



GLOSSARY

Adaptation Measures: Actions that reduce the negative impact of climate change, while taking advantage of potential new opportunities.

Affordable Housing Work Plan: The result of more than a year of community engagement and consultation. It will guide the work of the Affordable Housing Working Group (part of the Housing and Homelessness Partnership) over the next five years. The focus of the plan is to build and preserve existing housing stock.

Amalgamation: Halifax Regional Municipality was created in 1996 upon the dissolving and combining (amalgamation) of 4 former municipalities (the City of Halifax, the City of Dartmouth, the Town of Bedford, and Halifax County).

Anti-Poverty Strategy/Building Poverty Solutions: Ideas for Action Report: A collaboration between HRM and United Way Halifax, this report represents a point in time (2018) to understand the state of poverty in Halifax Regional Municipality, listen to the voices of the community, and reflect back content developed with cross-sectoral community input. It is an important first step in building our understanding and supporting community partners to address the experiences of poverty in HRM, with a focus on eliminating it.

As-of-right development: Development that complies with all applicable zoning regulations and does not require public engagement or Council approval. A development permit issued by a Development Officer is an as-of-right development process.

Autonomous Vehicles: Also known as a self-driving

car, it is a computer-controlled car that drives itself.

Barrier Beaches: Narrow and elongate beaches situated parallel to the shoreline. By definition, the beach provides a barrier between the mainland and adjacent nearshore wetland, such as a salt marsh or mudflat and marine waters offshore.

Built Form: The physical shape, size and location of a structure.

Bus Rapid Transit (BRT): A high-quality bus system that provides transit riders with fast, frequent, comfortable, higher capacity service. Where possible, it uses transit priority lanes. Off-board fare collection and level boarding improve accessibility and reduce time spent at stops.

Coastal Erosion: A natural process that consists of the breakdown (or “weathering”) of rock and sediments at the shoreline, both above and below the water surface. In Atlantic Canada, coastal erosion happens as a result of the action of waves, and to a lesser extent tidal action, wind, storm surge, ice, rain, and surface runoff creating risks for public safety and damages to properties and infrastructure.

Coastal Marshes / Salt Marshes: Vegetated wetland that is flooded regularly by tidal water, or influenced by salt spray or seepage, such that the water and/or soil is saline or brackish. Tidal channels and/or ponds may be present.

Coastal-Specific Adaptation Strategy: Policies and actions that tackle the challenges of climate adaptation in coastal areas. Policies and actions may include retreating from eroding coasts, strengthening coasts by re-naturalizing coastal lands

or building dykes, and developing structures that can accommodate flooding.

Community Benefits Agreements: Seek to achieve community benefits from infrastructure and development projects. They are collaboratively designed and implemented between communities, developers, and government. Benefits may include local, inclusive employment, procurement from a social impact or equity seeking business, or local procurement.

Community-led Planning: The community is directly involved in creating the plan and in ensuring that the actions are delivered. The planning process is based directly on community needs and ambitions, collaborative, open and inclusive, flexible and responsive, and sustainable.

Commuter-oriented Communities: The area from which a significant proportion of residents commute to work.

Complete Communities: Communities that include a range of uses and housing options to accommodate people in all stages of life, all abilities, and at a variety of income levels. Complete communities provide a place for residents to live, work, shop, learn and play. Complete communities contain mixed uses and compact development that enables people to safely and conveniently access the goods and services they need in their daily lives, all within a short journey and without the need to depend on a personal motor vehicle.

Complete Streets: A holistic, flexible, context-sensitive approach to planning, design, operations and maintenance of streets that enables safe, convenient

and comfortable travel and access for users of all ages and abilities regardless of transportation mode (e.g. on foot, rolling, on a bicycle, using transit, in a private vehicle). It recognizes that public streets are also places that can serve a social, economic and ecological function. A Complete Streets approach can apply to a wide variety of streets and is adaptable to the urban, suburban and rural contexts.

Cultural Landscapes: Cultural landscapes are places that connect the Region's residents and visitors to local history. Typically associated with a historic event, activity, person or group of people, they reflect human interaction with the land over time. Some of these areas are designated and protected, while others have yet to be officially recognized.

Discretionary Approvals: A planning process that requires public engagement and approval by Council or a designated authority. A rezoning, development agreement or municipal planning strategy amendment is considered a discretionary approval.

Food Insecurity: Means that members of a household have difficulty accessing or worry about not having enough personally acceptable food for a healthy, active life. Household food insecurity is closely related to poverty; the lower the income, the higher the risk of food insecurity.

Food Policy Alliance: Formed in 2013, the Halifax Food Policy Alliance (HFPA) is a partnership of individuals and organizations that represent different sectors related to the food system working toward a vision of Halifax, where no one is hungry and everyone has nutritious food that they enjoy, for generations to come, sustained by local producers.

Green Infrastructure: A network of natural and semi-natural engineered landscape elements designed to provide products and services such as stormwater management, water filtration and improved air quality.

HalifACT: Acting on Climate Together: HRM's long-term climate change plan to reduce emissions and help our communities adapt. The plan was adopted by Regional Council on June 23, 2020 and guides efforts to reduce emissions by conserving energy and increasing access to clean energy sources. It also helps communities adapt by raising awareness and helping people prepare.

Halifax Green Network Plan: Approved in 2018, this plan defines an interconnected open space system for the municipality, highlights ecosystem functions and benefits, and outlines strategies to manage open space.

Heat Island Effect: The heat island effect occurs when closely-packed buildings and paved surfaces amplify and trap heat in dense urban areas. These surfaces trap heat more effectively than natural ecosystems. Urban areas also generate heat through furnaces, air conditioners and vehicles, contributing to the problem.

Housing and Homelessness Partnership: A collaborative of nine partners from the three levels of government, private, and non-profit sectors that works with community partners to end homelessness and housing poverty in Halifax.

Housing Continuum: The range of housing types available in a community — from emergency shelters on one end, all the way to homeownership on the

other. In between lies an assortment of housing options and types, each critically important for different people at different times.

Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM) Charter: The provincial legislative document that sets out what HRM can and cannot do. Part 8 of the HRM Charter enables the Municipality to assume primary authority for planning within its jurisdiction, consistent with its urban or rural character, through the adoption of municipal planning strategies and land-use by-laws consistent with interests and regulations of the Province. The HRM Charter requires the Municipality to adopt a Municipal Planning Strategy (the Regional Plan) that includes policies which provide a framework for the environmental, social, and economic development of the Municipality.

Integrated Mobility Plan: Approved by Regional Council in December 2017, this plan creates a regional vision for mobility and helps to direct future investment in transportation demand management, transit, active transportation, and the roadway network.

JustFOOD: an action plan for the Halifax Region: This plan will engage with residents and stakeholders and unify efforts to develop “grown in Halifax” solutions. As the first food strategy in our Region, it will create a comprehensive plan to guide actions to improve food security, with clear roles for all actors in the food system and the necessary resources for positive change.

Land Use By-Law: The regulatory document that implements the intent of a municipal planning strategy.

Mode Share: The proportion of people using a given type of transportation, such as private vehicles or transit.

Municipal Drinking Water Supplies: The lakes, rivers, streams and groundwater where our drinking water comes from. The Halifax Regional Water Commission manages these areas to maintain or improve the quality of drinking water before it reaches the water supply plant and eventually our taps.

Natural Areas: Areas that have not previously been developed.

Natural Corridors: There are two types of natural corridors identified in the Halifax Green Network Plan: Essential Corridors which are connections that provide unique or critical connections between important core areas, the loss of which would severely degrade connectivity throughout the Region and to adjacent Municipalities; and Important Corridors which are connections between natural habitats, the loss of which would impact local connectivity but are unlikely to impact overall regional connectivity.

Natural Resource Extraction: The process of withdrawing materials from the natural environment, including mining and logging.

Outdoor Amenities: May include playgrounds, benches, trees that provide shade, pools, gardens, or space to play.

Park Management Plan: A document that outlines the vision and direction for a park and action to achieve that vision.

Plan Amendment Applications: Submitted when

the desired use or development on a piece of land is not permitted within the existing Council-approved municipal planning strategy policies that apply to the area. Amendments to a municipal planning strategy are significant undertakings and Council is under no obligation to consider such requests. Amendments should be only considered within the broader planning context or when there is reason to believe there has been a change to the circumstances since the policy was adopted or last reviewed.

Priority Plans: Subject-focused plans used to advance directions from the Regional Plan. These include the Integrated Mobility Plan, Halifax Green Network Plan, Halifax's Economic Growth Plan, Sharing Our Stories: Culture & Heritage Plan, and HalifACT 2050: Community Energy & Climate Action Plan.

Rapid Transit Network: Frequent transit service separated partially or completely from general road traffic and therefore able to maintain higher levels of speed, reliability and vehicle productivity than can be achieved by transit vehicles operating in mixed traffic.

Rapid Transit Strategy: Approved by Regional Council in May 2020, this strategy builds on the vision from the Integrated Mobility Plan and establishes a Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) Network, proposes new ferry service, and sets a direction for land use policy to align with Rapid Transit.

Riparian Areas: The area adjacent to the banks of a river, stream, lake, wetland, coast or other water body.

Saltwater Intrusion: The movement of saltwater

into underground sources (aquifers) of freshwater, which can occur in coastal regions or inland, and the surface movement of saltwater inland from the coast.

Secondary Municipal Planning Strategy: A community-level plan, subject to Regional Plan, that provides more detailed land use policy and regulations for a particular area of the Municipality.

Sequester Carbon: The long-term storage of carbon dioxide in plants, soils, geologic formations, and the ocean to prevent it from entering the Earth's atmosphere.

Sharing Our Stories: Also known as the Culture and Heritage Priorities Plan (CHPP), the Sharing Our Stories project will provide direction for the Municipality's role in supporting culture and heritage.

Stormwater: Rainwater that runs off land and moves away from the area where it originally falls. In urban or built up areas, it is best defined as rain that runs off surfaces where water cannot penetrate such as roofs, driveways and roads.

Stormwater Management: Methods or techniques used to reduce localized flooding and improve the quality of wet weather flow reaching waterbodies.

Strategic Multi-Modal Corridor: Transportation corridors that are important based on their role in moving people and goods by all mobility modes including active transportation (walking, rolling and cycling), transit, and by vehicle.

The African Nova Scotian Road to Economic Prosperity: A collaborative plan developed and owned by the African Nova Scotian community to

advance economic development and community priorities.

The Task Force on the Commemoration of Edward Cornwallis and the Recognition and Commemoration of Indigenous History: An expert panel to review and advise Council regarding any changes to the commemoration of Edward Cornwallis on municipal assets, including Cornwallis Park and Cornwallis Street, and recommendations to recognize and commemorate the indigenous history in the lands now known as Halifax Regional Municipality.

Transit Priority Corridors: A street in the transportation network that features measures to give increased priority to transit vehicles, such as dedicated transit lanes.

Transportation Demand Management (TDM): A strategy aimed at reducing peak hour congestion by providing people with choice in how, when and whether they commute to work. TDM initiatives aim to improve the efficiency of the transportation network by encouraging alternatives to the single occupant vehicle trip and changing travel behaviour.

Urban Service Area: Encompasses areas where municipal approval for serviced development has been granted, as shown on Schedule B of the Regional Subdivision By-Law.

Urban Transit Service Boundary: The outer limit for providing conventional bus service, as prescribed in the Regional Plan. It closely follows the boundary of the Urban Service Area, including all contiguous communities in Halifax which currently have both municipal water and municipal sewer, where homes

are generally closer together.

Watershed: An area of land that contains a common set of streams and rivers that all drain into a single larger body of water, such as a larger river, a lake or an ocean.

Western Common Wilderness Common (WCWC)

Master Plan: Adopted by Regional Council on June 15, 2010. The Western Common Wilderness Advisory Committee was given the mandate to advise the design team for the Wilderness Common on planning and development issues related to the Western Common Wilderness area lands.

Working Landscape: Places that support economic activity, including forestry, agriculture, tourism, and extraction activities.