



WHAT WE HEARD:

COMMUNITY PERSPECTIVES ON THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TRAIL PROJECT

March 26th, 2025

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INTRODUCTION

On March 25, 2025, the Town of Antigonish held a community meeting to update the public on the current plans for the Active Transportation Trail Project, answer questions, and gather feedback from residents. To ensure broad participation, a mailout was sent to all town residents inviting them to attend and share their input (see Image 1).

At the meeting, CAO Randy Delorey delivered a presentation covering the funding behind the project, the new council's decision to proceed with it alongside the Bay Street project, and the factors that led to adjustments in the initial plans. A question-and-answer session followed that allowed residents to voice their concerns and seek clarification.

To support this meeting and make participation more accessible, the Town conducted a community survey from March 6–26, 2025, to gather insights on trail usage, accessibility, and potential improvements. It was promoted through a mailout, the Town's official Twitter (X) and Facebook pages, and a news release on its website. Residents could complete the survey online or in person at the meeting.

This report summarizes all feedback received during the town hall meeting and key findings from the survey. The next section provides a detailed recap of the question-and-answer session, outlining each question or statement, its meaning and intent, and a response if applicable.

Image 1 - Town of Antigonish Community Meeting Mailout

**THE TOWN OF
ANTIGONISH**

Community Meeting & Update: Active Transportation Trail

Join us for a community meeting to learn about the Town's Active Transportation Trail.

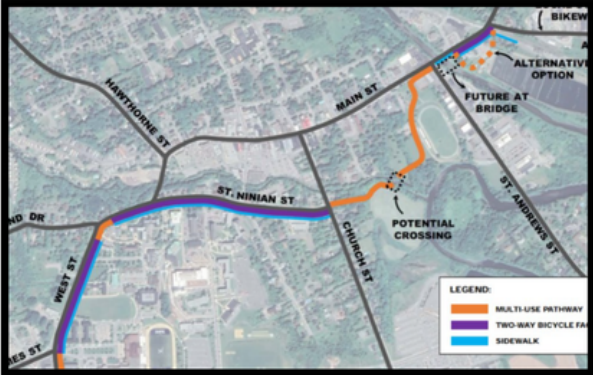
There will be a presentation to review the plans, followed by a question and answer session.

Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 pm

Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School
Eleanor Mutimer Theatre, 105 Braemore Ave

Share your feedback on the Active Transportation Trail! Fill out the survey at the link below.

<https://townofantigonish.ca/active-transportation-trail.html>



COMMUNITY MEETING Q&A SESSION RECAP

Is Bay Street not funded by ICIP?

- The Bay Street project is not funded through the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The next phase of the Active Transportation Trail was selected due to the convenience of being by the Bay Street Project, but ICIP will be strictly used for the Active Transportation Trail.

Is the only alternative to not proceed with Active Transportation at all?

- This was a concern raised about what choices the Town presented to council for proceeding with the project, and the costs associated with abandoning Active Transportation (AT) improvements entirely. In response, the concept of integrating Bay Street into the plan was offered as an alternative to either staying the course or walking away. The idea of the new plan is to combine the AT elements with the new infrastructure to make extended progress to Town infrastructure.

Why are sections B & C not getting completed in 2025–2026?

- Residents questioned why St. Ninian and Columbus projects could not both proceed during the 2025–2026 period. It was explained that these sections are mutually exclusive, and that council made a decision to prioritize one section at a time. As a result, the focus shifted to Main Street connecting to the Bay Street project initially, with future steps to be determined afterward.

What happens to project funding if the council decides not to walk away?

- If the town decides not to proceed with an approved infrastructure project, there's a risk of financial repercussions. Both the provincial and federal governments have the right to

invoke clauses that allow them to reclaim funds that were already spent or allocated. This means that canceling a project after partial investment could result in the municipality being asked to repay some or all of the money, which creates significant financial risk.

Will there be any opportunity for minor design input?

- A few individuals expressed strong interest in contributing small suggestions to the design of the trail. Key concerns included the need for better signage, particularly in shared-use zones where it can be unclear where bicycles and pedestrians are meant to go. It also was highlighted that there were safety concerns related to drainage infrastructure. The main message here being that even small details matter and should not be overlooked in broader planning.

Why not complete section B & C for another two years?

- The Columbus Field portion was always scheduled for the 2026–2027 timeframe, so that section was already set aside. The decision to delay St. Ninian Street was made by the council, with a strategy to focus on section D, Main Street to Bay Street first. This approach allows for more manageable planning, funding, and public engagement. After completing Main Street to Bay Street, council will reassess how best to proceed with the remaining segments.

Is this really the best route for town-wide connectivity?

- Some community members expressed concerns that the currently proposed route may not offer the best connectivity for citizens. Areas like Xavier Drive were mentioned as safer and more practical for children commuting. Attendees questioned whether other routes had been explored and whether there were alternative funding streams available. While changes could theoretically be made, any alterations would require renewed interest and action from council, as well as approval from funding

partners, due to the project already having been approved in 2021.

Encouragement for future AT with a spine-to-branches model.

- The idea of a central “spine” route that connects outwards to other parts of the community was very well received. This type of network ensures broader accessibility across neighborhoods and helps create long-term infrastructure that supports biking and walking. Community members expressed excitement that such a structure is being considered and appreciated that efforts are being made to promote safe active transportation across the town.

Connection to Guelphs Royal Recreation Trail.

- One participant brought up how every suburb in Guelph is connected by Royal Recreation Trails and said they liked the idea of a trail that branches out from a main route. They asked if Bay Street was part of the AT trail, to which the answer was no, it’s not officially part of the spine.

Why wasn’t St. Ninian pursued this year if last year’s tender was \$80,000 under budget?

- A side note from Kate clarified that no second tender came in for this year. It was noted that the town paid nothing (\$0) last year, raising the question of why council didn’t take advantage of favorable financial conditions to begin work on St. Ninian. The reasoning was that council chose option B: to prioritize section D this year due to uncertainty, especially regarding cost estimates from West Street. This cautious approach allowed the council to avoid proceeding without complete financial clarity.

Why were there only 3 options presented to the council? How were they chosen?

- Although council has been facing criticism for the choice to work on Section D, it's argued that the staff didn't provide strong

options to begin with. A warning was shared by a participant that if council starts on East Main and then reverses course, it could ultimately cost more than simply finishing the project as planned. There was also a broader health-related argument: investments in walkability lead to long-term savings in healthcare costs.

Could the field-accessible parts be prioritized first?

- There was a suggestion to focus first on the trail portions that run through open fields, as these are already somewhat accessible and usable for walking and biking. Since residents can already walk or ride on the road-adjacent parts, this approach could deliver quicker wins and public access while other segments are being finalized.

Concerns about flood mitigation near Court Street.

- One technical question was raised about whether flood mitigation efforts, specifically raised land, could inadvertently cause water to flow down toward Court Street. This issue was taken seriously and noted for engineering review to ensure that infrastructure improvements don't create new problems elsewhere in the community.

Caution against halting progress due to flooding.

- One participant acknowledged that some areas are prone to flooding but argued that the solution shouldn't be to stop development. Instead, they emphasized that small interruptions (like closing trails for a brief timeframe) are manageable and should not be a reason to delay or walk away from the project entirely

Is there county funding available?

- One participant asked if the county could contribute financially. It was clarified that the county does fund projects, but only within its own jurisdiction. While county residents are welcome to express opinions, the final decisions rest with the town council. A

story was shared about a family member who uses a walker and doesn't feel safe walking in the area due to a lack of infrastructure and safe parking access, further reinforcing the importance of accessible AT.

How does Bethany Gardens connect to the AT network?

- Bethany Gardens will be connected via Bay Street, which will receive AT upgrades to link the sidewalk near the hospital to Bethany. A crosswalk is planned at the bottom of the hill to allow people to safely cross the highway. This connection is particularly relevant for seniors and hospital visitors, ensuring inclusivity and safety for vulnerable populations.

Concerns over delaying section B & C of the trail.

- A key concern was that delaying portion B & C of the trail may increase costs later on, questioning when council will officially commit to a capital budget, and it was answered that this should happen in months to come during upcoming budget meetings. Questions also came up about public access to survey data. Staff confirmed that survey data is available to the public via FOIPOP requests and that transparency has and will continue to be maintained.

Could two sections be done in the same year?

- It was asked whether it's possible to do two AT sections simultaneously. This would depend on the tendering process and council's willingness to allocate the necessary funds. Concerns were also raised about whether the town has the resources to maintain the trail system over time. It's ultimately up to the council to determine how funds are allocated.

What's the plan for St. Ninian? Will it remove parking?

- The proposed plan for St. Ninian is similar to that of West Street: narrowing the road slightly and replacing the existing sidewalk with AT infrastructure. This change will remove 8 parking spots.

with AT infrastructure. This change will remove 8 parking spots.

Why wait? Will delaying this help?

- One participant stressed the urgency of moving forward, noting that “inactivity is death.” The concern was that waiting would only lead to increased costs and lost momentum. As construction prices rise, further delays could reduce the town’s ability to complete future projects or require scaling back the scope of work. The sentiment reflected a broader worry that hesitation now would cost more financially and socially down the line.

Does our decision affect the county’s AT portion?

- It was clarified that the county’s Active Transportation plans are managed independently. The county’s portions of the trail network are not affected by decisions made by the town. Although coordination is beneficial, their funding and planning processes are handled separately, so town delays or changes don’t impact the county’s ability to move forward with its own infrastructure work.

What about lighting and safety, and is there a plan to expand AT routes?

- Concerns about lighting and overall safety were brought up, particularly in relation to usage and visibility. The RCMP may be involved in advising on these issues. There is no formal plan to branch off from the current trail project, the current focus remains on delivering the main spine of the trail.

Is the bridge removable?

- It was confirmed that the bridge in question is not removable. A potential issue was raised regarding ice buildup, which could move or damage the bridge structure and lead to complications. This concern was flagged for engineers to revisit in the design or assessment phase to ensure that long-term durability and safety are maintained under seasonal stress conditions

SURVEY RESPONSES OVERVIEW

Total Responses

667



Average Time to Complete

4 m 49s



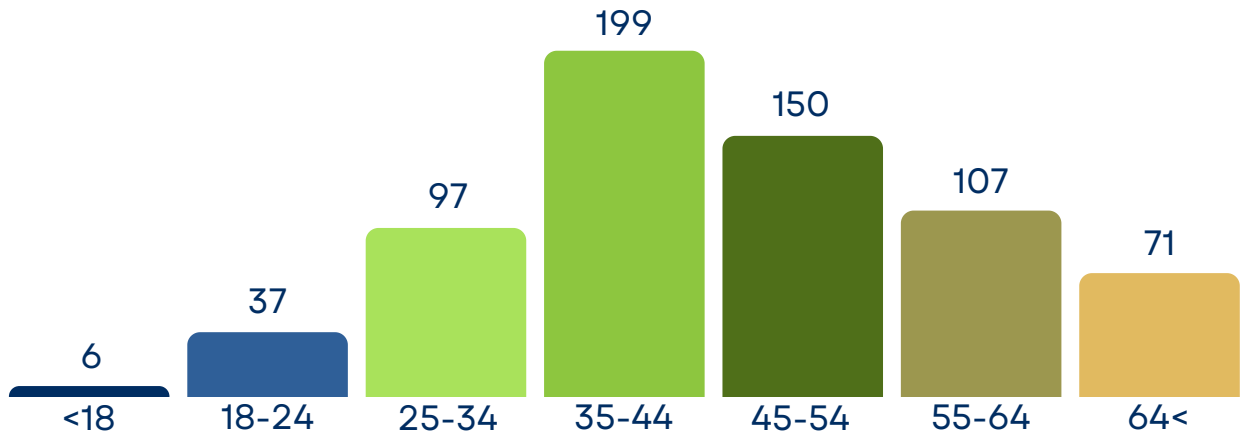
Duration

20 Days

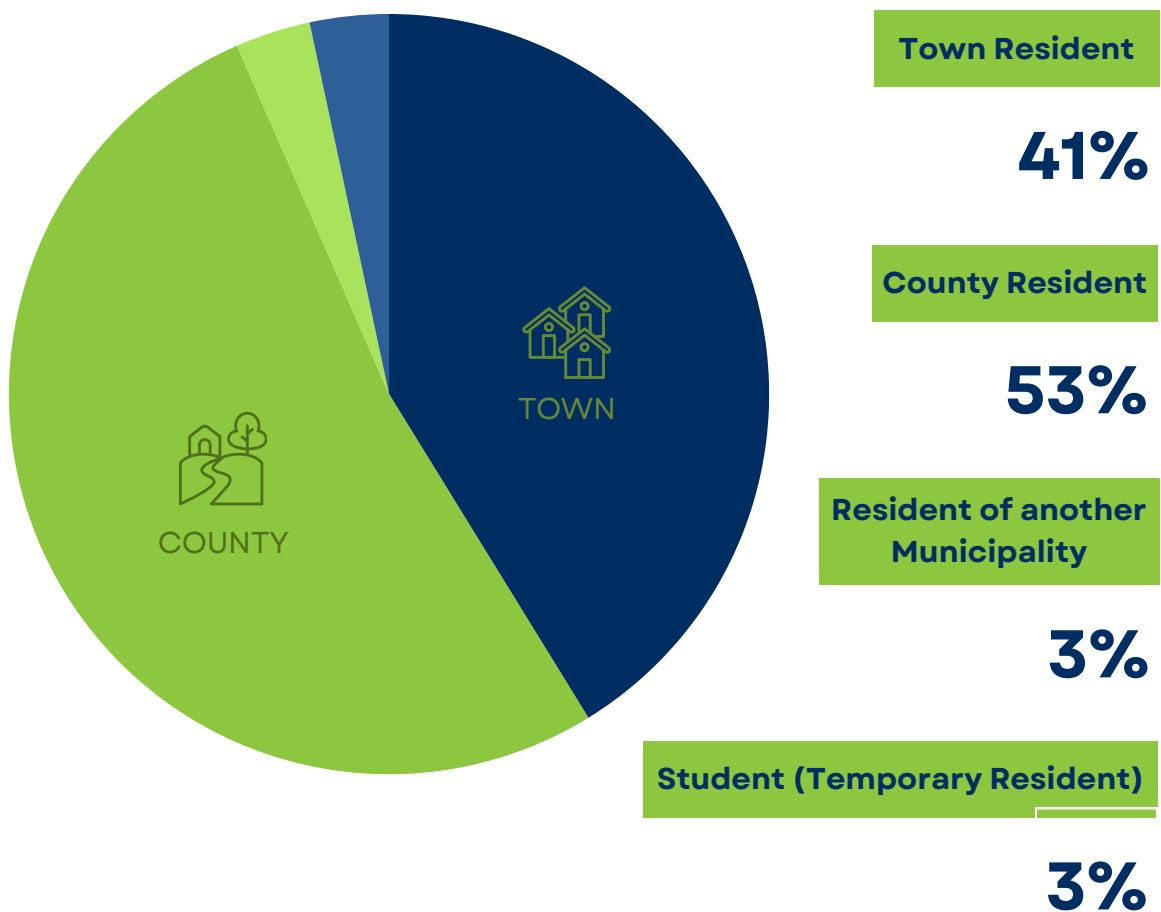


SURVEY RESPONDENT DEMOGRAPHICS

Age Group

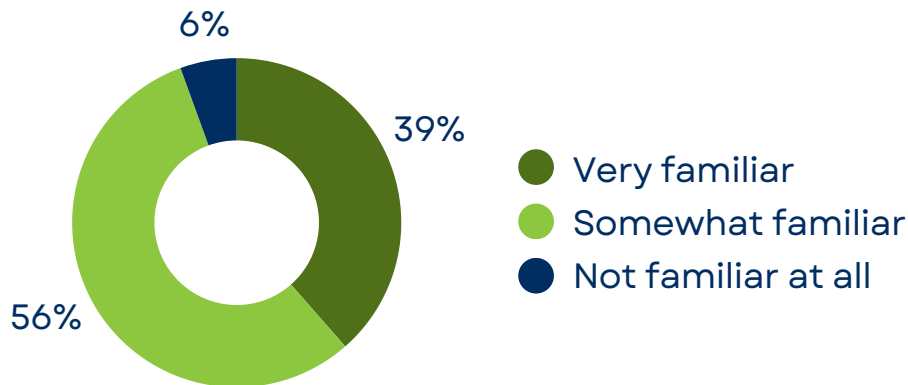


Residency Status



QUESTION RESPONSES

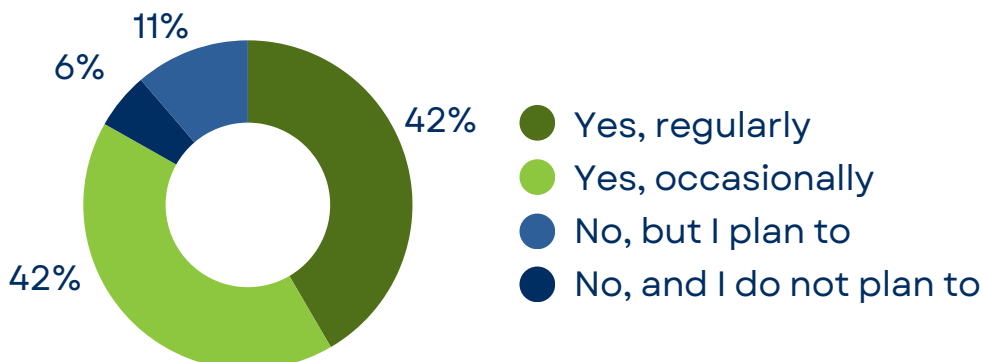
Q1: How familiar are you with the Town's Active Transportation Project?



Q2: Have you visited the Town's website for information about the Active Transportation Project?

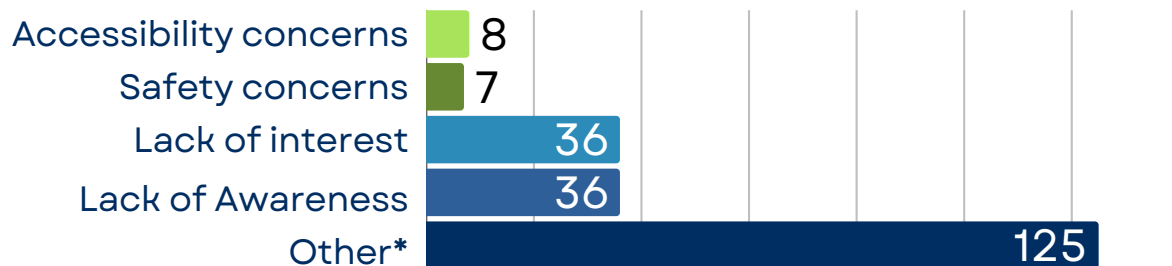


Q3: Have you used the completed section(s) of the Active Transportation Trail?

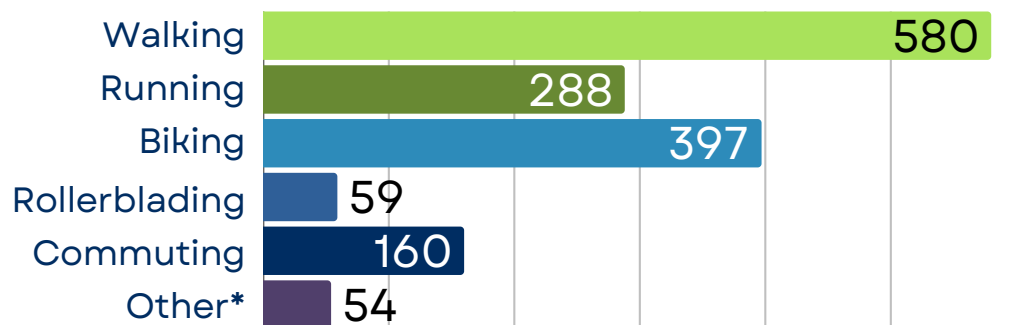


QUESTION RESPONSES

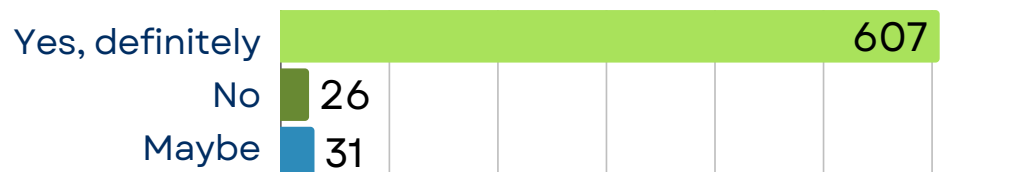
Q4: If you have not used the Active Transportation Trail, what are the main reasons? (Select all that apply)



Q5: What types of activities do you use (or would use) the Active Transportation Trail for? (Select all that apply)



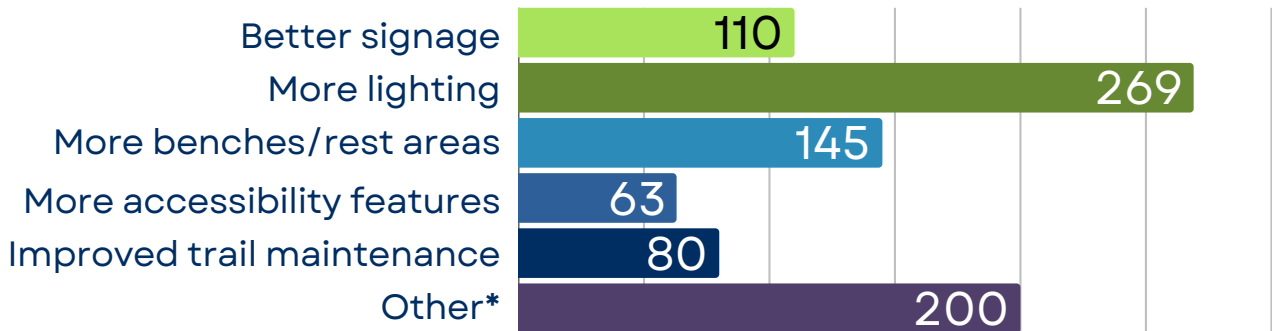
Q6: Would you consider using the Active Transportation Trail in the future?



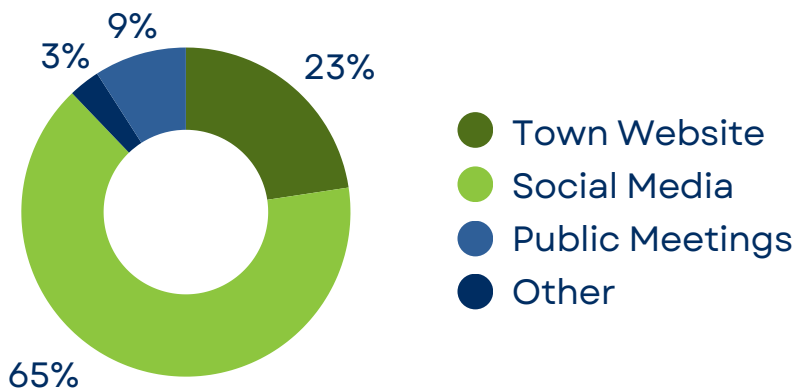
*Reference **Appendix A** for a complete list of 'Other' open-ended verbatim comments.

QUESTION RESPONSES

Q7: What improvements or additions would encourage you to use the Active Transportation Trail more?



Q8: How do you prefer to receive updates about the Active Transportation Project?



*Reference **Appendix A** for a complete list of 'Other' open-ended verbatim comments.

Open-Ended Questions

Q9: Do you have any concerns regarding the Active Transportation Project?

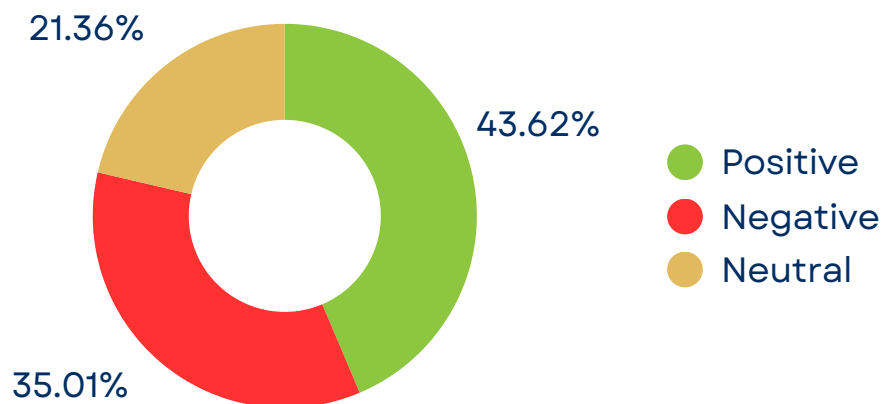
Q10: Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Active Transportation Trail?

Reference **Appendix A** for a complete list of Q9 and Q10 responses.

SENTIMENTAL ANALYSIS

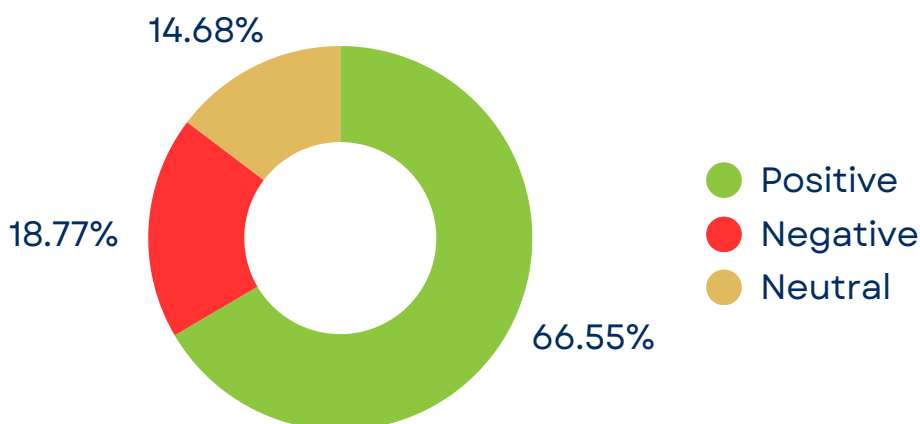
Below is a summary of the sentiment analysis performed on the two open-ended survey responses.

Q8: Do you have any concerns regarding the Active Transportation Project?



These percentages were derived from a total of **342** open-ended responses.

Q10: Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Active Transportation Trail?



These percentages were derived from a total of **294** open-ended responses.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Below is a summary of the thematic analysis of the open-ended responses in the survey.

Theme 1: Improvements and Additions

A large number of respondents provided suggestions on how to make the Active Transportation Trail more attractive and user-friendly. Many comments focused on **the need for better connectivity, additional features, and extended coverage**. For example, one respondent wrote, “Location - I ride in from Clydesdale, so Hawthorne street?”. Other suggestions included **adding lighting, natural elements like trees and shrubs, and ensuring that the trail connects key community areas**. One participant offered a broader perspective: “I think the painted bikes on the trail make people think it’s only for biking. It would be nice to have signage that says it’s a multi-use path!”.

Theme 2: Concerns about the Project

Some participants expressed **worry about the project's continuity and long-term viability**. A clear example of these concerns is captured in the verbatim comment, “I am concerned it will be stopped!” which points to uncertainty about future support or completion. In addition, several responses **raised issues about project planning and funding**, asking questions like, “If the project is not completed, what happens with the funds? IS the town on the hook for the current funds spent?” These comments suggest that while there is general support for the trail, there remains some skepticism regarding its future development and financial management.

THEMATIC ANALYSIS

Theme 3: Overall Impressions and Positive Feedback

Many comments reflected **overall approval of the project**, indicating that the trail is seen as a valuable community asset. For instance, one respondent said, “I think it is a great addition to Antigonish! ...” while another noted, “I believe the trail is an excellent addition to our town. I am thrilled to see the progress that has been made so far.” In these responses, the emphasis is on the **potential for the trail to improve active transportation, promote community health, and boost tourism**. These positive remarks are balanced by practical suggestions, indicating that while the project is well-received, there is room for improvement.

Conclusion

The thematic analysis reveals that the survey participants **largely support the Active Transportation Trail**, viewing it as an important community enhancement. However, there are **clear suggestions for improvements**, particularly regarding connectivity, accessibility, and communication about the project’s progress and funding. **Concerns about the project's sustainability and completion** also emerged, pointing to the need for clear future planning. Overall, the feedback highlights a community that is engaged and hopeful about the benefits of a well-developed active transportation network.

APPENDIX A: OPEN-ENDED RESPONSES

A complete list of the feedback received on open-ended responses.

Q4: If you have not used the Active Transportation Trail, what are the main reasons? ('Other' responses)

- It's not really part of my commute
- It is irrelevant. The trail is in the exact same location as already constructed sidewalks. The path along the old highway is irrelevant, liquor lane is a much more utilized route.
- I live in the county and don't go in town on a daily basis. Otherwise, I'd use it daily.
- Live in the county
- Lack of lighting at night
- Connecting to it on my bike or with kids biking
- I live in county and don't have a bike rack on my vehicle. Also parking options at either end of trail
- I haven't used some parts as well headed into winter.
- I live outside of town so would have to drive back into town after work with family to use;
- Hard pavement for walking and salt use during the winter. I walk my dog and it's not good for their feet. Too hot in the summer and salt use in the winter
- Time to use any recreational facilities
- It is currently relatively short, and quite exposed next to the old highway.
- It's a waste of my taxes. Think about the upkeep
- My bicycle was unavailable
- Waiting for the warmer weather
- People who don't use the trail are inactive, older individuals, who like to complain - get outside and get moving
- Would love to access it from Columbus field
- Anyone not using the trail does not view active living as an important part of their daily life
- Weather

- They don't connect to Hwy 337 and I am not a fan of cycling through town without a group
- My recent illness. Hope to get back.
- Broken foot
- Do not like the concept
- medically unable at the time
- does not connect to the landing yet - that area needs to be developed
- Hectic work schedule
- I haven't used the trail often because the current sections are short and not connected
- Walked once during winter. Church Street across from mall incomplete--too dangerous to walk on road (inconvenient to cross roads back and forth). No lighting at nighttime after work
- It's too far from my home; wish there was more
- Doesn't extend far enough out number 7
- I use this trail regularly because it improves safety and accessibility for running and for walking with my infant in a stroller
- So far, it's not in a part of town that is convenient or of interest to me. That being said, I am someone who loves to walk, jog and bike and am generally supportive of any initiative that will increase opportunity and safety around these activities
- It does not connect to the rest of town - only to the campus. Most in community would need to drive to it to use it.
- It's not on my usual route (highway) but I certainly am a huge fan of this kind of infrastructure and I would plan to bike on the new route. I gave up biking a few years ago due to safety concerns (cars), but would LOVE to see more trails around town. One on Hawthorne would be AMAZING!
- mostly the winter environment. I expect i'll use it much more as the weather is better - i'm a walker
- Not long enough and is outside my usage needs related to residence
- Lack of time

- The travel to the finished section can be dangerous with all the traffic.
- Too busy
- Inability to get there when I was free due to lack of transit
- Waste of money. I have seen a few people using it on Hwy 4 since it opened
- I live out of town and cycle along the road
- We live out of town, but I've still used the corridor
- Connecting to hospital
- Use when visiting the town
- Does not connect with my home area
- Live outside the Town
- I do not presently lived in town, though I have in the past, and when I have lived in town I have made use of local trails.
- Don't usually go walking that direction
- It does not connect between locations I go to
- Would be nice to be able to travel across the entire town.
- I don't currently live in Antigonish
- I live in BC
- It's just been too cold to get out with a baby!
- Live outside of town and usually use trails closer to home. However, I love the Landing and do walk there and at Bethany. I might enjoy being able to extend these walks. Also I have been almost hit a few times by bicycles on the sidewalk on Main Street by bicycles. A trail through town for bikes might reduce this concern.
- Use the Landing trail and Mt Cameron loop mostly
- Not really a complete thing. Have technically walked it, but could've used sidewalk.
- I feel like it's a waste of money and space
- Lack of time
- Live out of town and haven't had the need yet.
- I live in the county and don't drive to town to exercise.
- not very attractive - not practical at all. Suggest collecting some stats on the volume of usage of the existing Trail.

- alternatives are available
- Have not yet needed to
- We live on Hawthorne, AT trail is too far from where we walk, especially when we are out with kids.
- I live in the county and have not needed to yet however I'm looking forward to using it this spring through fall during breaks from work.
- Haven't used it yet but really looking forward to using it when the whole trail is complete!
- Money should be spent where it is needed most, health care for example
- I travel for work. Not home much
- Why would I use it? Lots of opportunity to walk/run or bike already
- live outside of town
- It would be nice if there were trees separating it from the busy road
- Parking
- It doesn't go all the way where we would want to go - Columbus field
- It is not long enough at this time and not connected to any other trails/paths where I walk/run
- winter icy conditions
- the finished part is not appealing, going alongside a bare exposed highway.
- Have used them.
- I live outside of town so travel within the town in my vehicle. I get my exercise in the country.
- I use the trail regularly! Greatly appreciate having it in our town. I live in the County but walk on the trail regularly after work.
- I have used. It will be really nice when the entire trail is completed so that you can use it through a longer section of town.
- Mount Cameron is cut off
- Live in the county
- I don't walk in Antigonish. If I cycle, I use the roads. Active transportation routes slow down road cyclists and are less safe for pedestrians.

- Add more native plants and trees between roadway and walkway
- County activities are closer
- Does not easily link to other sections of trail; would like a trail not immediately adjacent to track
- I live in town and walk most places. I would like to see more bike paths in town, optimally away from highways and car traffic, and avoiding hills.
- Existing route does not overlap with where I currently walk, but the new extension certainly would!
- lack of interest is only due to winter conditions
- I've used the trail a lot
- I live in the county
- Would prefer a loop, not possible without completion and connecting to Landing and Bethany trails
- do not like the feel or look of it walking along side a busy street, to open
- Time constraints
- Warm weather! We will security our family
- Lack of time...
- Lack of time during daylight hours and lack of lighting on path
- Would use more often if had more of a natural trail vibe
- Don't live in town
- Lack of downtime to take advantage of it

Q5: What types of activities do you use (or would use) the Active Transportation Trail for? ('Other' responses)

- unsure
- not using
- Wheelchairs rolling
- None, as per my previous comment
- Scooter, skateboard
- Family walks with bikes
- Stroller running and walking. It's fantastic for this. I drive from St Joseph's to use it. The stroller can be used all winter long.
- Stroller walks with young children

- stroller walking, wheelchair accessibility
- Wheelchair accessibility, stroller walking
- Children playing Ex. scooter, strollers etc.
- Wheelchair accessibility, stroller walking, dog walking
- Scooting with my kids
- Childcare commute
- I would not use it
- Childcare commute
- Connect to the rest of town - only to the campus. Most of the community would need to drive to use it
- Longboarding
- Dog walking
- Rolling ! I'm in a wheelchair and that should be a choice here. Rolling safely for fresh air
- None. Retired senior
- wheeling in my wheelchair while in town
- Dog walking
- dog walking
- Shopping: Teddie & Sons, Sobeys
- Commuting to daycare
- the AT trail doesn't improve our commute to the university and is too far to get there for biking/walking. We rather use our cars to go to the landing trail or Keppoch. We'd love to be able to go biking/walking without having to use a car, but the AT trail doesn't help us
- dog walking
- Pushing Grandchildren in Stroller
- Walking dog
- Taking my children for bike rides and walks
- dog walks
- Rollerskiing, strolling (with baby stroller)
- stroller walking Grandkids
- For my toddler to practice their biking skills
- Take the kids on there

Q7: What improvements or additions would encourage you to use the Active Transportation Trail more? ('Other' responses)

- Location - I ride in from Clydesdale, so Hawthorne street?
- Currently for activities like biking it the trail ends in awkward places such as highways, forcing us to merge into road traffic. This is something holding me back from using it for biking
- The lighting along the old highway route is non existent. St least liquor lane is lit at night
- Extend it further
- Winter snow management
- It's well maintained now
- More public education of cyclists rights and share the road rules for drivers
- waste of money
- no more
- Improved on/off safety
- Getting on and off by bike
- Have the full trail through town completed. Add additional trail down full length of Hawthorne that connects to it. If any intention of putting trail down by Wheel you will need to improve visibility from end of 325 Main Street and town sign. Very dangerous if you don't
- There is too much salt on the path, after using the trail I often find my shoes or bike coated in white from the road salt
- Proper bike signage for crossing roundabouts
- Better methods of getting onto it – the entrance by the Dairy Queen is very tricky if you're coming from Church St. Ext.
- The access point by Dairy Queen is tricky. It requires a double cross when coming from StFX/Liquor Lane, and the steepness of the slope to enter the AT path can make it very slick when it's icy, especially without lighting at that end.;Increased accessibility features
- Nothing really, not useful for dog walking
- Have it extended throughout the Town, just not end at StFX
- Lighting along the highway section would be amazing!

- Additions are great, more like these please
- More of the route going through town
- Lengthen it and have it go through some less exposed areas
- More connections
- Make it connect further
- Make it longer
- NA
- Finish it
- Connection to the Mall/Sobeys and Hwy. 4 Cycleway near Church Street
- It would be ideal if the trail could continue past the hospital out Hwy 337 until the 2nd entrance to the Landing. Currently the minimal sidewalk here on Bay street is not even wide enough for a stroller or wheelchair because of the power lines in the middle of the sidewalk, and then when the sidewalk ends, there is no safe/accessible route past the hospital, and past Mount Cameron. This area is heavily used for active transportation and physical activity, and there are always people walking/running along the sketchy shoulder. This would also provide a nice loop to connect with the landing, to encourage people to be active for further distances. As an avid runner, walker, biker and commuter - it would be ideal if the proposed extension could be even further
- Having it extended to the Landing
- It's simply not long enough and doesn't connect to my area. To use it I would have to cycle through congested traffic
- More lighting; more trail, connect the schools and hospital!!!
- Not so fancy
- Wouldn't affect my usage but placing waste bins along trail would be a good idea. Doggy bags dispensers like at Columbus field also good idea
- more continuous route
- Complete it! I would use it all the time if it was run through to the east end of town
- More of it: Projects B-D look amazing
- Patrolling by RCMP
- adequate paths to better areas, not just a glorified sidewalk next to a highway

- More connections to other parts of town
- Extending the trail to the hospital/Bethany
- Essential that a continuation of the trail from Church Street to Highway be completed
- Continue the expansion
- If there was more of it, like up Hawthorne
- If it led somewhere useful
- Washrooms!
- Make it as long as possible
- Extending
- More lighting specifically on the section of the trail that runs along the old highway
- No recommendations -- the trail is excellent
- Expansion - especially looking at other areas of town that would benefit from a similar project
- Longer trail
- Plan the trail through different parts of town and not down by the campus
- I haven't used it yet so can't comment
- Increased accessibility features; we really need to up the accessibility ...and have earnest talk with folks from the people with disabilities community. I wonder about how well the shared space will be between bikes and walkers? hoping bikers will realize they should use a bell or something to signal to a walker that they are passing....perhaps this has been addressed. I know in the Keppoch the mountain bikers tend to be younger and maybe not aware that some walkers need a bit of time to step aside...so the walkers do need a warning
- None
- Increasing the streets covered
- Less litter; Antigonish has a disgusting litter culture (and it is not only students!)
- More time

- I looked at the start by the Dairy Queen and it looks very unsafe and dodgy to enter or exit there in my wheelchair . With no wheelchair transit in our community evenings weekends and holidays (the times I could use it) there has been no way for me to get there . I'm moving to town and hope to use it . When you put benches make sure you leave aSpace for wheelchairs!!
- trees
- Longer trail
- Connecting to landing/hospital
- A barrier between the trail and the #4 highway (for safety and aesthetics - ideally trees)
- Enforcing bicyclist to use the trail instead of the street
- generally improved landscaping along trail so it feels less like walking along a highway.
- The trail needs to be completed. By looking at the proposed map it helps connect many parts of the town. The completed trail would allow residents on the West side of town to efficiently access the downtown and Columbus field. Leaving the trail as it is now would make little sense
- Longer route
- If it was fully completed
- Complete all Active Transport (especially at the section by Dairy Queen) to help complete a loop.
- Increased safety when crossing at the round about
- Connect to important spots, groceries, parks etc
- trees along hwy route
- I would encourage items to make it more “playful” if possible For example if you are walking with kids ... perhaps a section where there are windchimes or some whimsical art
- Completing the trail so that I can safely bike from Mount Cameron to StFX
- Some planted trees would be nice, where possible.
- More trail across the town.
- More trees and foliage. It's functional but not particularly pretty.
- please plant trees for shade! make it wildlife friendly!
- More of it! It's easier to use bike lanes if they lead to more places

- A larger network, i.e. more such trails connecting to the northern and western parts of town, to avoid mingling with traffic on narrow or steep parts of Hawthorne or Highland
- If I move to town
- It's great, I'd like more trails
- More natural aesthetics, trees
- longer trail!
- More connections to destinations. Nice areas to walk through with trees/nature.
- Extensions
- Trees along the highway!
- Lights at the landing
- n/a
- More trees providing shade, separation from cars along the old highway
- Better street crossings, especially for biking
- Trees along the old highway
- can't think there are any options for improvement
- Will use it more when completed
- none
- Waste of money and resources
- Connecting upper Hawthorne to the AT trail would make it accessible to a greater part of our town
- Would love to use this once it is completed and doesn't just abruptly end. Please continue with this project and don't listen to all the whiners complaining about it. s
- There are non, not warranted
- More trail - additional KM of trail. To be able to get from the hospital to groceries, to downtown etc all in a safe manner
- More trail systems that better connect from my residence
- Would love to see a safe way to connect to trails from Hwy 7!
- Trees separating it from the busy road
- expand the trail
- Expansion/completion of trail

- It is not long enough. To drive there and only be able to walk a few kms next to a highway isn't of interest for me. I enjoy walking trails with my dog off leash but it is good for those who don't have this option
- More nature facing trail, circular loop
- I really prefer shade and trees not being beside a busy road while being active
- More road space. To scale bikes have WAY more width for pavement
- More pleasant surroundings, nobody wants to walk beside a busy highway separated with concrete barricades at one end
- Nothing maintenance has been great!
- Removal of rocks and debris for roller blading
- N/A
- Longer!
- More trail! The longer and more connected the trail is, the more likely that I will use it a lot
- Linkage to the Landing
- further expansion of the AT network
- If the Trail were longer that would encourage more use.
- To include garbage cans at points along the trail
- A longer trail
- some kind of landscaping...planters? shrubs?
- I used regularly use them
- Longer route
- Longer trail connection to other parts of town, landing trail or quiet bike roads
- NA
- NA
- NA
- NA
- Garbage cans
- NA
- NA
- na
- Expand!

- Longer, through town, access to mall and hospital
- More vegetation between track and road
- Completion would be great so one could enjoy the full scope of the trail!
- Add more trees/plants between roadway and walkway
- Garbage cans placed regularly throughout
- Happy with it now
- Hydration station
- longer stretches connected to paved and protected longer road biking routes
- it is very short
- links to other sections of trail; trail adjacent to the brook or leading to parks
- widening of path on bridge
- extended connections to the trail for bikes
- Active transportation routes should be away from car traffic, definitely not right next to a noisy, smelly dangerous highway like post road. The Netherlands has excellent people-centred transportation infrastructure and has developed best practices: The Dutch Cycling Embassy has info on this, also see: <https://miovision.com/blog/netherlands-bike-infrastructure/>
- Expanding the system and adding additional parts to it
- nothing additional
- Trees planted along side of trail for shade
- No complaints
- greater network of trails/trail expansion
- Signage for drivers reminding them bikes have a right to be used in town
- Completion so I can go further!
- Major expansion- it's too short
- More shade and noise barriers (especially along highway)
- Improved connections to major routes and points of interest.
- Expansion of the trail to as many areas of town as possible

- Decorative brick/concrete work. The edges look too bland and unadorned. Could try simulated stone concrete blocks on edges to improve the appearance somewhat, and nice streetlamps like there are in town or at StFX. Also, power lines should be buried
- NA
- NA
- NA
- Additional trees
- Better landscaping (flowers, bushes to separate from road, etc)
- NA
- NA
- NA
- Lanes
- Completion of the trail
- Expansion to the Landing from West Street
- More trail
- Having more trails in area closer to my needs
- A route up Hawthorne street. We should be connecting neighborhoods to the 2 largest employers in town, STFX, and the hospital
- it is too busy and noisy next to the streets, alternate route connecting back streets, more private, more nature walking
- More natural trail trees etc exploring and fun
- Additional landscaping- trees
- Continued Expansion
- Lots of places to walk exists
- Trash cans

Q8: Do you have any concerns regarding the Active Transportation Project?

- I am concerned it will be stopped!
- No
- I don't think the amount of use of the trails justifies the expense. Do something with the roads. That everyone uses.
- The last time you guys did work on this it completely destroyed the road. What's the sense in that? Now I have to avoid that street because it's absolutely horrendous the way the lane closest to the walking path was left. Seriously, did we really need this? Especially after you left the existing sidewalk?? It is common knowledge that more people drive the roads daily than there are using the walking path. This whole thing just totally sucks. Look at the roads in this town and put your money into that. A normal sidewalk is good enough for the love of God stop wasting time and money.
- that it may not be completed
- Getting onto the trail from Church Street is a challenge right now. Ice, no crosswalk, traffic lights.
- No concerns, it is a very worthwhile project. I am encouraged by the number of women pushes carriages along the new section
- Nice to see the clear information on this website about cost. That information needs to be shared more widely to deflect the misinformation
- Yes that it gets cancelled .
- Concerned that it will not be completed
- I feel while an important initiative, this should not be the priority for our tax dollars with all the other improvements that are required (roads are falling apart, cost of rent, many accessibility issues for disabled people in our town such as poor sidewalks and curbs, older buildings with public services that are essentially inaccessible for those with mobility issues, lack of policies and by-laws to hold landlords to an acceptable standard, people not being able to afford groceries and other essentials etc.)

- My main concern is the interaction between cyclists and cars where the path crosses intersecting roads on St. Ninian. Cars entering from the University may not see a fast moving bicycle on the shared pathway and I fear collisions could occur. Are cyclists going to be required to dismount as they cross the intersections like they are supposed to do at the roundabout at Highway 7. Are there going to be speed limits (for bikes and e-bikes) and directional arrows placed on the pathway? What is the policy for cycling in the town on streets where there is an AT corridor-- say for example travelling from the Downtown up past the Wheel with the intent to go onto Highland Drive. Would cyclists be required to enter the AT corridor to travel on West St.? There also needs to be collaboration between the town and county to have the shoulders of the road swept up Post Rd and out on the road between the Church St intersection and Beechhill. Much debris is there and is a hazard for cyclists who are on the side of the road. Twice a year sweeping should be considered. I also think that bikes should have a mandatory front and rear lights for visibility.
- Cost
- I believe the return on investment does not make sense. Invest the money into the current infrastructure especially as it seems there is huge issue with water main's breaking.
- That our new mayor will stop it
- Unsafe to get onto and off of.
- The banks on the opposite side of the road are quite steep if any cars went off the road; would appreciate guardrails.
- Crossing signal more accessible for cyclists. Costs of bridges in plan.
- Just concerned that it won't be completed. I think it will all be used a lot more once completed. In its current state, it goes from lovely, safe trail to then traveling in traffic with aggressive and hostile drivers. I am worried that the Council will listen to people on the internet who don't understand how funding works and who only want roads paved. Rather than trusting the process and seeing this great project through to its full potential.
- No. A great investment to promote healthy ;living

- Better lighting and crosswalks on highway 337
- Where are we going to find the space?
- Safe crossing for bicycles. Having it link up through the park to have a completed loop a must!
- Love the project
- My concerns are around: - a lack of strong communication of the extreme value and evidence of the multiple benefits of this work from the town and county (benefits ranging from community health, to accessibility, to attracting and retaining people to live here, to the environment, and more) - the lack of communication on the amount of federal/provincial money to support this project (and the relative small amount that the town/county contributed) - the current state of the vehicle roads (especially in the town, adjacent to the AT trail) and public perceptions that decisions were made to fund one over the other - and the fear about the valuing the loudest and least informed voices objecting to continuing this very important community project. Repeated and demonstrated council and municipal support of this project is huge but there hasn't been very visible lately. Continuing to be a strong advocate for community health and wellness is vital for this project to succeed with the community support it deserves.
- No concerns
- Absolutely none. Please continue to work on this project. As active seniors with bikes, one of the first things we check when visiting a new area is... do they have dedicated bike trails. It's a win/win for our wonderful community.
- The space it took away from roads on west street. Pavement is terrible for traffic.
- Expected timeline for the full project to be completed
- Where does one park?
- No, our family LOVES it and can't wait for it to be expanded!
- No
- That it might get cancelled
- No
- Only concern is that it doesn't expand.

- I am concerned this council will not continue the AT Trail. It seems they can't see the bigger picture of what our town needs.
- Make sure it's accessible for wheelchairs
- I believe we need this infrastructure in the community to attract much need physicians, professionals, as well as people for the service industry. People are looking for places to live that believe in family oriented lifestyles. The AT Trail would be another piece for the community.
- Active transportation infrastructure makes it easier for community members who don't have access to a car/not able to drive a safe way to move efficiently around the town to get to services. Youth (who probably won't do this survey), people with cognitive disabilities, new comers, etc...the most vulnerable, are the ones who benefit the most from these investments.
- I want it to connect the Keppoch to Cape George
- I feel safe walking
- Ends at Highland Drive. Not convenient to access downtown.
-
-
- None
- Yes, the cost when we have no money
- Keep it going PLEASE
- That it is completed
- No
- Concerns that it won't be complete.
- A pedestrian was killed at the intersection of West Street and James Street, but the AT improvements haven't added any safety to that intersection, or provided for a cycle crossing to James Street
- My major concern is that council will not vote to continue
- Not costing a fortune and using volunteers.
- I believe that it would be good to link the trail to parallel the TCH on the south side as far as Mill Road so people could access Keppoch Trails on Roller blades or roller skis and bikes in three seasons and xc skis in winter
- No - excellent for the town to have, become a modern town
- No

- No - a major asset to our community, there are no downsides to having this within our community.
- Not at all.
- When was the last time the mayor and town councilors all walked, or even better wheelchaired themselves on our sidewalks in the proposed areas.
- No
- Concerns with the mayor and town council digging their heels in on finishing this project. This is a fantastic project for the community, and its 73.3% funded - get the job finished. Roads/sidewalks are separate projects, driving a car is not moving your body, two different priorities.
- I think it should be extended up Hawthorne street
- The new section crossing in behind Columbus Field is in a frequent flooding zone. That will make it hard to access the trail and also make it hard to maintain.
- No concerns at all, I think this is a great project for our community. The Active Transportation project is a great addition to our town/county. The trails are wide and smooth and well maintained. I plan my daily walks around the trail.
- I have concerns that it will not be completed as anticipated and that the people of Antigonish are not aware that the project may shut down.
- Only that it will not be completed as planned
- That it won't get completed.
- It's an investment in a healthy connected future which is essential to us all
- I love this new trail and there is a huge opportunity to make our community more active. This is a legacy project for the town and I can't believe it may be cut with 73% of the funding in place. Build the rest of the trail!!!
- I am really concerned that council won't make use of the funding to build all the trails and that our town will be left with an underused trail because it doesn't connect enough of the community
- no concerns, thank you for doing this!

- Ensuring safety for users and drivers
- build it faster
- No, I hope it can be expanded
- Nope!
- Yes, given the route, it will not be safe.
- nope!
- i would be concerned about the environmental impact going across the river towards columbus field
- no
- worried that it won't go through even after securing federal funding
- This is a great project - love being able to walk with coworkers at lunch and take my kids out on the trail in the evenings!
- That it remains half finished, rather than an ongoing project to link up points of interest
- None
- Number 1 concern is maintaining the AT.
- The narrowing of West Street to vehicle traffic particularly with all the pot holes is dangerous. The highway for bikes is over the top.
- Don't let uninformed town citizens with no understanding of municipal finances bring the completion of this wonderful project to a halt. Antigonish is extremely car-centric for such a small town. This project helps to ameliorate that and makes pedestrians and cyclists feel much safer getting around.
- Will become more useful once complete, stopping now would make it less useful for people.
- Worried that negative feedback will limit completion. There is plenty of evidence that this sort of infrastructure gains acceptance AFTER completion.
- No
- I am concerned that they will not continue to develop it
- We do not need this. Too expensive! Take better care of the sidewalks. That's all that is needed for walking.
- Narrowing of and loss of parking on St. Ninian Street. Lack of safety in proposed remote route.
- NO

- Some apparent misinformation when I occasionally hear people talk about it on Ask Antigonish (Facebook) as if it were a waste of funds - better public messaging on why it is important & to encourage usage would help
- I hope it is completed soon and that the work continues.
-
- My only concern is that this trail may not move ahead as planned. My family utilizes the completed sections of this trail daily. It is much safer to walk and run on this trail than on the sidewalks in our town - which are old, cracked, not level, and narrow.
- It would be great to expand the trail to link to the Landing trail
- My primary concern is, as an extremely active person who would absolutely love to have better spaces for walking, jogging and biking, I find that the trail connects parts of the town that were already reasonably accessible for pedestrians. It is already possible to walk and jog in the area around the university towards the Landing trail via sidewalks. Biking was less convenient because this was also via sidewalk, but the distance proposed by the trail is not very significant for bike rides anyways. Personally, I think that it would be more interesting to create an accessible trail elsewhere in town (for example, behind Centennial street and spanning towards the Superstore or near Vincent's way) to create a trail or trail system in areas where lots of families live, but that have limited access to safe biking, walking and jogging spaces. Most families in town have to drive and park at the landing trail before going for a walk or bike ride there. The presence of the new trail, around the university, doesn't change this and it doesn't offer us a new option for recreation.
- Better planning/integration for cyclists for when the trail ends in sidewalk - unclear what is safe to do, esp. when one is cycling with children, etc.
- I've heard rumours that the Town may not complete its portion of the trail. I hope this is not the case!

- The community (town and county) cannot afford this project - it is also ruining the streets as it is. The trail if there was to be a trail should have been closer to more residents of the town and it could have been more of a gravel pathway like the landing, but connect several of the neighbourhoods of the town together. The main concern is - in spite of some sort of \$18 million dollars, the town and county still owe a lot of money for a project most of the community does not want.
- just to make the routes practical for citizens. I also wonder how bikers and pedestrians coexist on the trail. I lived in cities with bike routes previously and biking with pedestrians on the bike lanes was a safety issue.
- maybe more signage to communicate to the public what the purpose of the ATP is and who the trails are attended for...and maybe what is good etiquette for walkers, roller bladers, bikes...Also what is the status of electric scooters. Allowed? not allowed?
- No, would like it expanded
- Cost, and narrowing of streets
-
- Organization and rules of the road for bike traffic on the trail. I am a cyclist and I want us all to get along!
- The fact that it extends only to a few points across town.
- The West St. initial project achieved almost nothing, by paralleling an existing sidewalk. The Trunk 4 route (in the county) is depressing, bleak, litter strewn. At every intersection pedestrians detour for the convenience of vehicles; the message is that pedestrians need to keep out of the way of the 'real' people in cars.
- No

- Just that it is beside a road and I want to get to nature . I wish the trail was on Main street to safely get to the landing . I wish there was more nature . As mentioned the area around the Dairy Queen is not a safe transition in a wheelchair I don't think . I've been too nervous to try it .id love to go the public meeting but once again I can't get there . If you are on a wheelchair in our community you are excluded from ALL evening weekend and holiday events unless you are wealthy, and able bodied enough to afford your own vehicle and still drive . The fact we have 8 vehicles that sit at the mall every evening weekend and holiday isParticularly grievous. I'm moving to town and hope this will help me participate more to
- Pedestrian crossing within Roundabout there should be some crossing signal to alert drivers.
- None at all! I look forward to the expansion, which will make the route much more attractive!
- Re there any plans to extend it out Hwy 337 toward the beaches (Mahoneys, Jimtown, Crystal Cliffs) and Fairmont Ridge?
- Only that it get finished, and in a way that allows it to be a "circuit"
- Should widen bridge at same time - need to do it might as well do now
- Great idea for community! Also the town does not have to spend much of its own money to complete the trail so it is a responsible use of its resources. When I retire in a few years, I am looking forward to using it daily. Fully support this project.
- My only concern is the misinformation that has been circulating in the community about the cost to local government. It would be very short-sighted if the project were put on hold because a group of citizens believed that the money could have been spent on local roads or on sewage plant upgrades or on other things.
- Completion of the trail to connect it to Antigonish Landing will be transformative for the town.
- Would like to see it longer and with more entry points!
- No concerns
- Bicyclist not using it for there own safety
- no

- No. I understand it is a cost but it should be looked at as an investment not an expense.
- It cost a lot of money so we better use it.
- No
- I fear it will not be completed
- My concern is that it will not be completed and the money will have to be given back and we will end up with a half ass'ed completed project that makes no sense in front of the university.
- Zero concerns. The Active Transportation Project allows: students to further explore the town, bikers to be safe when heading out of the town to complete a biking loop (such as Addington Forks, Cape George, Beech Hill), parent walking with a stroller to feel safer with wide sidewalks, runners to have more room to run especially in winter when sidewalks are narrow.
- None, it is a great project and I want to see it expanded.
- the cost
- Road closures for extended periods of time
- the roundabout intersections make me nervous, both as a pedestrian and driver, particularly at night
- No
- I think it's a really important feature of Antigonish, and am happy it will be extended. I regularly see people running, pushing strollers, or cycling along it.
- No
- Cost vs other infrastructure projects needed
- Concerned it may be removed.
- None- can't come soon enough
- None at all. I think it is a great initiative. I look forward to biking to work when the section between St Andrew's St and StFX is completed!
-
- Will the project make a ride walk near hospital/ mount Cameron to do a loop back to town from landing - concern of highway safety there
- No, I would like to see it expand.

- The optics of poorly maintained arteriel roads and sidewalks (we don't have many) doesn't look good. I understand the funding structure differences. But it highlights the condition of our main roads. This project is an essential piece to get and keep people moving in our community, and have a SAFE, consistent, reliable place to move. Sidewalks on Hawthorne a disaster Feb and Mar in uneven, ice, snow, unreliable
- I'm concerned that misinformation or lack of understanding by town residents will delay completion of the project. Another town will gladly take the federal funding and use it. The desperately needed town paving and active transportation trail are not mutually exclusive but we need to seize the opportunity.
- I think it's great but would love to see it completed to get the full effect of the path going all the way through town! I grew up in a place that had one of these trails that connected the North end of the city, all the way to the South end and it was awesome. One, for the convenience of it but two, for the safety of being off the road and away from traffic! My favourite sections were along the streams/brooks so I am most looking forward to that section of this Active Transportation trail. It's so enjoyable to ride through the trees and along the water!
- It's wider than it needs to be. It has made driving on the old #4 between the mall and university a lot less safe without a median. The merge lane at DQ to the old highway is awful – it looks absolutely terrible and it's poorly lit at night. I hope to see this area improved.
- Public should understand the sources of funding.
- I don't understand why it can't be merged with the existing sidewalk so the road isn't as narrow. Love the idea of the path but the narrow road is unfortunate
- the town seems to endlessly cut down trees; what we need is a nature trail, not just pavement and grass
- No; full steam ahead!
- None, I think it's a great initiative
- Cost. But see it as an investment in our community.
- No

- No
- no
- My biggest fear is that some small minds will find a way to discourage the completion of this much needed project.
- Should be complete loops
- Is the trail going to be skateboard- and longboard friendly? Ditto scooter friendly?
- No ... though I would be disappointed if we did not complete the plans and returned \$\$ to the gov't
- Costs say upper levels of government paying a big chunk of initial construction cost, but no mention of long term maintenance costs. Have those been calculated? What is the total net present cost?
- Again they should improve the road first as majority of the public use it more than this project
- N/A
- No
- None whatsoever - it is a wonderful initiative!
- Bikes should be on the road, or there should be an allocated space on the road for bikes, not where people walk/run.
- No, looking forward to it being completed!
- We have a beautiful walking trail at the landing, spend money there where there is more use.
- The trail next to the highway seems dangerous - what if I car veered off the road?
- Connectivity with existing sidewalks and trail networks could be improved
- I am concerned that old people who grew up with Buicks the size of living rooms will try to kneecap the project because they think the streets are too narrow. North American streets are huge; we have plenty of room.
- That it won't get finished
- No

- It is suggested to have the Trail continue on past the hospital to the first and second entrance of Mount Cameron to better serve the residential community in that area to access the town without safety concerns related to highway traffic.
- Sustainability (will it get finished) and improve the paving on west st for drivers. it's a mess!
- no
- No looking forward to seeing it completed
- Concerned that it will not be completed
- No
- a lot of money for minimal benefits. better spent on other priorities
- A little concerned about the resulting narrowing of the street... a little tight in a heavy traffic area with big vehicles passing through. A little concerned about safety at the crosswalks for pedestrians, as motorists have a lot to watch for.
- No
- Not worth the cost
- Current projects prioritizes student population, but leaves town residents out. Building a trail that would connect upper Hawthorne with stfx/downtown and/or have a trail network/round uptown. Upgrade John's Path and make it part of the bigger trail. I think there are huge opportunities there and would be great to explore them. Thank you.
- Rocks on the pavement are a danger for skateboarding.
- Only concern is that it won't be completed
- The worst use of government money, our money I have ever seen. I travel that road multiple times a day and to date since completed, I have seen 1 and 1 bicycle only. That in itself shows negligence on the governments. The streets are not safe to travel on!
- This is a great investment for our community, it needs to be seen through to completion.
- No concerns. Hope it gets approved.
- Yes, it is a waste of resources, just look at the mess on West St., How is that adding to the town

- I hope that it continues to be extended on a regular basis. I would like to see it extended to include South River Road
- safe waking space
- I very much support active transportation and trails and believe that it is a huge community asset.
- No
- I would like it to be longer
-
- Only the possibility that it may not go forward...
- No
- No
- No. Excellent project.
- Price and does it mean im paying for something I have no interests in
- Our town gets bigger and busier every year, please do not take away from the roads to build this project.
- When will it expand
- None at all
- No
- Not long enough. I would like for it to connect to the landing and make it longer.
- That the project will not get completed
- The cost but given 70%+ funded already I believe a 30% county/town cost is reasonable.
- I understand 70% is gov't funded, however, we have long lists of folks without doctors, dealing with housing and food insecurities and not to forget the disgraceful state of our town streets. When we can make so.e decent strides kn those areas first is when we should be looking at expansion. Not before.
- Never seen a bike on it yet
- I support it.
- No
- It's making lanes smaller and the benefit does not equal the cost. It's a waste of money for a glorified sidewalk.
- That it will be cancelled

- We just want a longer trail and to extend it to beach hill as there isn't even a side walk on the bridge before the beach hill round about
- There are other infrastructure projects that should have been made priority in Antigonish and funding could have been better used elsewhere.
- I don't understand the town portion as it is minimal, but LOVE the portion along the highway
- I heard that maybe the rest of the trail will not be approved/completed and this concerns me a lot! I strongly support the completion of the trail
- No
- My concern is that the trail is not completed. As a cyclist (living in Mount Cameron), I take the Landing Road into town. Then I take Adam Street, get off my bike to cross East Main/Bay Street, deal with traffic going over the bridge, ride through town (either up Church Street or on Main Street) to access the ATC. Once I'm on the ATC then I can cycle relatively worry-free from vehicular traffic. If the ATC is not completed, I wonder what the point was for this expenditure of tax dollars? The purpose of the ATC was to promote a healthy life-style. Healthy people are happy people and less of a strain on our healthcare system. FINISH THE TRAIL!!
- none. It is a great way to provide access to active transport through town
- I think it is important to complete the project. You can't get a realistic picture of how much the facility will be used as long as it remains incomplete and basically goes nowhere. Once people can get to and from places they want to go the user ship is bound to increase.
- I hope that it will be expanded. Completiung the proposed Trail would be very desirable.
- No
- I love using this trail, it has made my household more active. We look forward to the next phase being started
- directing more traffic towards already difficult intersections... Bay, Church, St. Ninian//Main

- Keep building more.
- No
- More lights bench with cover area. To relax. If needed especially in the hot of summer
- I hope that they continue to expand the trails
- Not at all
- None - this is a transformational project for our community, and will benefit generations of families
- This is a wonderful project for our community, an ATT allows for a more active, accessible, modern community
- This is an amazing project for the community, grandparents, to kids and grandkids can safely move within the town and increases accessibility for all
- Great project for the town, making us a more active community and encouraging people to move more, and connecting STFX to our East End
- The lack of understanding of the project by the public and where the money comes from to fund it.
- NO - this is a Great project, can feel safe walking, cycling within the town now. This will be used by thousands of people each week.
- No concerns. I think it's fantastic that the Town of Antigonish is doing this innovative accessibility project.
- Losing width of streets and losing parking spots
- I have heard community members voice concerns over losing parking on St. Ninians Street (before Hillcrest street) because of the St. Ninians section of this trail. However, I've long had concerns about the parking in that area as it obstructs the view of pedestrians in the crosswalk on the corner of Hillcrest. I think that elimination of those parking spots and moving them elsewhere (maybe change the by-law for parking on Hillcrest so the entire street is unlimited parking??) it would improve pedestrian safety in that area.

- I have heard from members of the community, that this project may not be completed in full, so that funds can be used towards other projects? This is funded 73% and even with increased costs its a great deal for our community. This is an excellent use of tax revenue and something that council needs to review for the long term. This is a big project with so many positives, Improving Safety & Reducing Traffic and Accessible for All
- What would the intent be of including AT in the Bay Street project if there is no other connection that can be made to the “spine” that has already been built? What is the approach to planning this more coherently and holistically?
- How much total distance for the bike -walking trails
- The Town has received significant funding from other levels of government. What is to happen with that money if the project is cancelled? In other words, will it have to be returned? If so, how much will need to be returned? Where Council is expected to prioritize fiscal sustainability and prudent use of tax dollars, please explain how this achieves that goal?
- Enjoying the first section, love the inter connectivity and looking forward to the next phases
- I’m concerned that the trail development won’t be continued
- I think it's great! Keep up the good work!
- No
- The remaining money required for it should be used elsewhere in the town. I don't like how roads have been narrowed. Also, an active transportation trail right beside a sidewalk seems redundant (west street). Why the need for a sidewalk with this trail?
- That it might not get completed! That would be terrible. We need more safe areas to be active for all Antiigonishers!
- No
- No
- no
- N/A
- I think projects of this type are very important components (not singular solutions) to providing alternatives to cars and to providing routes for citizens to use to stay active.

- I'm concerned that this short-sighted council is trying to wiggle out of completing the project. Show some vision Mr. Cameron! Stop worrying about expenses start focusing on increasing revenue.
- This is not specific to the Active Transportation Project, but at the roundabout that is close to the corner of campus, the pedestrian walkway is in a dangerous location as cars are exiting out of the roundabout and not expecting to stop as they exit. Cars in the roundabout would not expect a car to stop either. This poses risks for pedestrians that could impact the perceived safety of the Active Transportation trail.
- I'm wondering how, or if, the Active Transportation project is collaborating with local voluntary groups such as the Antigonish Rivers Association. These groups would also have a contribution to make in terms of planning, maintenance, etc. if trails went beside the brook. Areas such as the Landing aren't as accessible and attractive as they should be for tourists or local residents. Get local volunteers involved! We'd be happy to lend a hand.
- None
- the bridge between Church St and Beech Hill is dangerous for pedestrians
- Please don't listen to the vocal group of people complaining that this is a "waste of money". I strongly dislike car culture and car-centred communities, yet my tax dollars overwhelmingly go towards paying for their roads and parking lots that make our community less attractive and less livable. It's only fair that some tax dollars should go to the rest of us who prefer people-centred communities and non-polluting modes of transport.
- No
- Are the in-town sections just sidewalks? I see that the current trail ends at the West and Highland intersection. Is it just the sidewalk from there on? I think the trail would need to be distinct.
- I prefer not to walk/bike next to a highway. It would be great if trees could be planted on that section, although maybe that isn't practical.
- The more the better!!!

- No
- Let's make it happen!
- No
- No
- My only concern is from West street down to main and I am sure I am not the only one that has or will mention this, if there is an emergency along this street or a car breaks down, where are people to go??? It going to create a traffic jam to the entire town let alone risking to get to someone on time who may have a medical emergency, some wait long enough as it is for emergency responses.
- Not at all - my only concern is that it won't be completed. The town NEEDS this.
- Although the construction process can be frustrating, the end result will be worth it.
- I think it's amazing!
- No it's great. Thank you for making this happen in our community. The last place I lived had this through all its suburbs, I missed it moving here.
- Nope
- None- I think it's great.
- My main concern if there will be a funding cut.
- That the funding to complete the project is being revisited
- Drivers being falsely entitled to cycle free roads
- I'm am wondering when it will be completed. Look forward to being able to travel much further on the trail.
- I would like to see it extended further. It would make it safer for me to commute to work by bike.
- My biggest concerns (being a country resident) is the difficulty getting into town safely using Active Transport
- We need to ensure the network has safe connections to schools and neighbourhoods.
- No
- It should go through Whidden's.
- Fantastic project for our community - connecting East/West end in a safe an accessible way. Amazing for children to safely bike and great for all ages to safely move through town

- No complaints - such a great asset to our community. I feel safe walking my grandchildren for my walk
- The trail requires trash bins and bags for dog waste.
- None - who wouldn't want this completed. Has the leadership team been to Europe and big cities, this trail is amazing for encouraging a healthy active community and more accessible for all.
- Awesome project for Antigonish - no negatives to having ATT trails within the town and connecting to larger ATT routes in the County!
- In principle, they are not a bad idea, but too expensive for the amount of use plus some streets - like West Street- have become too narrow
- no this is a fabulous community asset
- No
- No concerns - excellent use of tax dollars and capital project expenditures.
- Great project - I can walk with my grandkids safely throughout the town, and they can use their bikes while we go to Columbus field and back to our house in the west end
- Used daily for exercise. Much safer the sidewalks, as the sidewalks are in terrible shape. These wide paths give more space for everyone
- Completing the rest of the trail is crucial for older kids and adults to have a safe biking path through town to get to Columbus Field, and it would encourage a huge number of hospital employees to commute on bike or foot to work.
- I am very concerned if the rest of the project doesn't continue. Not everyone can access the end of town where it is complete.
- no
- No
- It will get far more usage once it is completed
- Yes- the town should follow through and finish the project
- No
- No concerns - this project is an absolute need in our community!
- Accessibility and safety. That it will be used and is worth while

- No
- No
- Cost to taxpayers
- Great addition for the town and county
- No
- No, much needed to motivate people to get moving
- No
- Timely completion of the other sections. Possible ice buildup on proposed pedestrian bridge. Safety of proposed cross walk to hospital on county section
- I have heard that the complete project may not happen... this would be very concerning, I hope the already approved plan moves forward
- No
- No, it's very important for community.
- my only concern is that i have heard our current mayor is trying to stop this fantastic project, even though the federal and provincial governments have already provided the funding. It is such a wonderful project, i am confused why he would want to stop it.
- That it will not be completed
- A concern that as a tax payer in the town I feel there are other pressing issues that have to be address before we can have the luxury of a trail. This trail that is in front of us look like no more that an expanded existing sidewalk. It does not connect neighbors A trial would be much more appreciated and probably cost less if it connected back streets to shorten distance to the downtown core. Less vehicle noise with a little more nature.
- No! It's a wonderful initiative.
- No
- Yes, timeliness of completion. Transparency of costs per section, timeline, priority for public use. Trail should be completed as originally intended, do not add other projects to that were not part of the original plan because it is convenient. This may delay and even stop the potential of completing the project.
- No
- No. Build it asap.

- What about the concern of flooding around Columbus field? And how will that affect the trail?
- Keep extending it, it is a great addition to the community.
- No
- In area where more accessible from peoples homes
- Concerned that it won't be extended further
- No
- No
- None! It's fantastic!
- Cost could be put to much needed housing.
- Crowding of streets for vehicles - concern of how the rest of the project will further add to congestion
- No it's beneficial for our area
- No

Q9: How do you prefer to receive updates about the Active Transportation Project?

- And also social media. Only spot for one choice
- Only one option is able to be selected, however multiple forms of communication to support updates would be most accessible for more people.
- all of the above
- Town website and social media, need both
- Please don't use X or twitter (just Facebook)
- I do not, I hear through friends
- Mail outs, in addition to social media
- I think it should be on the radio and in what is left of the Casket
- email via lists I'm on, like the public library, StFX staff, in The Casket, on CBC radio, but also official town website (not social media. i hope we move away from supporting those platforms)
- The town should not be on twitter any more - a move to Bluesky is overdue

- An effective communication strategy about this trail should involve all of the above. Additionally, effective communication and information gathering must ensure representative data collection. All community members should be given equal opportunity to contribute their opinion about this trail.
- i received it through email from StFX which is perfect for me.
- sign up for a town updates email?
- Facebook of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish.
- Email updates
- Email
- email
- Talking with other users
- an email newsletter
- Definitely not Twitter! Facebook, I guess!
- All of the above
- Email
- Not sure
- All of the above!
- email
- My tax dollars could be better spent
- EMail
- Instagram
- Website, Public meetings, social media - Need all of them
- All of the above should be used
- All should be used
- All should be used
- All of the above
- All - I don't regularly look at the town website, however, will if prompted to by social media. Public meetings are helpful but to ensure that a wide range of individuals can attend can you please host multiple meetings at different times? It's hard for me to attend public meetings at 6pm in the evening because I have young children and that is supper/bedtime
- All should be used
- Radio
- email

- However works best for families wanting to exercise on the trail with their children
- Bluesky. The Town should get off Twitter, for ethical reasons.
- Maybe a team of project champions or ambassadors that can spread work amongst key constituent groups (e.g university, etc.)
- All three are great
- Bluesky
- Radio
- Email
- All of the above
- Use all of them
- Use all forms
- Use all forms
- Use All
- Use all forms
- Use for all
- All of the above
- public meetings with mail out information

Q10: Do you have any additional comments or suggestions regarding the Active Transportation Trail?

- I think that anything that get people in bikes and out of cars is terrific.
- I think it is a great addition to Antigonish! I live in town and would love to be able to do more travelling by bike. I am nervous of biking in traffic, so once completed the active transportation trail will be a game changer! As mentioned, I think it is really important that there is infrastructure to support pedestrian and cyclist merging in the areas where the trail ends/ arrives at major destinations such as the mall.
- No
- Don't waste anymore money on it
- It is pointless given the fact that there are already sidewalks! Such a waste of money for so many reasons.
- just do it

- Love it!
- St Ninians Street section is extremely important
- You don't need to be as extravagant with it. We just enjoy a trail that connects across. Can be done cheaper and still work well.
- It was a great idea from the beginning and grounded in accessibility and active lifestyle goals. If anything, the need has increased for free ways to move and be fit, to reduce usage of cars/carbon emissions, and creating a dynamic community.
- While I think the concept is great, I don't think the ATT should be the town's fiscal priority right now. We need to focus on the rental crisis that exists in our town (lack of rentals, poor quality of rentals available, no oversight, regulation or tracking of landlords etc), the need for more funding for our public library, food insecurity, the list goes on. And it seems absolutely asinine to me to have the ATT right beside roads that are so poorly maintained (ie West St.) that they aren't fit to drive on.
- Have seen students walking. Fully usable sidewalk seems adequate
- Events highlighting the trail. Like a kids biking event.
- Address safety issues at on/off points
- Super important to have in town for all ages. I'd like for my kids to be able to access it safely by bicycle (and adults too) but requires navigating traffic that is not tuned into bikes
- Please continue this project and don't cancel subsequent phases
- I love the trail and would love if it were connected to the landing. It's a great addition to antigonish despite what people say! They won't be complaining in 10-20 years!
- To decide the locations of the trails, the town should ask people who are often outside running and biking where they would like to see a path. I would also love to see these types of trails places that often have a lot of walking, running, and biking traffic, such as brierly brook back road, west river, and cloverville.
- Please finish the trail. The provincial government is giving the majority of the funds and if not fulfilling the town's portion, we lose out on the trail funding.

- This is an extremely valuable asset to connecting our community and the communities within, while promoting health and wellness. It's promising to see the initial investment and work put into this project and I look forward to seeing it grow, while using it for many years to come.
- Excellent project to catch up with offerings of other population centres. Needed for active transportation routes in the future as cars are slowly replaced by e-bikes for commuting due to cost of living pressures and below living wages. Nice to have the extra width to accommodate multiple uses compared to a sidewalk.
- For future development, I would love to see Hawthorne St added to the AT network. The street is plenty wide enough to accommodate it and it is a popular arterial street for bikes & scooters. It is currently not an enjoyable ride on that street in its current configuration. I would also love to see work done in Beech Hill Rd, especially with all the new development over there. There are currently no sidewalks whatsoever and hardly any shoulder either. The current configuration is awful for all modes of transportation.
- na
- The active transportation trail is an amazing project for our town and county residents and the town will feel the impacts of the benefits across many sectors
- Please keep the project going. It is such an asset to our town!
- The bike paths could be shared as multipurpose paths
- No, thank you
- Please finish it!
- See above
- It a great addition to our community
- I enjoy feeling safe while I exercise and I can walk my dogs with lots of room
- Keep going. Makes no sense to end where it currently does.
- We don't even have a pool to teach our kids how to swim . Unless stfx lets us use theres
- Connect to the trails!
- Needs to be completed

- I think it gets used great but I feel it would make more sense to only have the active transport trail and not the side walk beside it too. Like on west street, it seems pointless to have the side walk and the path.
- It's a great addition. It enables people to be active and safe at the same time. User and family friendly that promotes a active healthy lifestyle
- As a county resident, I use the trail as an activity to do with my kid. We come to Town with our bikes or to walk and use both the County's trail and the Town's portion. As a family who also camps at Whidden's, I am excited to be able to leave the campground with my kids, to connect to the trail on St. Ninian's, to go in through the woods to Colmbus Field so they can play at the playground, come down Main Street to stop at ice-cream stand, to go to the library, to go 5 to \$1, to go to McKinnon's to buy our Radio Bingo cards. We use the trail now on weekends in the Fall when we are Whiddens to walk to the market, to go to dance class, or a football game. It's a major plus for our community.
- This is an excellent backbone for non-car mobility through town! I'm hoping for future connections to the Mall/Sobeys, and a future cycleway along St. Andrews Street and Beech Hill Road to meet up with the East end of the Hwy. 4 Cycleway
- This is a good opportunity to add another physical activity for families.
- Just thank you! After daycare we stroller run to see the horses and my kid loves it. I can't wait to take the kiddos once they can ride bike, it is safe for families with young kids to bike together. Thank you!!
- Trails are so important for physical activity of all ages and being in nature is great for mental well-being.
- I have property in town and county. Both town and county should partner to keep all residents engaged and healthy
- The longer we can make this amazing trail the better !! Will encourage people to be more active !

- Bike rentals, like the kiosks in cities where you pay a few bucks to rent a bike at one end and then return it to another kiosk elsewhere on the trail.
- Such an incredible contribution to our town!
- People in the community will complain about everything. Some council members received complaints? Roads versus Active transportation, 73% funding, these complainers don't walk/run/have accessibility issues, but rather drive everywhere they don't move their bodies. Our aging population does not appreciate an ATT because movement is not part of their lifestyle.
- I think it's a great and necessary addition to the town.
- we have an old leadership team from Mayor to all councilor members, who are stuck in their ways. 74% funded, and the money needs to be spent on Active Transportation. This mayor and council needs to wake up, and do the right thing for the community. People who drive their big trucks and complain about roads is the problem with the town - become a leader and modern town
- If the Active transportation trail were to extend past the hospital (or connect with Bethany's new trail and the Mount Cameron connector trail), a crosswalk at the entrance to Bethany and Mount Cameron crossing route 337 is very much needed, along with a light since it's so dark there - and a very busy/heavily used area. Thank you so much for finally providing the residents of Antigonish town and county and tourists with a safe way to be active, as well a way to encourage commuting without a vehicle
- Would be wonderful to also be able to get to the hospital/connect both ends of town
- Why did council not proceed as planned? Option A: Proceed As Planned – sign provincial RFA to extend project deadline to March 31, 2027.
- I think the trail is a great addition to our town
- I hope the town remains positive and forward thinking about this project. People complain about things they don't understand.
- I think it is a wonderful addition to our town. It is wide enough to accommodate walkers & cyclists at the same time.

- If people are concerned about space I'm sure it would still be great if slightly less wide. The Lincoln trail in Fredericton is a great example to look at. Would love to see it completed from the Brierly Brook round about, all the way to St. Martha's Hospital.
- Build the rest of the trail!!!! We have 73% of the funding in place! This has been in the works since 2007. Don't let a vocal minority stop this project.
- Just keep it going. I spent a summer in Trois Rivières years ago and loved their bike paths. They were so busy all the time. Roads are very dangerous for pedestrians and I myself have had very close calls with vehicles while cycling so cycling through town is something I try to avoid. Also, do think that at the end of the trails were cyclists must then go onto roadways, there should be Share The Road signage like the car magnets from a few years ago. This will save someone's life someday
- No
- No
- It doesn't need to be so wide and fancy. Look across the province ..there are more affordable ones and less extravagant
- The AT trail has and will be an attractive feature of Antigonish in recruiting and retaining physicians to the area.
- Garbage containers
- A trail connecting neighbourhoods (not paved). Walkers should not have to share sidewalks/trails with bikes/scooters (unless ridden by children). While I realize that some of the money to develop this trail came from other bodies of government it is a lot of money for a relatively short trail. The completed portion of the trail does not go through residential areas other than the university, so users need to drive to use it or walk on terrible sidewalks.
- Use our natural resources (Brierly Brook) as a backdrop of the trail. Would also be nice to have a pedestrian bridge linking mall and Columbus Field.
- If a roundabout isn't planned for intersection at highway 4 and Church St, recommend doing something at end of trail when crossing Church St. There isn't a sidewalk on either side at the lights so it's not the best place to cross for safety.

- More foliage, the seems like the trail is very open, no trees or garbage cans
- Ignore the negative comments from people about this project, there are people who will find things to complain about.
- The plan looks good
- Garbage/recycling bins along the trail.
- Please consider expanding sidewalks for bike paths
- Do some marketing to show people who use it. Do more information sharing on the costs and how it is shared with province/federal. Organize events that use the trail so that people see more people using it.
- The continued expansion of project B-D is badly needed, particularly when it comes to safe and accessible paths for both abled-bodied and individuals that require assistive devices.
- Nope
- It would be better if it could be expanded to the South River Road side as well. Those roads doesn't have a sidewalk.
- Money can be spent improving what we already have.
- there needs to proper walk way and crossing signs getting to adam street regardless of the ATT. I'm surprised no one had died yet getting to the landing
- no
- participaction is the way!
- I believe the AT trail is important for the town. My only reluctance is that the streets that need paving will not be a priority over the AT
- Bring the property owners affected by the project on board.
- Simply fantastic initiative - I can't wait to see this trail completed.
- Planting trees in the median between trail and #4 highway would make it more friendly.
- Keep up the great work! How about an extension to Beech Hill road via the old Hwy 4!
- I think it is great and will do a lot to make the town more livable and enjoyable.
- Town Funds are better spent on much needed infrastructure improvements.

- Please ensure there are enough washrooms along the trail.
- I think it is a great initiative and think it should be continually expanded.
- I would like to see the Municipality of Antigonish extend this trail further into the county for longer trails.
- This is an essential resource for our community. At present, the sidewalks from West street to the Landing trail are uneven and unsafe. Having this trail extend through town promotes safety and accessibility for families in our community, particularly those who live with mobility challenges and physical disabilities. PLEASE CONTINUE THIS TRAIL THROUGH OUR TOWN!!!
- It would be great to expand the trail to link to the Landing trail -- fully support this initiative
- I think it is very important to consider how people might use it/move through town actively with children. e.g. the 'no biking' rule on sidewalk after the trail ends on a street that is extremely busy in a town where drivers are generally unaware that bicycles are legally supposed to be on the road does not promote use.
- This is a wonderful initiative! Much safer for pedestrians and cyclists.
- Please complete it as per previous plans!
- Cancel it, or change the plan.
- Curious if the AT will extend from Church St to Beech Hill
- Just that I love this initiatives and would love to see more bike lanes around town! Thank you!
- Great work to the folks that got this going...but it needs wider signage to communicate to everyone what its purposes are...what protocol is and why it's such a good idea. I think most folks don't grasp the 'big picture' yet - more good public signage...to communicate
- I would LOVE to see more walking trails and biking friendly parts of town. I wish Highland drive (at the end) was better for walking.
- It would be great to extend it to Hawthorne street.
- The legacy value of the trail is important. I may not have full support at the moment, but in a few years if we tried to take it away there would be mass dissapproval to removing it.

- It would be great if it was extended across the old highway, not just between West Street and Church Street.
- Good luck, try to be strategic with the expenditures. A link to the hospital would be good.
- Complete the trail do not abandon this initiative
- Please see my comments to wheelchair transit . Also please keep WHEELCHAIR USE in kind and ensure all transitions from town sidewalks to the trail are fully accessible
- The roads affected should be dealt with repaired asap, our vehicles are being damaged by pot holes that we swing around to avoid and almost hit on coming cars, truck loads of wood etc
- Please ensure that all development is as environmentally sound and accessible as possible. Thank you 😊
- It is a fantastic initiative and I'd like to see it extended in other directions with the collaboration of the Municipality of the County of Antigonish
- The town may want to better communicate how it is funded as there appears to be a misperception that streets should be paved instead of building this trail
- Keep it going! Be future facing not trying to undo the past. NS and Antigonish needs more opportunities to be active and healthy and inspire residents.
- No
- Will it connect to the landing trail?
- As per my last comment, please continue building it.
- It's a great idea, adds to the town and should be encouraged
- No
- Please fully complete the trail.
- This trail is essential to the town of Antigonish. Many tourists and cyclist pass through Antigonish to go to Cape Breton. Giving tourists, bikers, students, parents, and individuals access to an activity trail. Removing this project would discourage individuals from increasing activity. Many individuals will be active if they are able to complete a loop.
- Let's make it longer and connect more sections!!

- For question 9, I think a three-tiered approach is helpful - all key information stored on the town website, with updates shared on social media to direct citizens to the town website. Also having a public consultation event helps people stay informed and involved, and "unveiling" events support feelings of celebration.
- Great to see this done. I came from Montreal 22 years ago, and biking in town and around town was quite dangerous (no side, high shoulder, driver who don;t know how to behave in the presence of a bicycle). It has changed so much. Friends in New Glasgow can't wait to see the same thing happening there.
- I hope the trail will link up to the rotary by beech hill. I also want to see a flashing cross walk from Willowdale lane over to the sidewalk.
- keep extending it! I'd love to see it go up along the roundabouts to highway 7 so that cyclists don't have to use the sidewalks in order to travel safely into town.
- No
- Unfortunately an all or nothing pursuit. Doesn't make sense unless it's a long interesting loop that connects important points in the community. Which also comes with a much bigger price tag.
- Build more!
- I support this project! Being scared of the drivers is the only reason I don't bike to work. I used to bike to work when I lived in a place with bike paths/lanes and I miss it!
- I believe the trail is an excellent addition to our town. I am thrilled to see the progress that has been made so far.
- Make a sidewalk at hospital up to parkland and mount Cameron to complete a active loop
- It's a great addition to the community.
- Get it done!!! There will be zero regrets versus the ick feeling if it gets left on the table.
- We need more trails. This is how we grow this community.
- Share success stories from other towns to get more buy in from residents. Perhaps look at a pump track and dirt jump track in town too. These combined with the trail would be great for people of all ages to get outside.

- I think the painted bikes on the trail make people think it's only for biking. It would be nice to have signage that says it's a multi-use path!
- I think it's great. Hard to see how it negatively affects anyone in any way whatsoever and gives people a great option for transportation.
- I'd really like to see the trail reach the junior school and AEC area. This would make kids walking and biking to school a lot more likely to happen and a lot safer. I'd love to see the end near DQ continue to liquor lane or down to st ninnians st, so that it is a loop.
- Much needed by all ages!
- I do think this is a good idea; I would like to see it move out through the countryside further
- It would be so meaningful if the town and county could collaborate to build a path on the highway to the landing. That area has seen a lot of residential growth, has important services, and is a central walking area. That there aren't routes there is unfortunate
- We love using the trail. We take the kids up to the highway section and they ride their bikes, scooters and rollerblade back and forth. Both kids learned to ride their bikes on the trail. It's a safe area to learn how to bike/rollerblade etc. It will be nice to see it complete and kids will be able to safely complete the entire trail or access facilities like Columbus field from different parts of town. I see people using the trail all the time. I suspect it will be used more often once it is fully completed. Please don't end the trail where it ends now.
- No
- no
- Should connect or extend into more natural trails
- See reply to number 8, above. Also will the design accommodate wheelchairs?
- Keep expanding it ... when the trail takes people places, they will use it more. Then less vehicles on the road, better health, more attractive community, etc.

- The connection across to Columbus field would be nice as a priority, because there aren't existing sidewalks to use. Putting a MUP next to an existing sidewalk seems like a lower priority.
- I just think it is a very important and positive addition to the town of Antigonish
- Keep up the great work!
- Keep it growing!
- Bikes should be on the road, or there should be an allocated space on the road for bikes, not where people walk/run.
- I believe that it is a welcome addition to the town. Promoting safety and activity. As a cyclist, it can be challenging crossing from the highway in Addington forks coming back into town and the ATT will significantly improve safety for everyone using it.
- Money would be better spent fixing up the Landing. Somedays there are as many 15 to 20 vehicles at the landing. It is peaceful and beautiful. Don't have to listen to traffic.
- I appreciate the work that has been done and will continue to be done. We need to move more as a community. Good work. Thank you.
- Would be nice to have more trees, plants, flowers to make trail more appealing along busy highway stretch
- It's been such a great addition to town. We can be active as a family and I can let my kids ride their bikes safely in town.
- Projects like this are why young families will choose Antigonish over other towns. Having robust active transportation is attractive to the generations who will grow the town.
- Not practical. I have no vested interest, but I see far more people walking from the Hospital to the Landing than on the existing Active Transportation - that would be a practical use of the monies.
- finish what you started!
- It is such a great addition to the community! It will support people using AT to get to work, lessening vehicles on the road. It is a great tourist attraction and a great and SAFE way to get people moving in our town!
- No

- Keep going.
- is it too late to back off on the project?
- not sure if it can be achieved, but more of a visual barrier between the trailway and the traffic would be ideal. Room for a low hedge or higher curb?
- It would be nice if it went through Columbus Field
- Quit while you're ahead, there's lots of other places to put that money, like water and sewer and town streets
- I hope it is extended up to Beech Hill and over to St Andrew's Street. With the new developments there and access to government offices have shown that we need to have a way for community members to walk or bike there safely
- I saw a family teaching their kids how to ride their bikes on this trail the other day. A safe place to do so. It brought joy to my heart that we had this in our town.
- I have no concerns regarding the ATP in general. If I could make one suggestion it would be that when you are doing the work and have the ground torn up to do the necessary improvements to the water and sewer pipes that are running below the new project. I believe the new trail on West street is built on top of water pipes that are quite old.
- Tear it up and put it on the streets that tax payers travel on. If two trucks are stopped on West street, it is not wide enough for an ambulance to pass. And we were lucky this year having no snow.
- No.
- Drop the whole thing. It is an embarrassment
- The actual financial cost of the trail to the town initially pales in comparison to savings due to increased access. The physical and mental health benefits of being able to access resources safely like groceries, medications, appointments etc outweigh the small cost to build and maintain the AT. If we don't finish it and continue to explore ways to be active and improve access the cost on residents and the community as a whole will continue to rise year over year.
- I would love to see a trail from Brierly Brook to the schools
- Some nice shrubs etc would look great on the sides of the trail

- Wonderful initiative - I fully support the project!
- No
- No
- It's a waste of money
- See comments above about trees
- Anything that promotes walking, cycling and active movement promotes a healthier lifestyle
- Happy it is accessible for those in need of it
- Please build it they will come.
- Would love it to go all the way to a destination like the ice cream shop and splash park so we could bike there
- Lots of people online think that the spring potholes happened because of the new trail taking all the money, partly supported by comments by mayor on FB. Need better communication regarding the federal funding for this, and the benefits (e.g. less traffic = fewer potholes).
- We love the trail. It's especially great in the late fall for our family as walking on our rural road is not safe with the decreased daylight. It's a much safer option for visibility reasons in the shoulder seasons.
- Quit while you're ahead. Don't waste any more money on it
- Re: #11 Former Town resident (40+ years) active walker, recently moved to Mt. Cameron.
- After extension to Bay Street extend to beech hill
- There are other infrastructure projects that should have been made priority in Antigonish and funding could have been better used elsewhere.
- My only wish is that it would be longer
- Please complete the whole thing!
- This is so important. It takes time for the community to appreciate its value. I would like to see the extension to the landing and many other opportunities for safe walking and biking

- The AT trail is a wonderful asset for the region providing a safe alternative to motorized transportation. Expansion will increase accessibility. Usage will increase over time as the energy transition unfolds, active lifestyles increase, awareness of this relatively new asset grows, and as planned improvements expand reach.
- Proper signage and education to the public about how to use it safely.
- no
- I now use the walking/biking trail along the former Trans Canada highway on regular basis and would like to see it connected to the proposed trail system at the Church St end.
- The Trail is a great start. I'd like to see more, and I hope to see the Trail completed. Eventually, it would be great to make commuter biking better and safer to the Downtown, the University Campus, the Mall, and the Market Street Mall.
- This is a major step forward. Get more people walking everywhere all the time
- When you expand and finish sections of the trail it will be much more useful
- I think this will be a fantastic addition to the town once it is complete
- The trail is a huge asset for community members, it is allowing people to be active of all mobilities and it is providing safe transportation. I'm new to biking, not comfortable enough to be on the road but not supposed to be on the side walk - this trail has given me the confidence to be out biking every day due to having a designated path.
- Keep building more
- No
- Would like to see it extended
- Let's get it completed
- It's great to see the town stepping up and introducing trails that are bike and run friendly
- I think anything that promotes activity is welcome!

- Just looking forward to seeing it completed.
- If the project is not completed, what happens with the funds? Is the town on the hook for the current funds spent?
- Since the project has started and funds are secured, why is it not continuing as planned? Will it be fully finished?
- Is the project at risk of not being completed? Why is it not proceeding as planned with the next phase of the work
- I have heard from the community that this project is at risk of not being completed? Funding is secured, why is the town not proceeding as planned?
- Include the painted lines on the trail along Highway 4.
- Why is the project sounding like it is being stalled? It seems like this is a no brainer to move forward as planned with so much funding secured.
- When will the next phase of the Trail down St. Ninian Street be completed?
- Please continue with this!
- Please add some garbage cans
- So glad the town is doing this! I work in town and this would encourage me to walk to work more. I also appreciate having it for my kids. It feels safer to have a wide trail separated from the road for them to run and bike on.
- the Town's own municipal planning strategy citing it as a pillar of sustainability and one of our community priorities. How does cancelling this project further that goal upon which the Mayor campaigned as that is given such focus in our planning strategy?
- Has Bay Street received any federal or provincial funding for that work, and are there any contributions coming from the County if it is supporting Mt. Cameron development?
- No
- Do we know the new projected costs of the project? Have these been reviewed and supported by engineering?
- Have fully enjoyed using it! Look forward to the rest of it being completed

- For road cyclists, it slows cyclists due to pedestrians and more potential for pedestrian injuries. There is already a one metre law in Nova Scotia. Road cyclists can move faster than most traffic in Antigonish.
- Please complete it.
- Plant some native trees/plants between the road and trail
- No
- No
- no
- Project C is very exciting to me, being able to walk through the woods and along them to Columbus Field.
- I'm really looking forward to the expansion and completion of the overall project.
- as indicated above, make it longer!
- Healthy people make a healthy community. Get this done.
- Great to see this in town.
- I encourage the Town of Antigonish to continue to develop its' in-town trail system – in particular the multi-use pathway and Bay St. upgrades - in order to further enhance the attractiveness of the town, promote healthier lifestyles by walking and cycling, and provide another focal point for in-town tourism and the development of local businesses. A factor often overlooked, however, is that in-town recreational trails, have positive impacts on the local economy, especially when trail systems are linked. In town recreational trails provide new experiences for tourists and appeal to people looking to relocate. Even small changes like a weekend food truck at the Landing, or using the Landing for public festival events, would be a draw for tourists and residents.
- None
- I hope the trail extension will be completed to support active living and commuting.
- It is amazing. Especially because it is cleared in the winter.
- No
- I'm not yet fully aware of the scope of the project; I'll need to learn more.

- Completing the trail to the Landing would definitely benefit me much more than the current trail. Many people work at the hospital, and for me personally, I could bike/walk to work in a much safer bike path instead of in busy traffic.
- Would be fantastic if it could completely loop around campus
- No
- No
- No
- I believe this active transportation trail is important for promoting community health and safety. Our sidewalks are uneven, narrow, and poorly maintained. My mother hooked her foot on uneven sidewalk and broke her shoulder. She now lives with chronic pain and reduced mobility. She continues to walk at night in the road or on the completed sections of the active transportation trail. She will no longer walk on the sidewalks because they are a safety concern.
- Encourage the community to run with the idea and think of ways to use the trail to spur on new ideas.
- Keep up the good work and expand to connect all trails throughout Antigonish and county
- Finish the job! The money was a grant, why return it? How does that affect getting grants in the future? It seems petty to abandon a project because it was started under the past town council.
- I think it's an awesome addition to the town!
- From my perspective, as someone who has worked in the field of disability, it would be fantastic for our community to extend the active transportation trail! It is one of the only paths in town that is comfortable for clients I have worked with in wheelchairs due to other sidewalks having many holes and bumps causing pain when riding over.
- I visit my daughter and grandchildren in your lovely town. We use this trail regularly when I visit. I love having a safe place to walk with the kids and wish I had access to such a great trail in my community.
- None

- It will be amazing when it is completed!
- Would love to see it extend!
- Great project! We need more things like this in our community to promote physical activity.
- The trail needs to be sufficiently and safely connected so that it becomes the most convenient way to make a large number of trips. It requires bike locks, priority signalling at bike level for crossing the street and must be safe for non-expert bikers.
- Expand it up post road all the way to the roundabout (addiction forks/james river
- There should be a route through Whiddens. And lighting. Also, the Landing trail could be extended 1,7 km north through the farmland immediately to its north.
- I have heard rumors' this project is not being completed in full? This is far more important then paving potholes on local streets
- This is a modern project and such a major asset for Antigonish
- This trail is an incredible addition to our community. Many people invested time and energy securing funding to complete this project. Completing this project is crucial!
- The cost are worth it if you are thinking long term and about sustainability within the town. We have an older demographic and the more safe movement we can do the better
- This is an excellent use of tax revenue to make the community greener, more accessabile and more active
- Avoid making streets very narrow. Make rest areas more strategically placed. I never saw anyone ever use either one along the highway.
- please finish it
- ACT is a good step to get out of our 4-wheeled planet destroyers. The hospital has 9 parking locations and they are not enough - we make too many accommodations for the car..
- I love the new trail, I think it's great and a safe way for people to get moving more without having to worry about traffic. . Having it be maintained in the winter (ie: snow removal, and salt when icy).
- Wondering why council did not procceed as planned and are now working on the Bay street section of the project? IS the plan to connect all sections?

- Is the plan to still connect all sections? Seems strange to not continue where the project left off last fall.
- Great project for the town - those not in favor likely don't move their bodies, which is another major problem. Communities need these types of projects for future generations
- it is necessary for the health of our residents in the town and county. To have a safe place to get outside and be active
- Please finish what was promised
- I think the active transportation trail is great, and a much needed initiative!
- Very excited to see it completed.
- I truly feel the vision and eventual completion of this project will support people in moving more throughout their community. These environments within town provide people with an active option for transportation. Active transport is the only option for many residents so prioritizing a connected network of environments that allow people to safely walk, wheel, cycle and move throughout their community is integral to their health and the health of the community.
- It would be ideal to extend the trail from West street to the Landing trail
- Crosswalks controlled by lights should always have a pedestrian go with every green. The lights on Main and College and Main and Church are now great, and all lights should match them. Last summer some begged lights malfunctioned. During inclement weather one has to wait a new cycle.
- Build it, and paved trails are better than gravel for accessibility and year-round use
- No
- It has been fabulous and looking forward to more
- The longer completion is delayed the more expensive costs will be. This trail will benefit health and well being of all residents, attract new residents as well as tourists.
- No
- Please allow the next phase to be completed

- I am sure that our mayor and councilors after going door to door during their campaign have had a good feel for what their citizens concerns feel are important issues that need to be address first. I am all for an active transportation trail but it has to be placed in the order of what important matters have to be address first. We as a town need to address our failing infrastructure. I for one do not want to be paying more taxes. If I decision is to be made I would vote as a town tax payer that Bay street take priority as the next phase.
- No
- As a SRCE teacher that serves both Town and County children and families - Keep holding public meetings so that you can hear from serious people and not just the “key board warriors” who cause issues in social media. Continue to ask for community input on more trails. Engagemachool communities so that we as educators can safe access the trails as part of programming.
- Thank you 🙏
- A sidewalk on Kells side of church st down to liquour lane. And a rock sweeper for the present trail.
- Keep it going
- This is much needed in our area. Antigonish is such a an active community but has very limited resources available for recreation and safe commuting
- We need downtown parking more than taking space from the roads - not everyone can walk in town - it is great for students and more mobile people but not for all
- Make it welcoming for dog walkers with trash cans along the route
- No
- It is such a great thing for the community

APPENDIX B : CORRESPONDENCE

To the Antigonish Mayor and Council,

The following letter is for the Mayor and Council to review as correspondence for your Council package.

I would like to advocate for the completion of the Active Transportation Trail. One can state the obvious, which is a request to finish what you started, especially having secured 73% of the funding for it.

But there are other reasons as well.

The unfinished portion of the Active Transport Trail is, in my opinion, the most important portion of the trail. It connects the town and university to Columbus Field, the Landing, Mount Cameron and the hospital which houses a huge number of employees. It will provide a safe path through our busy town.

I personally work in the hospital, and several coworkers as well as myself would use the trail daily, not just to commute to and from work, but for walks during breaks. My son and his friends would safely be able to bike the trail and visit one another. My elderly mother would use the trail daily for walks.

The unfinished portion of the trail would provide a much safer path than on streets full of traffic, especially during peak periods, and to be frank, would give many more people the incentive and encouragement to be more active.

For health and wellness, our town has relied heavily on StFX's infrastructure, much of which was closed to the public over years, and is often closed at times when other towns' rec centres are open to their communities.

I work in Public Health, and I'm well aware of how taxed our healthcare system is and how understaffed we can feel. In healthcare, we talk about the "upstream" approach, focussing on factors that influence outcomes instead of just treating the diseases themselves. Environmental factors that affect our ability to stay active absolutely directly influence our health and wellbeing.

Please consider finishing the project that was started, sooner rather than later, as this next portion of the trail may be considered by many community members the most important part. I certainly feel very strongly about its importance, and the positive effects it will have on our community as well as to visitors to our town.

Thank you,

Natasha Fabijancic
Public Health Nurse



March 24th, 2025

Antigonish Town Council
274 Main Street
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2C4

Dear Members of the Antigonish Town Council,

I am writing this letter to lend my strong and emphatic support to the completion of the entire Active Transportation Trail through the Town of Antigonish. I am a Town resident. My family uses the completed section of this trail to walk and run every day.

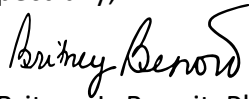
I write this letter wearing many hats that influence my perspective on the significant value this trail lends to our community: (1) As a PhD-prepared health scientist and Registered Nurse, (2) as a long-distance runner, and (3) as a new mother whose child will grow up in this community.

- (1) **Health benefits:** I am a health researcher dedicated to generating knowledge to guide optimal health care. The research evidence on the health benefits of active transportation is clear. Active commuting, such as walking and cycling, is associated with lower risks of all-cause mortality, cardiovascular diseases, certain cancers, and mental health issues. In Antigonish, we face significant health challenges, including elevated rates of obesity and chronic illnesses. Incorporating active transportation infrastructure has been shown to reduce health system burden. I strongly encourage council to utilize evidence demonstrating the considerable health advantages of active transportation to guide decisions regarding the completion of our community trail.
- (2) **Safety and Accessibility:** I run thousands of kilometers on the sidewalks and streets of Antigonish every year. I have nearly been struck by vehicular traffic in intersections over 10 times when abiding the rules for pedestrians. I have filed police reports on such events. I run every day on the completed section of the trail because it is safer than navigating sidewalks and busy intersections. This active transportation trail will increase public safety for walking, running, biking for all community members, particularly seniors, children, and those living with physical disabilities.
- (3) **Benefits for Children and Families:** I have a 14-month-old son. My family and I walk and run with him regularly and use the completed section of the trail. We do this as it is safer and more comfortable for him than navigating bumpy and uneven sidewalks with a stroller. This trail is an essential place for families to safely walk, run, and cycle with their children. When my son is older, I want him to be able to safely bike to Columbus Field to play with his friends and run on the track. This trail connects our community to

enable safe use of spaces by children and families. Isn't the safety of our most vulnerable community members of the utmost importance?

It is my strong opinion that not completing this trail is a missed opportunity that fails to recognize the substantial and long-lasting benefits that active transportation offers to our community. This trail is not just a pathway for walking, running, or biking – it is a vital investment in public health, safety, and the well-being of our community. I am fully committed to supporting this cause and would welcome the opportunity to engage in further discussions with the Town of Antigonish Mayor, Council, and Staff to advocate for the completion of this essential community resource.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Britney Benoit". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Dr. Britney L. Benoit, PhD RN (she/her)

Associate Professor, Rankin School of Nursing
Health Sciences Research Chair, Nova Scotia Health
CIHR Health Systems Impact Fellow (Early Career Researcher)
St. Francis Xavier University
Antigonish, Nova Scotia · Canada

March 25, 2025

An-gonish Mayor & Town Council
274 Main Street
An-gonish, Nova Sco-a, B2G 2C4

I am wri-ng to express my strong support for the comple-on of the Ac-ve Transporta-on Trail (ATT) through the Town of An-gonish. As a long--me resident and avid runner, I believe this project will be a tremendous asset to our community, providing both recrea-onal and economic benefits while promo-ng a healthier, safer, and more connected town.

Having grown up in An-gonish, I have logged countless kilometers running along the town sidewalks and streets. Since the comple-on of the West Street por-on of the trail, I have regularly enjoyed running and walking on it. Now, as a parent who lives in the Town, stroller walks and runs have become part of my daily rou-ne. Comple-ng the ATT to connect to the Landing will offer a safe, accessible, and scenic route for residents of all ages—whether running, biking, or enjoying a family walk.

Beyond recrea-on, the ATT will encourage ac-ve living, which is essen-al for both physical and mental well-being. It will also promote sustainability by reducing vehicle reliance and aligning with the town's environmental and community priori-es. Moreover, connec-ng the west and east ends of town will enhance accessibility and mobility, fostering a more inclusive community while drawing members to the downtown core to support local businesses.

I encourage the Council and the Mayor to priori-ze and invest in this project, recognizing its long-term value in making An-gonish a healthier, more ac-ve, and sustainable place to live. Thank you for suppor-ng this important ini-a-ve.

Please feel free to contact me if you require any further informa-on or would like to discuss this maYer in more detail.

Sincerely,



Lee McCarron, BBA
Founder & Head Coach
Halifax Road Hammers

March 24th, 2025
Antigonish Town Council
274 Main Street
Antigonish, Nova Scotia, B2G 2C4

Dear Members of the Antigonish Town Council,

I am writing to express my full support for the completion of the Active Transportation Trail through the town of Antigonish. While I am currently pursuing my PhD in Clinical Psychology at the University of New Brunswick in Fredericton, I was born and raised in Antigonish, and my family, who still resides there, use the existing sections of the active transportation trail daily. I also make use of the trail whenever I visit home.

Mental Health Benefits. As a clinical psychology doctoral student, with a background in health sciences research, I am acutely aware of the mental health benefits associated with physical activity and active transportation. Research consistently shows that active transportation can reduce stress by lowering cortisol levels, improve mood through the release of endorphins, and enhance cognitive function (including memory and concentration) due to increased blood flow and oxygen levels. Furthermore, active transportation is associated with reduced symptoms of anxiety and depression, as well as increased opportunities for social connection. In rural Atlantic Canada, where mental health services are limited and often prohibitively expensive, active transportation offers an accessible and affordable way to promote both physical and mental well-being. However, these benefits can only be realized if proper infrastructure for active transportation is in place.

Equity and Inclusion. Although I am privileged to be able-bodied and have access to a private vehicle, my training in psychology and my professional commitment to social responsibility compel me to acknowledge the inequities that marginalize underrepresented groups. In Antigonish, we have an aging population, high rates of physical disability, and significant numbers of lower-income individuals and families. For many, car ownership is not an option, making active transportation a crucial alternative for accessing work, school, healthcare, and other essential services. Active transportation also encourages physical activity, which helps reduce health disparities. For individuals from lower-income communities, who often have limited access to recreational facilities, the development of accessible, safe transportation infrastructure is vital. By prioritizing walking and cycling, we can ensure that people with disabilities, the elderly, and those without private vehicles are not excluded from participating in the community, promoting better health, social inclusion, and reduced barriers to mobility.

Incentive to Return to Antigonish. I will soon complete my doctoral residency at the University of Manitoba's Clinical Health Psychology Residency program and plan to return to Atlantic Canada to provide much-needed mental health services in rural communities. Active transportation infrastructure, such as the proposed trail in Antigonish, along with a strong focus on physical health initiatives, will be key factors in choosing a community to call home upon my return. During my time in Fredericton, I grew to greatly appreciate the Lincoln Trail, which made the city highly accessible and contributed significantly to my overall well-being. I used it nearly

every day for a variety of activities, including training for my first 5km running race, walking to local breweries with classmates, commuting to class and clinical practicums, decompressing after difficult client sessions, and spending quality time with friends. The trail became one of my favorite aspects of the city, and I was excited to hear about a similar development in Antigonish. In fact, such infrastructure is a strong incentive for young professionals and families who prioritize physical activity to consider returning to Antigonish. This is especially important as the town looks to retain and attract young professionals who can contribute meaningfully to our community.

It is my understanding that the fate of the active transportation trail in Antigonish is uncertain, which is deeply disappointing. In a time when the cost of living is high, mental health challenges are pervasive, and environmental initiatives should be a priority, halting this development would be a missed opportunity. While I am unable to attend the upcoming town hall meeting to discuss the benefits of this trail, I wholeheartedly hope that the council members will recognize the immense value it brings to the community—both now and for future generations.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Aryn Benoit', with a stylized, cursive script.

Aryn Benoit (M.A.)
PhD Candidate in Clinical Psychology
University of New Brunswick
Email: abenoit1@unb.ca

THE TOWN OF
ANTIGONISH

**Community Meeting & Update:
Active Transportation Trail**

Join us for a community meeting to learn about the Town's Active Transportation Trail

We need Trail Total waste
of money

There will be a presentation to review the plans, followed by a question and answer session.

Fuel tax supposed to go

Tuesday, March 25, 6:00 pm
to keep roads safe +

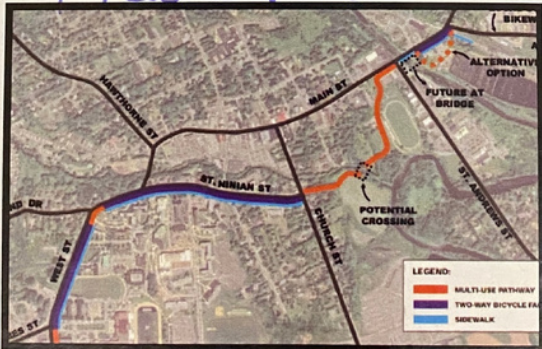
Dr. John Hugh Gillis Regional High School
Elenor Mutimer Theatre, 105 Braemore Ave
in good repair, we have

Share your feedback on the Active Transportation Trail! Fill out the survey at the link below.

lots of good walking trails

<https://townofantigonish.ca/active-transportation-trail.html>

Very few people on this



Ruined West St.
took away lane 2
highway at Church
st. intersection, where
it is needed, made a
total mess. Please
fix our streets/Highways
enough tires broken,
wheels ~~at~~ knock out of
balance etc. There are
enough side walks, if
you want to walk on
Cement/ashfalt which
is very hard on legs.
Even the Dept. of Transportation
workers think it is
"stupid!" You want people
to support "Local", give
them roads-streets to
Travel on Please
Buses, Ambulances, Fire trucks etc

Dear Mayor and Councillors of the Town of Antigonish,

The StFX Track and Field Club Board of Directors strongly supports the construction of the Active Transportation Trail along its formally approved route, with completion planned for 2027. We feel compelled to submit this letter in response to the recent council vote against proceeding with Phases 2, 3, and 4 as scheduled for 2025. Delaying this valuable project will only lead to rising costs and further jeopardize its completion. The proposed route was extensively discussed and would be a fantastic addition to our vibrant community.

The StFX Track and Field Club fully supports moving forward with this project as planned. As a community not for profit board and a group of volunteer coaches, we dedicate hundreds of hours each year to getting kids active in our community. This past season, we served 150 children from both the Town and County. For 2025, we have also been asked to take on the long-standing, town-run “Wee Lads and Lassies” program, which will serve an additional 100+ children.

Supporting this project aligns with one of our core values: providing education, opportunities, and support to inspire healthy lifestyle choices. Enhancing infrastructure to encourage active movement throughout our community is essential in fostering lifelong physical activity among children.

We urge the council to commit to keeping this project on track for completion by 2027.

StFX Track and Field Club board of directors,

Melissa Hardy
Bernie Chisholm
Julien Rice
Dr. Terese Chisholm
Gina MacInnis
Eric Gillis





ST. FRANCIS XAVIER UNIVERSITY
ANTIGONISH NOVA SCOTIA
BOH 1C0

DEPARTMENT OF NURSING

Sean Cameron + Nicholas MacInnis:

re: Active Transportation trail

Please no more wasting tax paper money.

You have ruined West St. by putting that trail there beside the sidewalk - one of the main road-ways coming in from the #7. Also took a lane out going to the intersection at Church St another main exit to town, making it very dangerous there & you might see 3 or 4 people a day on it. You want to keep things local so please repair our streets/highways they are an "eyesore" very dangerous & tires have been ruined, etc. There are nice walking trails & if you need to walk on cement/pavement you can walk from downtown Antigonish to Super store on East Road on sidewalk, & downtown Antigonish from St. Andrews St to south river on sidewalk, very hard on legs. It must be AI running the

governments today, no common sense just
Waste money on things that we don't need.
Fuel tax, as gov. once said is to keep
our roads safe and in good repair!

Please repair streets/highway as they
are a disgrace to Sun County & Province
of N.S. We need good roads for our
ambulances, Police, fire trucks, buses
etc. Ruined downtown Halifax with
those trails & people are complaining there
all that money for very few who use them.
People who work for the Dept of Highway
can't understand the stupidity & the
money wasted.

Regards,
People with some
common sense, & a
brain

Dear Mayor Cameron and Council,

The following letter is for Mayor and Council to review as correspondence for your Council package.

Thank you for holding the very informative event on the town's active transportation trail last Tuesday evening. I was happy to see the great turnout. It was especially positive to see the great representation from health care. Very notable for me was the amount of physicians in attendance.

As was confirmed several times by those in attendance, it is clear to me that our town needs this trail for several reasons:

1. It will give area residents a safe space to ride bicycle, walk, roll, or run. Currently, we are very restricted in terms of safe and accessible areas to be active. Before moving back to Antigonish, I was an avid cyclist. It was generally more for recreation than transportation. Unfortunately, cycling here often feels unsafe. Many residents would bike to work or school if we had better infrastructure. When I was a resident of the town, I attempted to bike to my position at the hospital several times but it was just too stressful.
2. Just recently, the town was at the farmer's market to discuss their accessibility plan. The plan covers a variety of topics, including accessibility of trails. The town's accessibility plan 2025 states that "trails which are paved, wider, and more level, can be used by a range variety of people". This describes the ideal conditions for an accessible trail and also describes the AT extremely well. We heard Jeff Teasdale speak at the meeting. The residents he works with at L'Arche will really looking forward to experiencing more of the town. We should also consider our growing retired community who would benefit greatly from having a safe and enjoyable space to walk. Our sidewalks are uneven and would be difficult to use if you are using a walker or wheelchair. I would guess that Antigonish's AT would be a good motivator for a senior looking for a place to move. The landing is an amazing greenspace that residents can easily access but those with mobility constraints may feel that the fluctuating quality of the path is too uncertain to create a regular habit of physical activity. Dr. John Chaisson spoke about the importance of habit forming when starting an active lifestyle. The active transportation path gives our citizens an accessible, reliable space which can easily lead to habits that form the base of an active lifestyle.
3. Create more low cost recreation infrastructure for youth. As a mom to two small children, I know first hand the lack of low cost activities for children. Thankfully for our family, we own a large property and have access to transportation to take us to Keppoch. Opportunities in town are harder to come across.
4. Tourism. People from all over the world come here to cycle. This trail will make our town to stop in on the way.

I could go on about the positive aspects of building this kind of infrastructure but they are already well known and were discussed at length at the meeting last week. I have always supported the building of this trail so my heart was full when I saw so many of my fellow town and country residents at the meeting in support of the trail. So my heart was a bit deflated when I heard the mayor on CBC radio later that week. I heard him say that there were plenty of areas to be active in Antigonish and that it may not go ahead. I urge the town and council to listen to your constituents and support the continuation of this trail.

I understand that times are very tough now and municipalities are no different. I see a water main break almost every week it seems. We have crumbling infrastructure that all seems to be breaking at the same time. I'm sure a great amount of the budget is going to that work. There are always going to be infrastructure costs but we shouldn't let us stop from moving forward. Prices are going up all over, there will never be a better time to build such a project. You have the resources to find funding for a project like this. I saw a room full with very intelligent people who want this project to go forward. If you are concerned with costs, find more money. It is out there. Look for help beyond the town hall walls. This town stands to gain from the path, not lose. The tax payers will get better value for every tax dollar spent. Thank you for your attention.

Kind Regards,

Kendra MacEachern
4866 Hwy 7,
Antigonish, NS
B2G 0B4

To Mayor and Council,

The following letter is for the Mayor and Council to review as correspondence for your Council package.

I am writing as a mom of two young children to express my strong support for the Active Transportation Corridor project in Antigonish. This corridor will be transformational for young families, creating safe, accessible spaces for us to stay active, explore nature, and build stronger connections with our neighbors.

Like many parents, I always look for ways to spend more quality time outdoors with my children. The corridor will give us a safe place to bike, walk, and scooter—away from vehicle traffic—while giving my kids the freedom to be active and adventurous. I imagine evening strolls and weekend bike rides, where we run into familiar faces and stop for a chat, fostering the kind of close-knit, community feel that makes Antigonish so special.

The corridor is also an investment in our children's health and future. By creating space for active transportation, we are promoting lifelong habits of physical activity, which supports both physical and mental well-being. It also offers a tangible way to reduce our carbon footprint, creating a more sustainable future for our kids.

With significant funding from the federal, provincial, and municipal governments, this project represents a unique opportunity to create lasting, positive change. Delaying or halting it would be a step backward for families like mine, who are eager for safer, healthier, and more connected ways to move through our community.

I urge you to prioritize this project and see it through without delay. The corridor will benefit young families and future generations for years to come.

Sincerely,
Lindsay Murphy

Dear Mayor and Councillors, Town of Antigonish

The following letter is for the Mayor and Council as correspondence for your Council package.

In regard to the Active Transportation Spine project, the ask is that The Mayor and Councilors take a step back, remove any of their own biases and take responsibility to truly understand the purpose, benefits and need for the Active Transportation Spine in Antigonish. As well understand the consequences of delaying or cancelling the project and why cancelling or delaying its completion is not an option. As a new Mayor and Council this is an opportunity to bring positive change and demonstrate you are truly here for the community and citizens. These crossroads and decisions are where leaders rise up and lead, by stepping back, seeing the big picture and removing your opinions that are potentially harboured towards past leaders, projects and your own biases.

Take the politics, bias, and personal issues out of decision making - Do what is right. And what is needed for the Growth and Health of Antigonish and the surrounding communities.

The question the Mayor and Councillors need to be asking themselves and each other is:

"How are we going to complete this as planned?"

NOT - "What else needs to be funded instead of the AT Spine" as that was made clear March 25th, the approach that is being taken.

In follow up from the community meeting held March 25th, 20025 regarding the state and future of the Active Transport Spine, I have put in writing some key areas / topics that need to be considered. These are not the only areas and topics that highlight the importance of finishing the AT project as planned.

1. Accountability for Tax payers and community money

- the approximate cost to the TOA to finish the AT project is 1.3 Million.
- it was stated and confirmed at the meeting, the project has already spent and received reimbursement for approximately 1.2 Million through ICIP / grants.
- if the project was cancelled TOA would be subject to repayment of the 1.2 million reimbursement.
- Meaning for 1.2 - 1.3, the community can have a finished AT as planned OR just repay money already spent with no further work.

This is known risk that cannot be ignored - this can't be put aside under the "only if they lenders ask for the money back", that would be negligible.

2. IMMEDIATELY improving the lives of the most vulnerable and marginalized citizens / community members of Antigonish.

Any of the negative comments or issues with the AT Spine I have heard , I must say have been uninformed and short sighted on the purpose and benefits of this project.

Yes, it is providing a much-needed safe space for people to walk, bike, run and simply be more active, this is needed.

however, one of the the biggest benefits the AT spine will provide is not visible like a runner or a biker, it is the improved mental and physical health of a community, and ALL its citizens.

This may not resonate with most people one this email as holding positions in government / decision making provides a life of privilege, albeit to different degrees (acknowledging I do not know your history, situations etc, so I have blind spots yes), but more privilege then some of our co-citizens

The AT Spine is going to provide an unmeasurable benefit to our friends, family, community members that are living with in vulnerable and marginal populations. The AT spine is removing barriers that prevent people from getting around town, accessing health care, doing simple daily tasks that I for one take for granted as an Abel bodied person. The AT spine portion alone on St Ninian Street is going to improve the lives of our valued community members at CACL - both Physically and Mentally. To be able to leave work and safely get around town, knowing that your assistive devices will not be a barrier on the AT spine portion is changing the lives of an entire group of citizens.

The AT Spine is designed to connect the community from one end of town to the other, providing access to:

Down town core

Hospital

Library

Pharmacies

St Martha's Hospital

Recreation access - Columbus Field, Tennis courts, splash Pad etc

This is a Rural community in Nova Scotia that is already disadvantaged due to location,

infrastructure supporting health and wellness and the historic design that is outdated for today's population and the future - highlighting the need for a focused effort on accessibility and the AT spine was a great beginning.

This is only a couple of items, as I stated earlier there are many more that highlight the need to continue the AT project as planned - No Delay and No Cancelling.

Andrew Heighton