

**Special Council Meeting
January 9, 2025
Town Council Chambers**

Present

Mayor S. Cameron
Deputy Mayor D. Roberts
Councillor L. MacLellan
Councillor, P. McKenna
Councillor A. Murray
Councillor J. Pelly
Councillor J. Sullivan

Also in Attendance

R. Delorey, CAO
M. Fougere, Deputy Clerk
M. Barkhouse, Director of Corporate Services
K. MacInnis, Director of Community Development
B. Collier, Manager of Accounts
K. Meisner, Director of Public Works

1. Call to Order

Mayor S. Cameron called the meeting to order at 8:44 PM.

2. Approval of Agenda

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the agenda as presented." Motion carried.

3. Presentation of financial Statements

"It was Moved and Seconded to approve the draft Consolidated and Non-Consolidated financial statements as presented by D. Chiasson, MNP of the Audit Committee on January 9."

Motion carried.

4. Active Transit (AT Trail) Presentation

- K. MacInnis gave an overview on the AT trail, noting the concept of a active trail system that dates back to a 2007 partnership between the Town of Antigonish and the Regional Development Authority.
- Trail Study was completed in 2014, building on the earlier study, the 2014 Active Transportation (AT) plan involved both the town and county.
- The town's application for funding was submitted in 2020 under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP). The county received approval in July 2022. The province accelerated the county's project by incorporating it into the roundabout construction.
- **Phase 1** -The Governors Hall to James Steet and James Street to Highland Drive section has been completed in 2024.

- **Phase 2**– St. Ninian Street 2025
 Highland Drive to Church St. (680 meters). The infrastructure will involve replacing existing sidewalks with a 3-meter-wide shared asphalt pathway closer to the street.
 - A multi-directional shared-use pathway for both cyclists and pedestrians.
 - Replacement of sidewalks with an asphalt pathway extending 3 meters toward the street from the sidewalk’s current edge.
 - Proposed routing will utilize natural walking paths through properties near Church Street, connecting Columbus Field to East Main/Bay Street.

- **Phase 3**- East Main St. from end of East Main St. bridge to beginning of Adam St. 2025
 - A multi-directional shared use pathway for both cyclists and pedestrians.

- **Phase 4** – Columbus Field Portion 2025
 - A multi-directional shared use pathway for both cyclists and pedestrians.
 - Pedestrian Bridge.

Break down of the AT Spine Funding was shared outlining the following;

Total estimated cost of the project is \$4,074,500.00 with ICIP Funding

\$1,358,000.00 – Provincial funding (33.33%)

\$1,629,800 – Federal Funding (40%)

\$2,987,800.00 – Total funding = 73% dollars to the total estimated cost

K. MacInnis provided 3 options to council as follows;

Option A: Proceed As Planned – sign provincial RFA to extend project deadline to March 31, 2027.

Option B: To Proceed with Bay Street only for 2025-2026 (Main/St. Andrews Street section to Adam Street) and sign Provincial RFA to extend project deadline to March 31, 2027.

Option C: To Cancel all remaining sections.

Discussions ensued.

Councillor P. McKenna expressed support for Option A, however recognizing the consensus in the room he moved to adopt Option B.

“That Town Council endorses continuation of the Active Transportation Spine Project East Main St. to Bay St. sections and request staff to integrate the project with the Public Works Bay St Project to bring forward as part of the Towns 2025 2026 Capital Budget Proposal and that the Mayor and CAO signs off the Provincial request for approval to extend the project to the end of fiscal year 2027 as approved by the province.”

Discussions ensued.

It was mentioned that during the elections campaign, several councillors encountered concerns from residents regarding the first section of the AT Trail, specifically its impact on the condition of West Street. Given that other streets in the town also require attention.

Discussions ensued.

K. MacInnis acknowledged that communication about the AT Trail could have been more effective.

Councillor L. MacLellan suggested that there be a Town Hall on this issue and proposed an Amendment be made to the Motion.

Amendment to the motion for a Town Hall to be held before the Capital Budget Proposal on Option B.

Amended Motion

“It was moved and seconded That Town Council endorses continuation of Active Transportation Spine Project East Main St. to Bay St. Sections and request staff to integrate the project with the Public Works Bay St Project to bring forward as part of the Towns 2025 2026 Capital Budget Proposal and that the Mayor and CAO signs off the Provincial request for approval to extend the project to the end of fiscal year 2027 as approved by the Province.” and a Town Hall to be held before the Capital Budget proposal on Option B.”

Motion carried.

At 10:10 PM the meeting was adjourned.