

Resolution 12A

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION (PAVING OF HIGHWAY SHOULDERS) (PASSED)

⇒ Halifax Regional Municipality

WHEREAS active transportation systems have economic, environmental, health and transportation benefits; and

WHEREAS the 2010 UNSM Active Transportation Survey demonstrates widespread support among Nova Scotian municipalities for increasing active transportation; and

WHEREAS the UNSM Active Transportation Survey identified the lack of standardized policies on active transportation issues as a barrier to implementing active transportation; and

WHEREAS increased number of trails and bicycle paths/lanes throughout the Province would encourage use of active transportation methods; and

WHEREAS paved highway shoulders have already been undertaken in some areas of the Province to support increased use of active transportation;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities request that the Province adopt a policy of paving highway shoulders when roadworks are underway so as to enhance the active transportation system throughout Nova Scotia and standardize Provincial policy and action on this issue.

Forwarded to:

Minister of the Department of Transportation & Infrastructure Renewal

RESPONSE:

Thank you for your letter of November 16, 2010, outlining Resolution 12A from the Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities regarding Active Transportation (paving of highway shoulders). The Department of Transportation and Infrastructure Renewal is currently working on a policy to provide paved shoulders and other active transportation infrastructure on provincial roads.

The Union of Nova Scotia Municipalities' Resolution has suggested that all roads should have paved shoulders added (if not already in existence) as road work takes place. Unfortunately, it would not be affordable to pave shoulders on all of our projects. However, the Department believes that by working with various stakeholders, we will be able to identify

opportunities to support active transportation initiatives.

I believe a standardized approach is important, and staff of my Department will continue to work with partners across the province to develop a policy which will outline a procedure or set of guidelines for the Department to follow when determining if a road warrants paved shoulders. This will include things such as the presence and recommendations of an Active Transportation Plan for the area, tourism potential, proximity to schools, traffic volumes, active transportation connectivity within the area, presence (or absence) of trails, among other factors.

Until such time as our policy is in place, and the guidelines which will support it are fully developed, we will continue to undertake individual projects and initiatives to improve active transportation throughout the province.

*The Honourable Bill Estabrooks, M.B.
Minister
December 13, 2010*