifaxs-agricola-street-aims-to-make-life-better-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists.html

North end's Agricola Street to get makeover

THE CHRONICLE HERALD

Published July 16, 2018 - 5:34pm

The North End Business Association (NEBA) and the Halifax Cycling Coalition (HCC) will be co-hosting a stakeholder information session to discuss the Agricola Street Improvement Plan on Tuesday, from 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at The Chain Yard Urban Cidery, 2606 Agricola St.

Businesses, residents, and the general public are invited to come learn about streetscaping improvements, such as curb extensions, tree planting, benches, and more. The business association and the cycling coalition will share plans for the renovation, which will start in spring 2019.

"We are excited that the Agricola Streetscaping project is moving forward as a collaboration between HRM and community stakeholders," Meghan Doucette of The Halifax Cycling Coalition said in a news release. "We look forward to working together to make the street safer and more enjoyable for people biking and walking."

The North End Business Association and the cycling coalition have been collaborating for five years on an improvement plan for Agricola Street. The Halifax Regional Municipality has scheduled Agricola Street to be repaved next year. As part of the project, a select number of curb extensions will be built with the aim to calm traffic and improve the street for all users including pedestrians and cyclists.

"Over the past five years we have seen Agricola Street transform into a destination for commerce, culture, and community life for residents and visitors alike" says Patricia Cuttell, executive director of the business association. "This has largely been due to private investment from small locally owned businesses."

The North End Business Association was established as an official Business Improvement District in 2011, to promote and support commercial development in the north end.

http://thechronicleherald.ca/business/1584407-north-end%E2%80%99s-agricola-street-to-get-makeover

Agricola streetscaping project expected to start in 2019

Stakeholders held a meeting Tuesday morning to discuss the plans that will include curb extensions, tree planting, benches and more

by: Meghan Groff



Agricola Street (Meghan Groff/HalifaxToday.ca)

The north end's Agricola Street will be getting an updated look next year.

Stakeholders held a meeting Tuesday morning to discuss the planned streetscaping project, that will include curb extensions, tree planting, benches and more.

"With the intent of slowing down the traffic, making it more pedestrian-friendly, making it safer for cyclists and adding some more public space and amenities along the street," explained Patricia Cuttell-Busby.

The executive director of North End Business Association told NEWS 95.7's The Sheldon MacLeod Show they've been working with the Halifax Cycling Coalition on the improvement plan for about 5 years.

"There hasn't really been any real public investment in Agricola Street in a long time, yet we've seen over the past 4 or 5 years the Agricola Street neighbourhood completely transformed, mostly through the small locally-owned businesses that have located there and invested in the neighbourhood."

Cuttell-Busby said the two groups collaborated to put together a vision for the makeover, which will be funded through a \$72,000 street recapitalization budget from Halifax Regional Municipality.

She added the changes aren't going to be drastic.

"We're not looking for a major transformation because we already think Agricola has its own unique vibe going on, it's already a special place," she explained.

Work on the improvements is expected to begin next spring.

https://www.halifaxtoday.ca/local-news/agricola-streetscaping-project-expected-to-start-in-2019-988036

Mini-makeover on Halifax's Agricola St. aims to make life better for pedestrians and cyclists By YVETTE D'ENTREMONTStarMetro Halifax Tues., July 17, 2018

HALIFAX—The budget might be small, but those behind the planned mini-makeover of Agricola St. in Halifax's North End plan to get a big bang for their buck.

The Agricola Street Improvement Plan was the topic of discussion Tuesday morning as the North End Business Association and the Halifax Cycling Coalition hosted an information session for Agricola St. businesses, residents and the general public.

People started using the completed stoplet on Spring Garden Rd. this summer. (ZANE WOODFORD / STARMETRO HALIFAX)

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A section of Agricola St. looking towards North St. in Halifax. The Agricola streetscape project is expected to begin in the spring/summer of 2019. (YVETTE D'ENTREMONT/STARMETRO)

They shared details of the Agricola streetscaping project, scheduled to begin in the spring/summer of 2019. Planned improvements for the busy thoroughfare include curb extensions (bump-outs), tree planting, benches and signage.

"We've seen Agricola grow and change so much over the past four years and a lot of that has been driven by small businesses and private investment, so we're very excited to see (Halifax Regional Municipality) coming to the table and working with us to do some street improvements," said Patricia Cuttell, executive director of the North End Business Association.

"These street improvements are not just an aesthetic piece. It's also about pedestrian safety and cycling safety. It's really about, 'How do we calm the traffic on Agricola so that the street is more accessible and safe for all users?"

The project will piggyback on a planned street repaving slated for next spring or summer, pending budget approval.

https://www.thestar.com/halifax/2018/07/17/mini-make over-on-halifaxs-agricola-street-aims-to-make-life-better-for-pedestrians-and-cyclists.html

