

Active Transportation Plan: Porters Lake & Surrounding Communities

Public Consultation #2

Open House
October 28, 2013

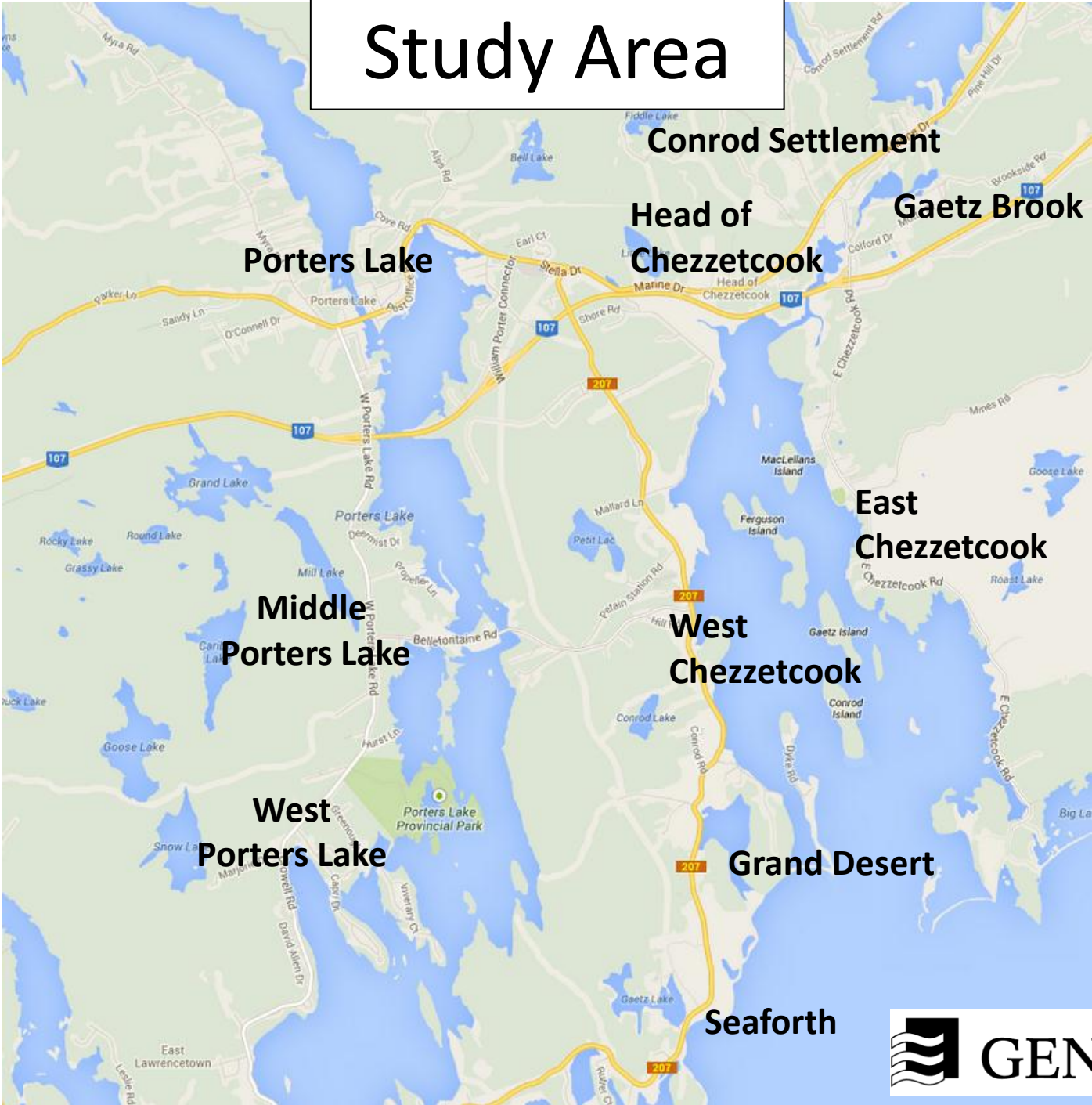
Project Background

- Project Steering Committee:
 - Shore Active Transportation Association
 - HRM Initiative (Transportation Planning, Trails)
- Project Objective:
 - Develop an Active Transportation (AT) Plan that aims to increase the use of non-motorized transport options in Porters Lake and the surrounding communities through:
 - Infrastructure upgrades
 - Public education/awareness

“We want more people to be active, cycling and walking – let’s connect the community and develop its understanding of Active Transportation”

[SATA member: March 11, 2013]

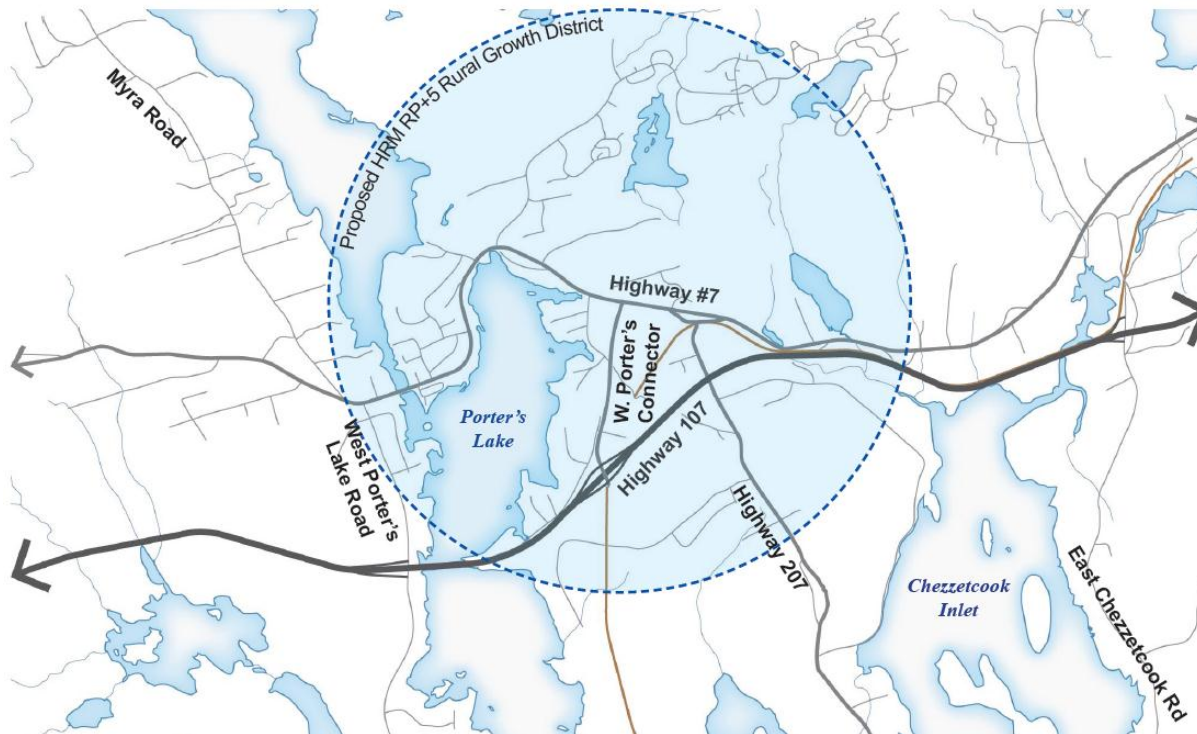
Study Area



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Porters Lake and Surrounding Area

- RP+5: Proposed Rural Growth District
 - 600+ Residential Units over next 15-20 years
 - MetroX Transit Service

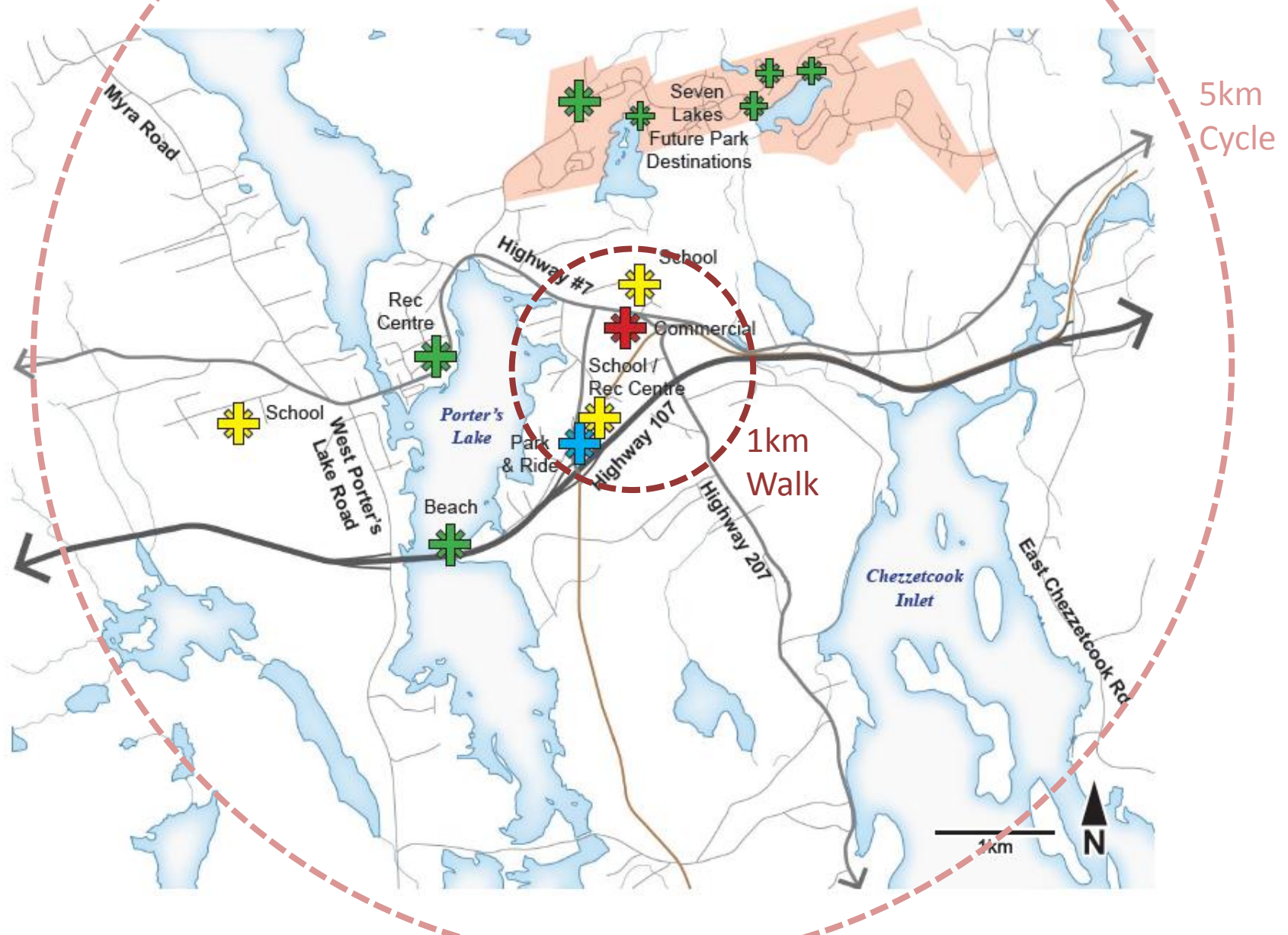


What is Active Transportation?

- Using 'human power' to get around:
 - Walking
 - Cycling
 - Rollerblading
 - Skiing
 - Snowshoeing
 - and more
- Benefits
 - Health & fitness
 - Economic
 - Environmental
 - Tourism



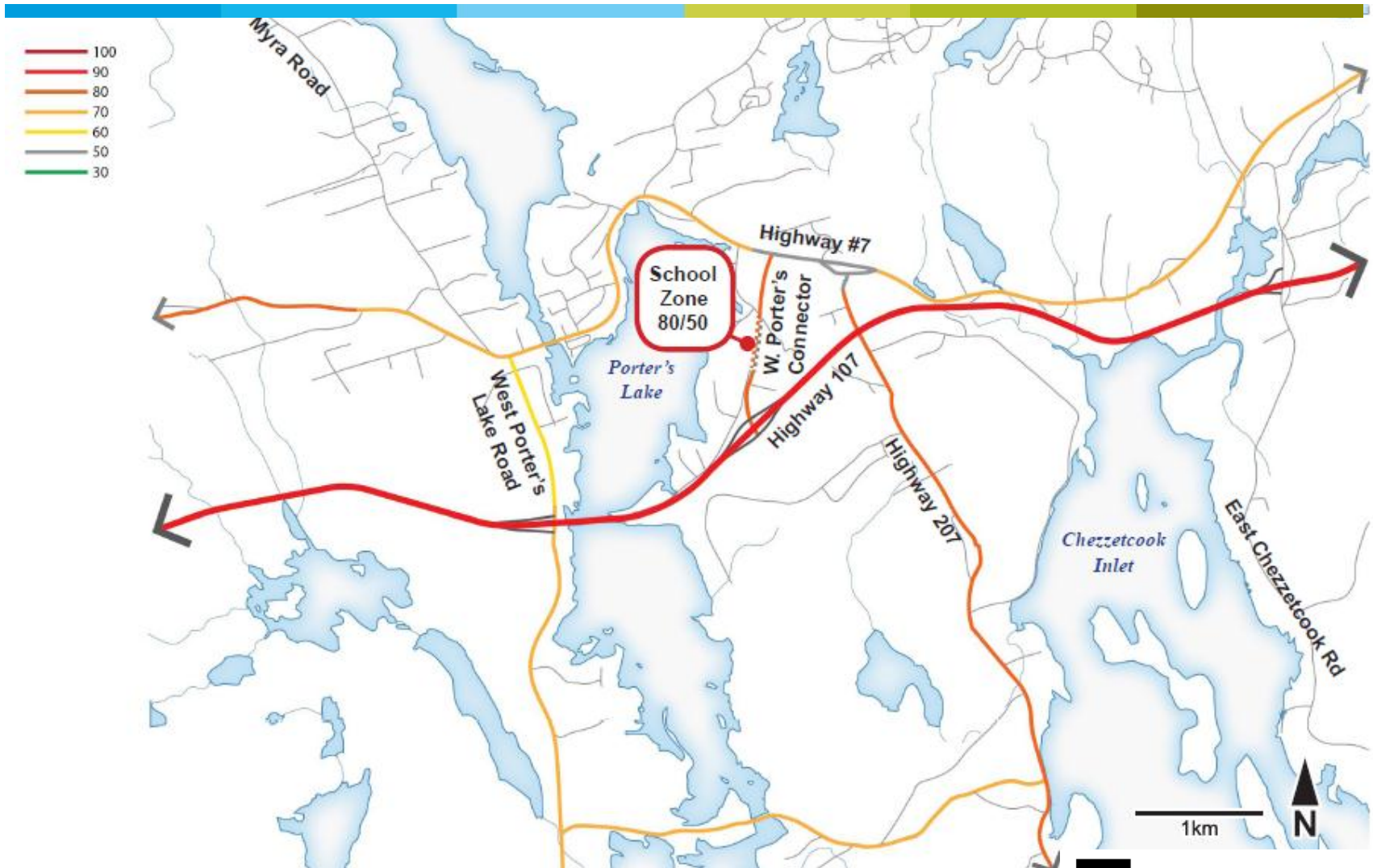
Destinations



Rural Challenges:

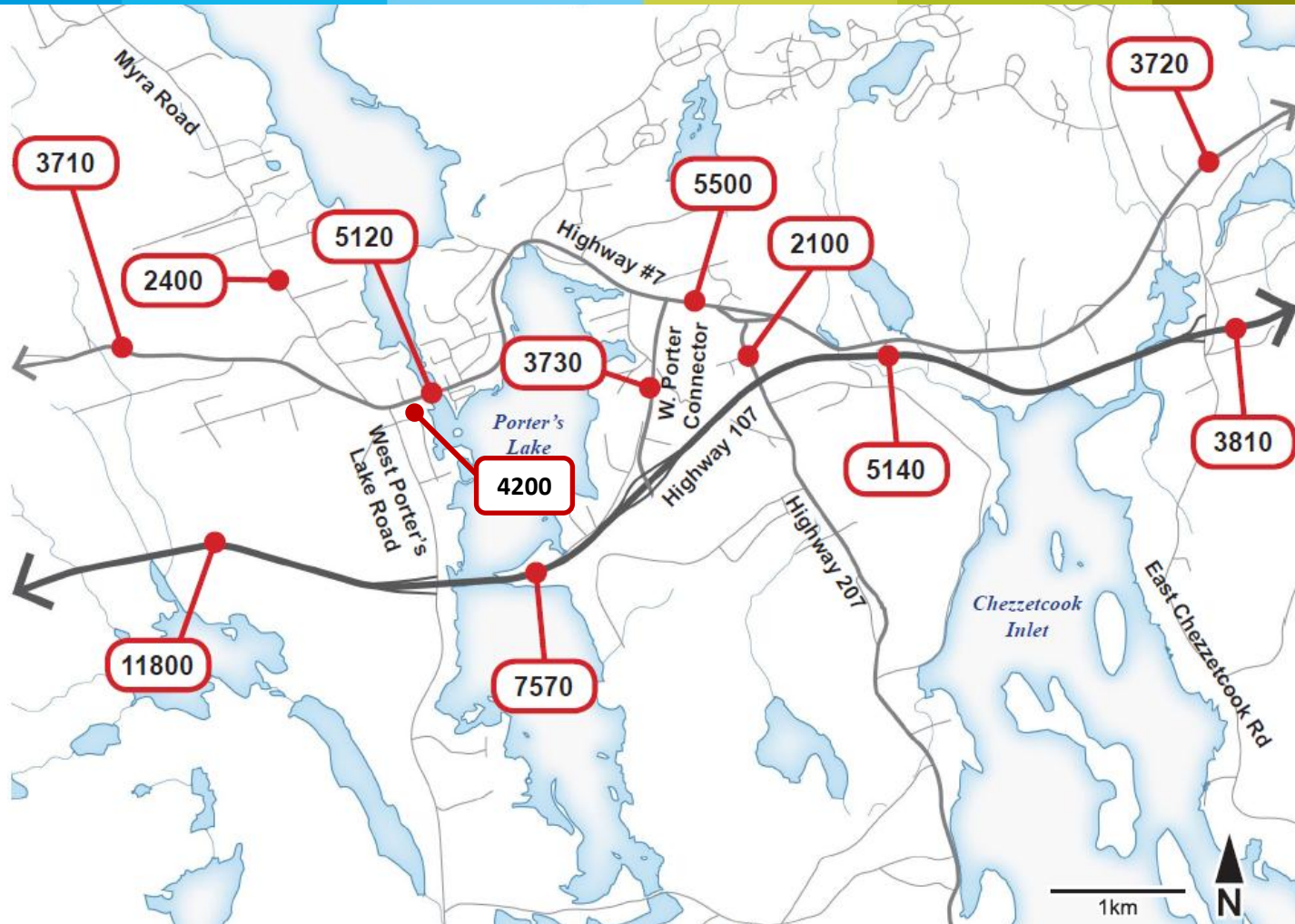
- Less population density
- Destinations often spread out geographically
- Road infrastructure:
 - Built primarily for cars
 - Extensive network to maintain
- ‘Car Culture’
 - Attitudes and awareness

Traffic Speed



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Traffic Volumes



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Project Approach

Background Review (Summer 2013)



Stakeholder Consultation (Sept)



Public Consultation (Sept 30)
(Phase 1)



Preparation of Draft Plan (October)



Public Consultation | Big Moves
(Oct 28) (Phase 2)



Finalize Recommended Plan (December)

Public Consultation (Phase 1)

- Introduce project to the community
- Present preliminary options
- Workshop activities
 - Identify AT barriers and opportunities
 - Establish priorities

Questions Investigated (September 30)

- *What changes would encourage you to walk and bike more?*

Destinations/connections/ programs

- *What routes would best encourage the community to walk and cycle more?*

What would these routes look like?

- *Which ideas are you most excited to see realized?*

Ranking

Project Approach

Background Review (Summer 2013)



Stakeholder Consultation (Sept)



Public Consultation (Sept 30)
(Phase 1)



Preparation of Draft Plan (October)



Public Consultation | Big Moves
(Oct 28) (Phase 2)



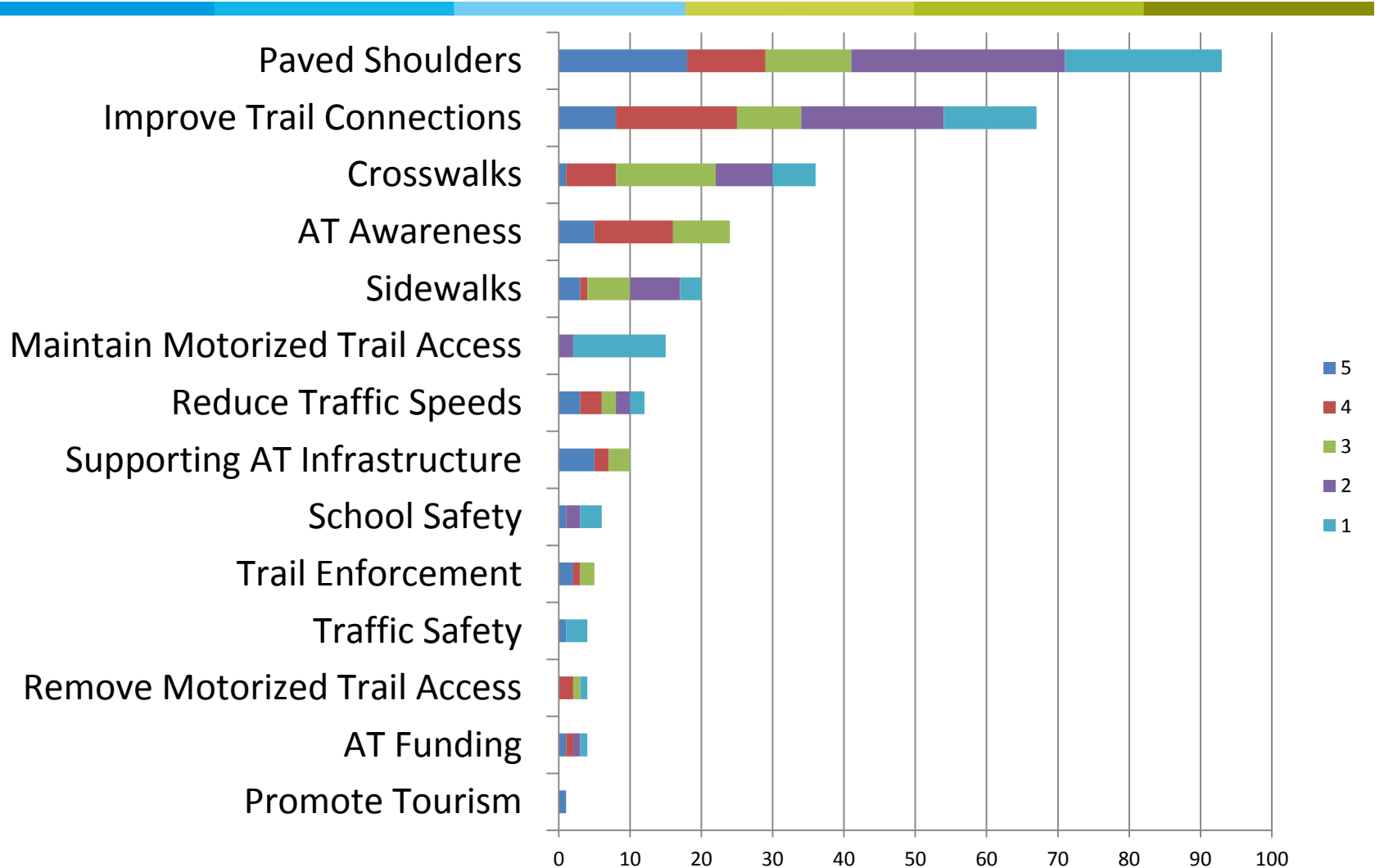
Finalize Recommended Plan (December)

Public Consultation | Big Moves

- Review Input from the community
- Present primary recommendations
- Open house activities
 - Review proposed 'Big Moves'
 - Gather additional feedback on directions being recommended

Ranking of Ideas

Based on Community Input Received Sept 30, 2013



Online AT Survey

- **Online at HRM Shape Your City site**
- **September 28 – October 25, 2013**
- **Respondents from the Porters Lake region**
- **Ages ranging from 18 – 65 and older**
- **52% of households with children (Total 54 kids)**
- **33% use mobility devices such as strollers, walkers, wheel chairs**

Online AT Survey



Do you think there is **value** in **improving active transportation** routes in your community, making it easier for children and adults of all ages to walk and cycle?

YES – 97 %

Online AT Survey



Do you enjoy walking?

YES – 95 %

Do you enjoy cycling?

YES – 75 %

Those who do not enjoy walking or cycling expressed concern that there is no safe facilities to walk or cycle

Online AT Survey

Safety Concerns



81% said **inadequate availability of sidewalk/paved shoulders** was a concern to a major concern regarding walking/cycling in the region.

76% Expressed **speeding cars/unsafe driving** was a concern to major concern regarding walking/cycling in the region.

65% Expressed that **personal safety** was a concern to major concern regarding walking/cycling in the region.

61% Said **missing/inadequate crossings** was a concern to major concern regarding walking/cycling in the region.

58% Said **safer road conditions** was noted at the single change that would make the region a better place for walking and/or cycling.

Online AT Survey

Encouraging walking/cycling



93% said **paved shoulders on the roads** would be somewhat to very motivating to encourage them to walk or cycle more.

81% said **upgrading off-road trail systems** for walking and cycling would be somewhat to very motivating to encourage them to walk or cycle more.

76% said a **more walkable village centre** (commercial/mall area) would be somewhat to very motivating to encourage them to walk or cycle more.

Online AT Survey



Other Endorsed Incentives (60-80%)

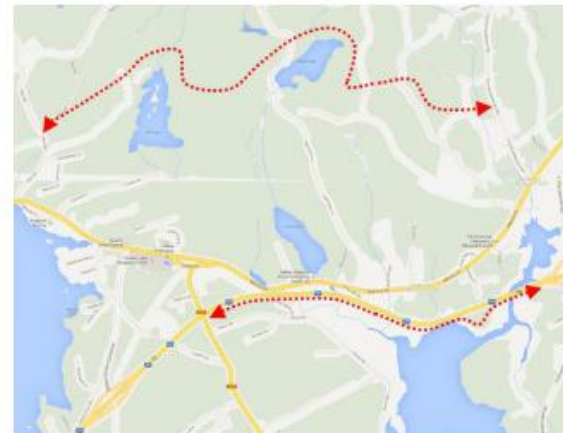
- ***Increased connections***
- ***Slower vehicle traffic***
- ***Maps/signs for routes***
- ***Improved street crossings***
- ***Calmer streets with the least traffic***
- ***Views and scenery***
- ***Off-road trails*** (e.g. rails to trails)
- ***Improved street crossings***
- ***Better public transit***
- ***Signage directing walkers/cyclists to destinations***

Today's Objectives

- Summarize feedback received
 - *No decisions being made today*
- Present primary recommendations
- Introduce the recommended moves
- Gather feedback on the moves from the community

Porters Lake & Surrounding Communities: Active Transportation Plan

Five “Big Moves” to Get the Community Moving Safely and Efficiently



5 Big Moves

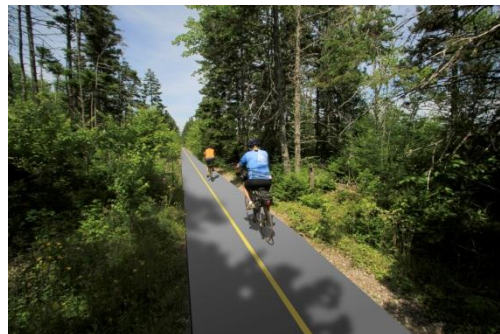
1. Develop a Greenway Link in the Core
2. Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area
3. Paved Shoulders on Key Roads
4. Develop Destination Greenways
5. Education and Awareness

Big Move:

1. Develop a Greenway Link in the Core

Recommendation:

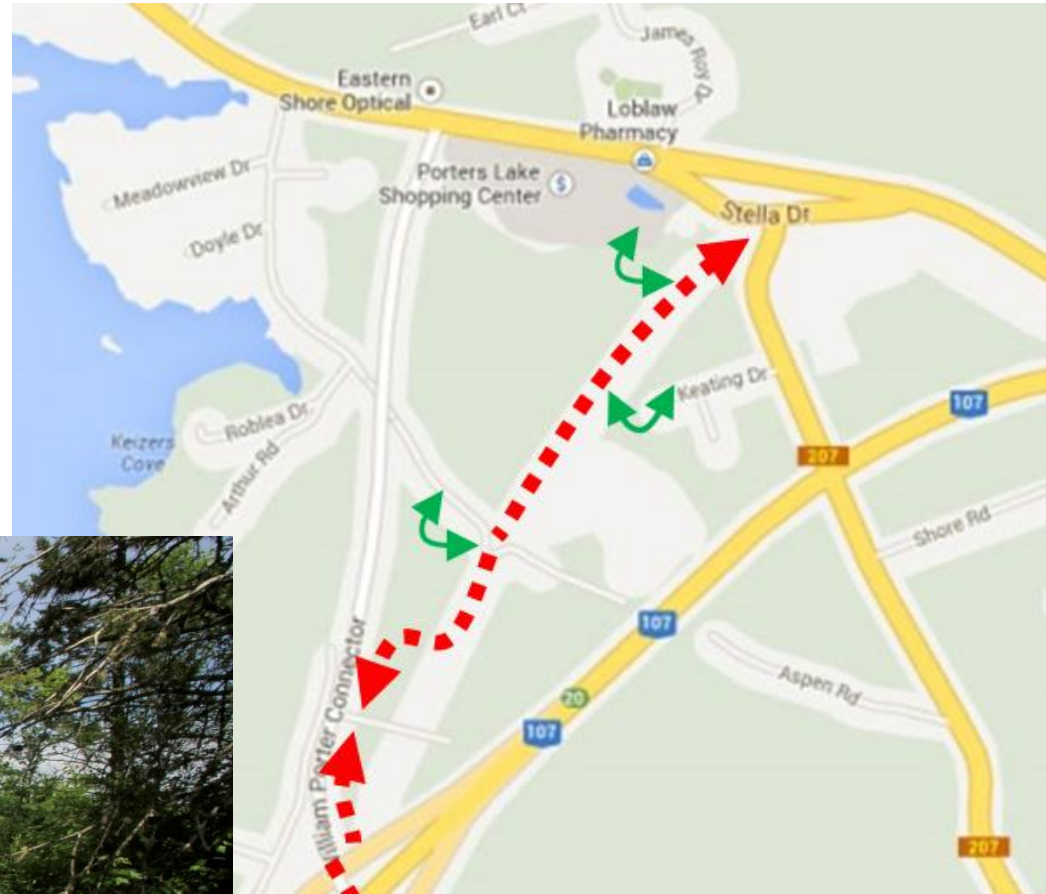
- Develop AT greenway between Porters Lake Elementary School / Lake & Shore Centre and Stella Drive:
 - Former rail corridor provides an exceptional opportunity for an off-street AT facility.
 - Existing rail bed should be upgraded to high AT standard, including asphalt pavement.
 - Key connections at Keating Drive, Shopping Centre, Porters Lake Station Road.
 - Future extension south to Les Collins Avenue.



Develop a Greenway Link in the Core



Develop a Greenway Link in the Core



Develop a Greenway Link in the Core



Why is this important?

- Growing area with important destinations in the community
 - Porters Lake Elementary School
 - Lake & Shore Centre
 - MetroX Transit Terminal
 - Porters Lake Shopping Centre
 - Senior's Residence
- Existing AT connections in the core are not ideal
 - William Porter Connector shoulder
 - Abandoned rail bed

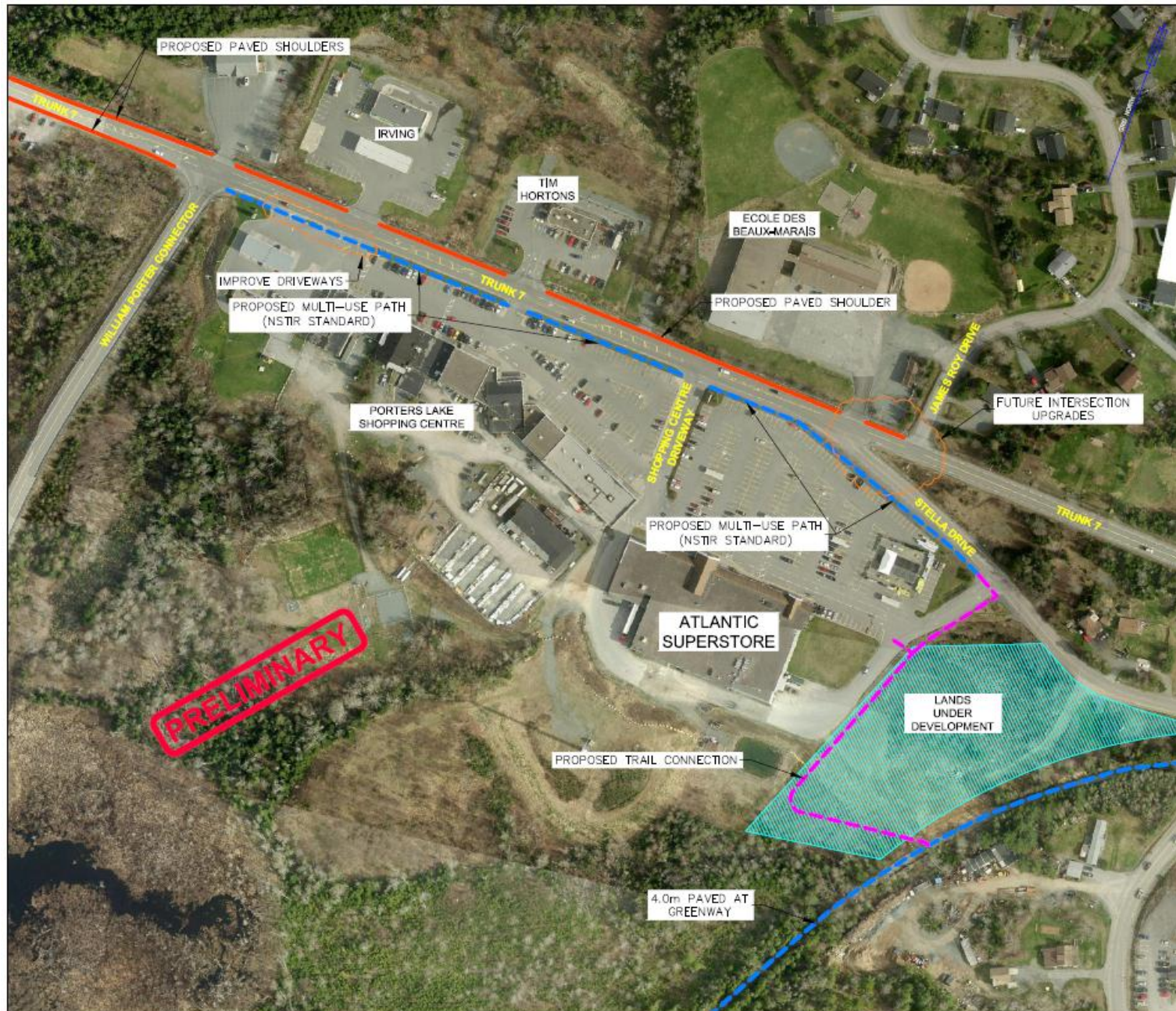
Big Move:

2. Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area

Recommendation:

- Improvements to Trunk 7 in the Porters Lake Core Area:
 - AT greenway or sidewalk along the south side of Trunk 7 between William Porter Connector and Stella Drive
 - Review crosswalk needs at key locations
 - Intersection improvements at James Roy Drive, Stella Drive, and William Porter Connector

Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area



Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area



Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area



Revitalize the Porters Lake Core Area

Why is this important?

- Existing AT options are not ideal
 - No existing formal AT facilities on Trunk 7 in the area.
 - Pedestrians feel unsafe crossing Trunk 7
- Improves mobility through and within a key destination in the community.
 - People will be encouraged to walk between destinations in the core.
- Addresses existing safety concerns:
 - Pedestrian crossings
 - Intersection sight distance

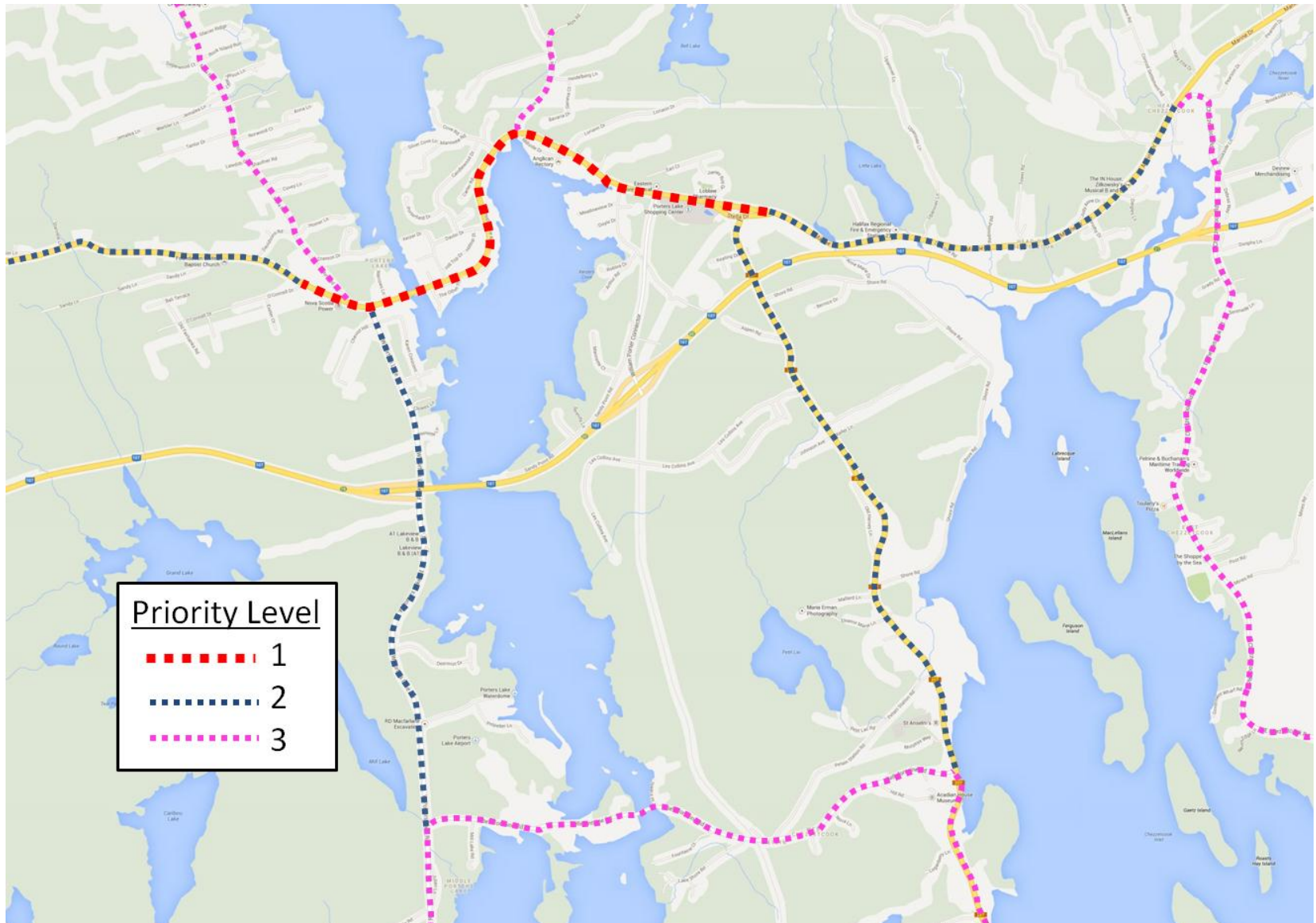
Big Move:

3. Paved Shoulders on Key Roads

Recommendation:

- Add paved shoulders on key routes in the Study Area as part of future repaving projects:
 - Work with NSTIR and HRM to include paved shoulders on any future paving projects on key routes:
 - Trunk 7
 - West Porters Lake Road
 - Bellefontaine Road
 - Highway 207
 - Myra Road
 - Alps Road
 - East Chezzetcook Road

Paved Shoulders on Key Roads



Paved Shoulders on Key Roads



Paved Shoulders on Key Roads



Paved Shoulders on Key Roads

Why is this important?

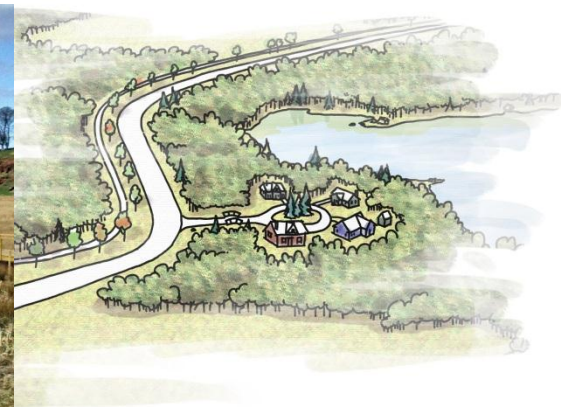
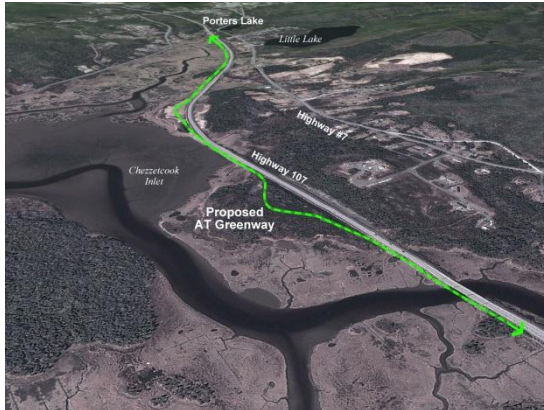
- Existing AT options are not ideal
 - Narrow gravel shoulders in most areas
 - Many people in the community are not comfortable walking/cycling on existing roads
- Paved shoulders provide significant improvement for AT purposes:
 - Pedestrians/cyclists are not forced onto vehicle lanes.
- Benefits not limited to AT:
 - Improved road safety for motorists
 - Reduced maintenance

Big Move:

4. Destination Greenways

Recommendation

- Build destination greenways in the Study Area that will provide dedicated off-street facilities for active transportation.
 - Acadian Marsh Greenway: New AT greenway along the south side of Highway 107 between Porters Lake and East Chezzetcook Road.
 - Seven Lakes Development Trail: New AT greenway that will run through the Seven Lakes residential development.

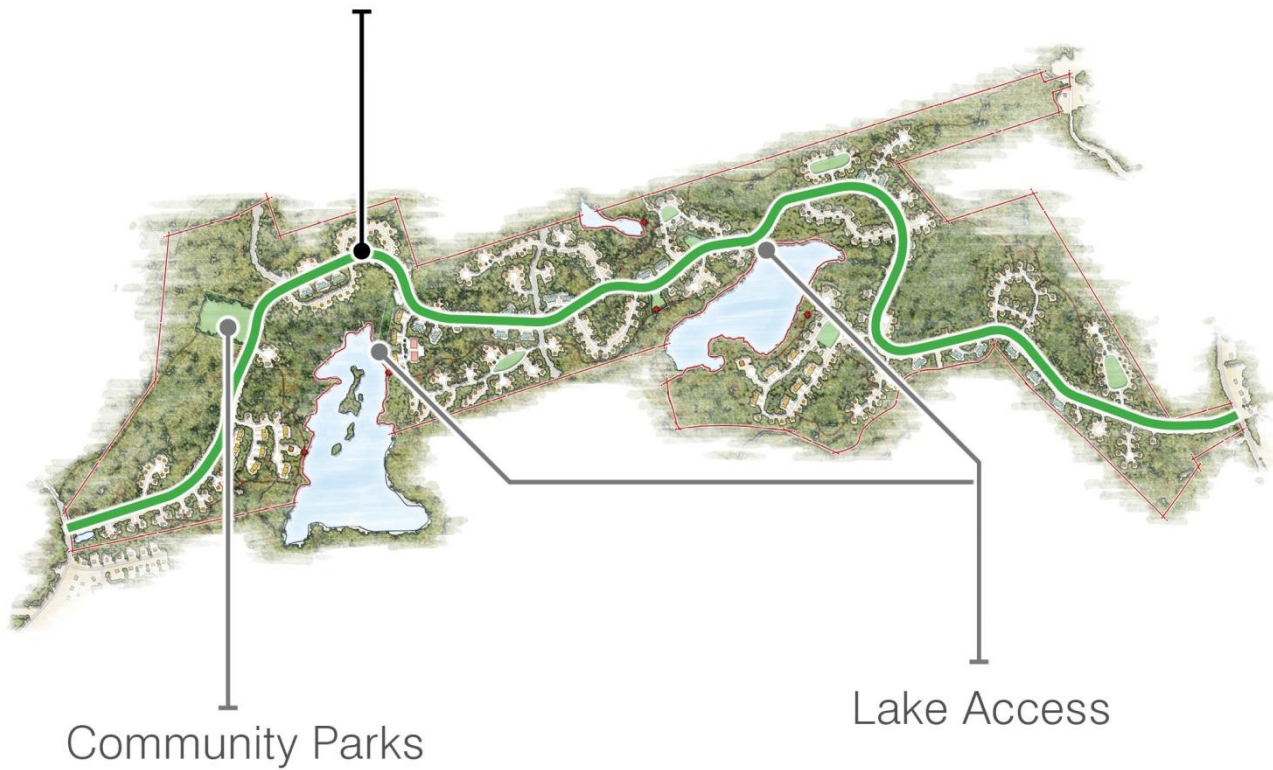


Destination Greenways



Destination Greenways

Proposed Seven Lakes
Multi-Purpose Trail



Destination Greenway

Why is this important?

- Many people will not feel safe walking or cycling on Study Area roads even with a paved shoulder. Greenways are separated from traffic, which improves the level of comfort considerably.
- The proposed greenways are excellent scenic showcases for the local area, and may present tourism opportunities
- The Acadian Marsh Trail would add a key missing link in the connectivity of the Trans Canada Trail

Big Move:

5. Education and Awareness

Recommendation:

- Improve AT awareness in the community.
 - AT maps and wayfinding signage
 - Community engagement through use of media (traditional and social)
 - Community-based educational programs
 - AT-based events



Education and Awareness

Why is this important?

- Many people are not aware of existing opportunities for active transportation in the area.
 - Moving toward a more AT-oriented culture requires continuous engagement, promotion and programming to encourage participation.
 - Signage and wayfinding helps identify existing opportunities.
- Activities and Programming
 - Walking / Cycling groups
 - Bike rodeos
 - Cycling/running competitions
 - Seasonal events (winter)

Contact Information

We invite and welcome continued community ideas, comments and input.

- October 28 Public Consultation #2, 7-9:00 PM, Rec centre
- Jeffry Haggett at GENIVAR
Jeffry.haggett@genivar.com | 902.719-7489
- SATA: shoreat.ca/
- HRM (311) and/or Councillor Hendsbee
david.hendsbee@halifax.ca