

Request for Council's Consideration

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| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Included on Agenda
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Thursday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Added Item
(Submitted to Municipal
Clerk's Office by Noon
Monday) | <input type="checkbox"/> Request from the
Floor |
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Date of Council Meeting: April 28, 2026

Subject: Prioritizing the Maintenance of Active Transportation Routes During Building Construction

Motion for Council to Consider:

THAT Halifax Regional Council Direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report regarding:

- a) policy that maintains the municipal right-of-way (ROW) during building construction projects for pedestrians and/or people cycling/rolling/wheeling regardless of whether the sidewalk or bike lane on the opposite side of the roadway is open or not.
- b) developing or refining HRM policy and/or fee structure to deter building construction project footprints from encroachment into the municipal active transportation (AT) ROW
- c) developing or refining HRM policy and/or fee structure to encourage developers to re-open the municipal AT ROW as soon as possible during building construction projects when closing the AT ROW is necessary for a time
- d) developing or refining HRM policy that prioritizes temporary protected pathways for pedestrians and/or people cycling/rolling/wheeling in the vehicular ROW over parking spaces and unnecessarily wide vehicle travel lanes during building construction projects

Reason: During discussion of Item 15.1.4 "Proposed Amendments to Administrative Order 2018-005-ADM, Respecting Construction Site Management - Temporary Pedestrian Paths Through Work Sites" at the 14 April 2026 Regional Council meeting, the practice of allowing sidewalks to be closed for building construction projects if a sidewalk on the opposite side of the roadway is open was discussed.

Sidewalk closures are an inconvenience, an accessibility issue and a public safety issue. Our road safety statistics for vulnerable road users indicate that crossing a roadway in HRM involves risk and should be undertaken only when necessary.

HRM should ensure that residents who are walking/rolling/wheeling to their destination have the most direct routes possible to support their safety and to help achieve the strategic mobility goals of the municipality.

This motion aligns with Action 7 (new) in the IMP Action update.

Outcome Sought: staff report with recommended policy changes to decrease the number and frequency of sidewalk and bikeway closures in HRM due to building construction projects

Councillor Laura White

District 7