

# Move Forward - An Action Plan for New Brunswick

Nov 14th 2019

The purpose of this session was to take initial steps in creating an action plan to foster active transportation in communities across New Brunswick. Close to 90 delegates participated.

## Themes

The following themes emerged repeatedly from table discussions during this session. They are highlighted here as *Areas Ripe for Action*. Transcribed notes from each table may be found in the next section.

<p><b>Coordination</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Social Media</li> <li>● A Provincial Greenway Advocate (formerly NB Trails Council)</li> <li>● Messaging (e.g. the benefits of AT)</li> <li>● Identify and Amplify Champions</li> <li>● Education:             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ What is AT</li> <li>○ How-to resources</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Define Roles             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Community/NGOs</li> <li>○ Municipalities</li> <li>○ Regional Service Commissions</li> <li>○ Provincial Government</li> <li>○ Federal Government</li> </ul> </li> <li>● Internal Government Departments: transportation, recreation, public works, health, land managers, etc.</li> <li>● Projects             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Information sharing</li> <li>○ Procurement</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><b>Accessibility</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● All ages, All Abilities Facilities and Programming             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Seniors</li> <li>○ Youth/Schools</li> <li>○ People with disabilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>Tourism</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Engage Businesses</li> <li>● Accessible Tourism</li> <li>● Beautiful Landscape</li> <li>● Quiet Roads</li> </ul>	<p><b>Other Themes</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Need for a Culture Shift</li> <li>● New Provincial Legislation &amp; Policy</li> <li>● Health and Environment Benefits</li> <li>● eBike Buzz</li> </ul>

## Discussion Table Notes

Each table discussed one of the following topics related to active transportation:

- Advocacy
- Infrastructure
- Policy & Legislation
- Programming

Participants had the opportunity to switch tables every 20 minutes. Each discussion table identified the strengths and opportunities in New Brunswick within these topics. All discussion table notes have been transcribed below.

<b>Topic: Advocacy</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
Bike Shops Mountain Bike Community Green MLAs and MPs HEPAC Recreation NB RSCs TIANB Chambers Saint John Cycling Edmundston & Dieppe Mayors are Champions	Thank and showcase people for using AT Better use of social media Connect AT to Climate Change Gov should connect with local groups to get the word out Make the case Use “their” language Cheer on your champions Reinforce co-benefits: health, enviro, biz Availability of data: We have it. Let’s use it! Know the details of the situation. Share it! Data Mine for Safety Road Diets Establish a leading org for advocacy Data on bike usage Replacement of NB Trails StreetlightData for tracking number of cyclists Case Study relevant to NB Central Social Media Local Street Bikeway Opportunities? Newsletter Policy and legislation changes Engaging businesses Blue Route Frame AT as a youth attraction and retention strategy Relate AT to health cost savings, accessibility

	<p>Know their priorities</p> <p>Help on how to sell projects</p> <p>AT is a local priority, frame it like that</p> <p>Politicians saying “we don’t hear from people.” How do we change that?</p> <p>Local Campaign for cycling</p> <p>Making personal connections</p> <p>Election is an opportunity</p> <p>Finding staff and community members for coffee</p> <p>Coordinate boots on the ground</p>
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<b>Topic: Infrastructure</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p>Rail Beds</p> <p>Space in the right of way</p> <p>Great waterfronts (e.g. Fredericton)</p> <p>Vélo NB</p> <p>Véloroute de la péninsule Acadienne (2)</p> <p>The Great Trail (2)</p> <p>Fredericton Trail System (2)</p> <p>Engineers starting to consider pedestrians (e.g. roundabouts)</p> <p>Rick Hansen Foundation</p> <p>Jumpstart</p> <p>Ability New Brunswick has equipment</p> <p>Quiet, rural roads (2)</p> <p>Strong Running and Cycling Clubs</p> <p>Trails Action Plan</p> <p>Vibrant rural communities/retail</p> <p>Coastal roads, picturesque routes</p> <p>Low baseline (lot of room for opportunities)</p> <p>All of NB is accessible by road</p>	<p>Rail beds</p> <p>Excess capacity of roads</p> <p>Dykes</p> <p>Bridge and culvert replacements</p> <p>End of lifecycle infrastructure</p> <p>Under-used federal funding</p> <p>Public land on waterfronts</p> <p>Design standards for subdivisions (trails)</p> <p>73k people with mobility needs</p> <p>Accessible Tourism</p> <p>Repurposing sidewalks for multi-use</p> <p>Inter-community commuters</p> <p>Closure of NB Trails</p> <p>Provincial Trails Body (Crown Corp)</p> <p>If less advocacy was needed more money would be available for infrastructure</p> <p>Traditional urban form as opportunity</p> <p>Cities can build on walking trail network</p> <p>Roads owned by province usually have geometry for shoulders</p> <p>Permit land expropriation for trails under legislation, like the Highways Act for roads</p> <p>Secondary roads</p> <p>Quebec cycling market</p> <p>Route Verte connection</p>

	<p>NB as hub for other provincial networks: Blue Route, Confederation Trail</p> <p>Lowering Speed Limits</p> <p>Abandoned Rails Beds</p> <p>Better infrastructure as vehicle for tourism</p> <p>Mandate percentage of infrastructure money to be spent on AT / Green infrastructure</p> <p>Clear direction from Province to RSCs</p> <p>Provincial Standards (e.g. shoulder policy)</p> <p>Provincial Bike Policy (see Quebec)</p> <p>TIR should have a AT coordinator or group</p> <p>Start with infra that doesn't require tradeoffs</p> <p>Temporary demo projects</p> <p>Advocacy can promote infra improvements</p>
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<b>Topic: Policy and Legislation</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p>DTI participating in symposium</p> <p>RSCs taking on role</p> <p>Availability of Data</p> <p>Knowledgeable stakeholders</p> <p>Increased awareness</p> <p>MoveSJ</p>	<p>AT master plan for the province</p> <p>Rural AT Plan</p> <p>A New Provincial Greenway Group</p> <p>Coordinate AT practitioners, gov departments</p> <p>Trails Act</p> <p>Provincial Statements of Interest</p> <p>Lower speed limits in residential areas</p> <p>A vision longer than 4 years (change in gov)</p> <p>Demonstrate Success</p> <p>Bike policy within DTI</p> <p>Mobility legislation can support AT</p> <p>Tax reform a current priority</p> <p>Land use policies/plans that promote density</p> <p>Breakdown silos</p> <p>Address trail user conflict (ATVs)</p> <p>ATV education, cooperative use policy</p> <p>School travel: safe routes, walking school bus, plan</p> <p>Education</p> <p>Show Progress (e.g. current plans)</p>

<b>Topic: Programming</b>	
<b>Strengths</b>	<b>Opportunities</b>
<p>RSCs knowledge and connection with LSDs            NB's Greenspaces            THC Trail Infrastructure Fund (3)            Parks and Trails Day (June)            Many communities have or started AT plans            NB consulting firms that provide AT planning            Passionate citizens (90 registrants)            Visually appealing geography            Funding for persons with a disability+infra            THC Active Communities Grant            Historical sites in trail programming            Transit Authorities            Teaching public safety to youth (gift cards)            Community engagement on events and programming (bike share)            Local Champions, community support            Targeting specific audiences            Environmental Trust Fund, FCM, ACOA            Strong cycling community            Community programs (bike to work week)            Number of orgs with stake in AT = power            Summer students to educate in schools            Community of AT            Crosses many demographics            Accessible and affordable            Programming can show #s</p>	<p>Unify fractured trail systems            Define provincial role for AT funding            Umbrella Org for AT (trail managers, municipalities, RSCs, DTI, Tourism, etc)            Public education plan: safety, schools, drivers            Change mindset/culture            "Make it cool, again"            AT provincial working group            Dedicated funding            \$20 fee on new bike purchases            Subsidy program for eBikes            Learn from BC AT strategy            NB Transportation Authority            Accessible tourism (make trails accessible)            Schools could use trails for teaching, connect with nature            Re-vision NB Trails to be ATNB. Common voice, language, priorities            Partner with Transit Authorities to address rural transportation issues            Combine funding sources            Coordinate AT plans/standards            Intro to urban cycling for adults            Engage youth in more programming            Non-traditional problem solving            Capture program data to demonstrate need            Coordinate message about programs            More programs for seniors (Loch Lomond Villa)            Engage communities and youth to promote AT            Promote eBikes            AT is practical wellness</p>

## Stakeholders and Partners

The following organizations were repeated throughout symposium sessions as having a direct stake in active transportation in New Brunswick.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Transit Authorities</li><li>● Recreation New Brunswick</li><li>● Regional Service Commissions</li><li>● Municipalities</li><li>● New Brunswick Departments of<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Transportation and Infrastructure</li><li>○ Tourism Heritage and Culture</li><li>○ Social Development</li><li>○ Environment and Local Government</li><li>○ Health</li></ul></li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>● Cycling Clubs</li><li>● Running Clubs</li><li>● Ability New Brunswick</li><li>● Schools</li><li>● Tourism Industry Association of New Brunswick</li><li>● Chambers of Commerce</li><li>● Elected Officials</li><li>● Real Estate Agents</li><li>● Healthy Eating and Physical Activity Coalition</li><li>● Velo NB</li></ul>
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