MOBILIZING TOGETHER: THE CASE FOR AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE IN FREDERICTON



The problem

Despite municipal efforts to broadly engage diverse mobility types, Fredericton's active commuters - cyclists in particular - are poorly represented in current mobility planning design and objectives. As a result, they face disconnected routes, limited winter maintenance, and urban design that only marginally supports safe and efficient bike commuting, even in new developments.

*In our April 2025 survey, only **13**% of bike commuters said Fredericton's design supports safe biking "a lot."* ***Only a small fraction feel the city's layout makes commuting by bike truly convenient and efficient.***

The opportunity

Local commuters are ready to contribute insight, energy, and lived experience to help build a city that is more connected, healthy, and resilient. **Prioritizing Active Transportation (AT) supports Fredericktonians** in a myriad of important ways, including affordability, mental and physical health, social equity, environmental cleanliness and overall mobility efficiency.

Through structured collaboration with stakeholders who are keen to help, the City of Fredericton has the opportunity to fulfill key commitments outlined in its Municipal Plan — especially those in Section 3.9: Mobility and Transportation. That section outlines a vision for:

* A connected, multi-modal transportation system
* Safer infrastructure for people of all ages and abilities
* Public engagement to shape transportation investment

Our proposal

We propose that the City of Fredericton establish an **Active Transportation Advisory Committee** by the end of 2026. The committee's mandate would be to:

- Advise the Fredericton Mobility Committee on all matters relating to active transportation
- Provide recommendations on:
  - Infrastructure priorities
  - Education and promotional campaigns
  - Policy development
  - Public engagement and awareness initiatives
- Represent the perspectives of diverse active transportation users, including cyclists, pedestrians, and people with mobility aids

Proof of value

Municipal AT advisory bodies and/or dedicated staff are becoming best practices worldwide, with the goal of creating safer, more sustainable, and accessible communities. While dedicated AT staff are optimal, advisory bodies facilitate active commuter representation using minimal municipal resources. The Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) has had an ATAC for over 15 years. During a recent HRM review and subsequent removal of most municipal committees, **staff recommended that the ATAC remain because of its continued impact and high relevance.**

According to HRM's current Manager of Active Transportation Planning, the ATAC is "especially beneficial in places where AT is less entrenched and there is a desire to change that" as it can help "elevate the importance of AT and to connect municipal staff with external supporters, experts and advocates." He and other members of HRM's ATAC cite the **following benefits to planning staff**:

- Formal monthly opportunity to share initiatives and seek feedback from citizens, experts and advocates on what is important to them
- Can be part of the formal engagement process for planning projects
  - Leverages committee members' networks when seeking public engagement
- Can be used to develop external advisory subcommittees for specific projects and plans
- "Overall, it is a helpful body for enabling dialogue between staff, citizens and elected officials on a complicated sector"

Fredericton citizens echo the perceived value of this initiative. *In a survey of 60 cycling commuters in Fredericton* , ***an overwhelming majority responded that an Active Transportation Advisory committee would be either valuable or essential.*** This highlights a clear desire for structured, ongoing dialogue between residents and municipal leadership.

Let's work together

This is a community-led initiative grounded in real data, real voices, and a collaborative spirit. By supporting the creation of an Active Transportation Advisory Committee, we can lay the foundation for a more inclusive, accessible, and healthy transportation future.

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