



WEST HANTS REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY REPORT

Information ☐	Recommendation ☐	Decision Request ☒	Councillor Activity ☐
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To: Mayor Zebian and Members of Council

Submitted by: Debbie Francis, Deputy Mayor/Councillor District 5

Date: July 14, 2026

Subject: Blue Route Sweeping

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Nova Scotia Municipal Government Act (MGA)

Section 9A: The purposes of a municipality are to (a) provide good government; (b) provide services, facilities and other things that, in the opinion of the council, are necessary or desirable for all or part of the municipality; and (c) develop and maintain safe and viable communities.

Nova Scotia's [Accessibility Act](#) and the [Built Environment Accessibility Standard](#) mandate that municipalities must identify, remove, and prevent physical barriers in public spaces, outdoor trails, and active transportation networks.

RECOMMENDATION or DECISION REQUEST

Committee of the Whole Recommends...

Council direct staff to write a letter to advocate to have the Blue Route bicycle lane on Highway 1 from Windsor to St. Croix and from Falmouth to Hantsport cleaned of the gravel that has been accumulating.

BACKGROUND

Property ☒	Public Opinion ☒	Environment ☒	Social ☒	Economic ☐	Councillor Activity ☐
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A resident, who is both an avid road cyclist and runner, has expressed appreciation for the paved shoulder on Highway 1 between Windsor and St. Croix, noting that it significantly improves safety along this section of highway, particularly given the volume of daily truck traffic.

The resident wrote to our MLA twice starting in early spring, and the request was forwarded to the Provincial DOT, never had a response.

Our staff have also heard from residents about the safety risks present. Staff have reached out to the NS Department of Public Works Area Supervisor to inquire about the current maintenance budget/plans for maintenance to learn that apart from general mowing and general maintenance, there is no plan for sweeping. Staff also offer our use of equipment to be hired out, but that too was denied.

DISCUSSION

Blue Route projects, the provincial cycling network led by Bicycle Nova Scotia are closely integrated with municipal Active Transportation (AT) plans. These require considerations for gradual grades and safe, barrier-free passage to accommodate e-bikes and diverse mobility aids.

As this is a Provincial highway and our residents are using it for Active Transportation initiative as intended, we should advocate on our resident's behalf to have this maintained by our Provincial counterparts.

My resident did inform me the MLA asked her to have me reach out to her, and I did. Currently our MLA is out of Province. MLA Sheehy-Richard did communicate that the Provincial Government has purchased equipment for mowing and other attachments. Upon her return she will speak with the area Manager.

However, I thought we should keep this conversation going and with COTW next Tuesday before she arrives back. I did not want to miss having this on the agenda as it would be another 2 months before I could bring it forward.

NEXT STEPS

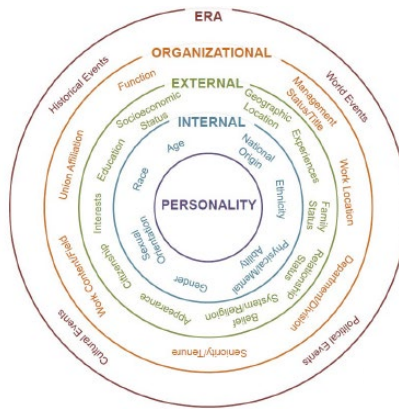
To be determined by Council. If the request is supported, staff will

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ACCESSIBILITY CONSIDERATIONS

Maintaining bicycle infrastructure in a safe and usable condition supports equitable access to transportation for residents who cycle for recreation, commuting, or economic reasons. Removing accumulated gravel from the Blue Route bicycle lanes helps improve accessibility and safety for cyclists of varying ages, abilities, and income levels, including individuals who may rely on cycling as an affordable mode of transportation. The proposed advocacy effort promotes inclusive access to active transportation infrastructure throughout the community.



ALTERNATIVES

- Council can choose to await the return of MLA Sheehy-Richard to allow her time to explore appropriate solutions.
- Council refers the matter to staff for review and a report on potential options, including maintenance responsibilities and advocacy opportunities.

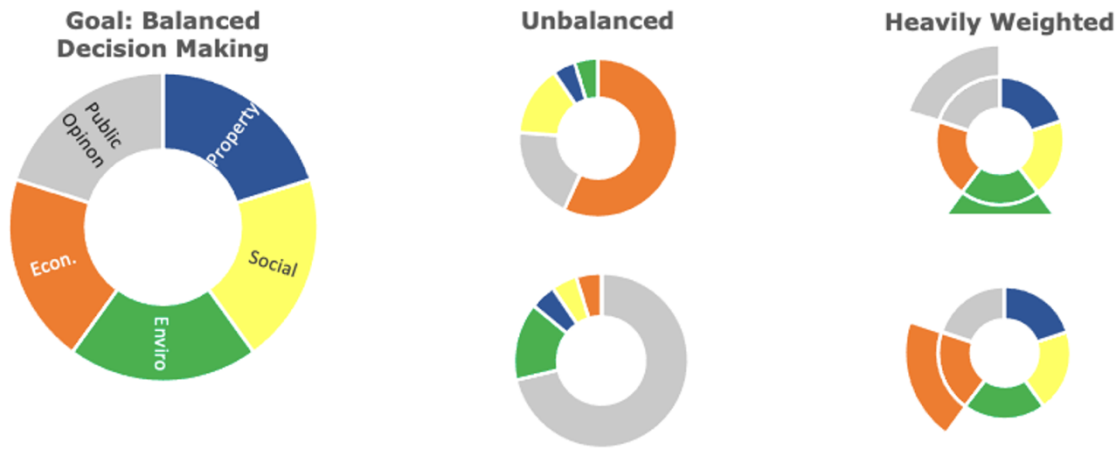
ATTACHMENTS

None

CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER REVIEW

I support any advocacy for improved safety and maintenance associated with bike lanes and Active Transportation initiatives.

Council has been provided with a reference taken from the Meeting and Committee Procedural Policy , Appendix C “Decision Making by Council and Committee of the Whole” as a reminder of the principles highlighted for good decision making.



Report Prepared by: _____

Debbie Francis, Deputy Mayor/Councillor District 5

Report Reviewed by: _____

Kathy Johnston-Isenor, Manager of Recreation & Community Engagement and Deanna Snair,
Municipal Clerk

Report Reviewed by: _____

Mark Phillips, Chief Administrative Officer