



**Thrive!**  
A plan for a healthier Nova Scotia

# The Active Transportation Policy Framework

Thrive! Summit: Dawn Stegen and Amy Schwartz



## The Issue

- Inactivity has a serious impact on the health of the population.
- NS has among the highest rates of chronic disease in the country.
- No single strategy will solve the obesity crisis.
- AT measures can contribute significantly towards bringing about healthier lifestyles in our communities and the design of the built environment can have a crucial and positive influence on improving public

## Background

- **Interdepartmental AT Committee (2010)**
- **Political Commitments**
- **Thrive! Action**
- **Sustainable Transportation Strategy Commitment**



## Provincial Active Transportation Team

**Mandate:** Develop and implement an Active Transportation Policy and Plan for Nova Scotia.

**PATT Members:** Departments of Health and Wellness (lead); Energy; Environment; Municipal Affairs; Transportation Infrastructure and Renewal; Nova Scotia Tourism Agency, Seniors; and Education and Early Childhood Development, Natural Resources\*; Justice \*



## Purpose of the AT Policy Framework

*A PF describes an overall strategic approach, desired future and sets out what needs to be achieved in order to bring about change. It is an 'umbrella' strategy' to which a number of policies relate*

- 'Whole of government' approach to AT
- Leadership by the province for: planning communities; upgrading roadways and pathways; public infrastructure; building a culture; data and measurement
- Clarity for stakeholder groups on role of provincial government
- Implement commitments in Thrive!, Sustainable Transportation Strategy (STS)



## Policy Content

### 1. Planning Communities

#### Example action:

**To support efforts by municipalities and other partners to advance AT, the Province will:**

- Encourage integration of active transportation plans within existing municipal planning strategies



## Policy Content

### 2. Upgrading roadways and pathways

#### Example action:

**When the province builds new roads or upgrades existing roads and paths, the following will be considered and assessed:**

- Walkers and cyclists are known or predicted users of a roadway.



## Policy Content

### 3. Public Facilities

#### Example action:

**When the province sites and builds public facilities, the following will be considered and assessed:**

- Accessibility in terms of walking, biking, wheelchairs and other forms of active transportation



## Policy Content

### 4. Building a culture

#### Example action:

**The province will support a culture of active transportation by:**

- Increasing capacity and expertise within the provincial government to develop AT programs, policies and infrastructure



## Policy Content

### 5. Data and Measurement

#### Example action:

**The province will improve the data and information available on active transportation by:**

- Sharing provincial sources of de-identified aggregate data related to active transportation



## Key Informant Input

- We sought early feedback on the draft from highly involved stakeholders
- This is prior to a broad engagement/consultation process
- Recommendations based on the key informant interviews are being integrated into the policy framework and/or implementation plan



## Next Steps

**October:** Review Key Informant Interview Report/ Make edits to the Policy Framework, continue work on Logic Model/Evaluation Plan and Implementation Plan

**November:** Stakeholder engagement: 8 gatherings (app: 3 hours)

**Mid December to end of February:** Review the findings and recommendations from the engagement session – finalize the policy framework, evaluation/ monitoring plan and implementation plan

