



**Town of Amherst
Committee of the Whole**

Date: **Monday, January 22, 2018**
Time: **4:00 pm**
Location: **Council Chambers, Town Hall**

	Pages
1. Call to Order	
1.1 Approval of Agenda	
2. In Camera	
2.1 Approval of In Camera Agenda	
2.2 MGA 22(2)(c) Personnel	
2.3 MGA 22(2)(e) Contract Negotiations	
2.4 MGA 22(2)(e) Contract Negotiations	
2.5 MGA 22(2)(a) Municipal Property	
2.6 MGA 22(2)(c) Personnel	
3. Council Direction Requests	
3.1 Community Support Grants (7210) - CHRISTIE 5:10 - Deferred from 20180115 COW	1 - 10
3.2 Temporary Borrowing Resolution for 2017-18 Capital Budget (7190) - ARBING	11 - 14
4. Information Items	
4.1 Active Transportation Plan update (5023)	15 - 26
4.2 Nova Scotia Border Committee (7268) Deputy Mayor Christie Verbal Report	
5. Adjournment	

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Kogon and Members of Amherst Town Council
From: Deputy Mayor Sheila Christie
Date: January 15, 2018
Subject: Community Grants

Background

For some time now I have been of the opinion that the Town's system of allocating grants to organizations and organizers of festivals and events needs a review and a deep overhaul.

With budget season upon us, I've decided to share my thoughts, in the hope that we can have a policy discussion at the Council level and provide staff with some direction to make revisions to the Community Support Grants Policy in time to be in effect for final budget approval.

A number of the grants handed out each year have become routine and have become, unfortunately, part of the organizations business plan, as expected funding- not a grant.

I've attached an analysis of last year's grants. You'll note that the grants of an ongoing nature total \$40,500.

The balance of the amounts granted those that could be considered "not a sure thing", total \$33,100. It's this group of grants, and perhaps some others, that I'd like to target as part of this discussion.

I have attached a copy of the policy for Council's reference. The proposal that I put forth below, contemplates the following revisions:

1. Changing the application date in section 4- to support the new proposed policy
2. Deleting section 6 A – Community Support Grants and replacing it with a program labeled "A Fresh Start" (details below)
3. Amending Section 6 such that ALL applications for assistance regarding festivals and events be submitted to and approved by Council
4. Section 7- The Authority of the CAO would remain in place for all other sections, with maximum limit of \$5000.00 per year
5. Section 8- date changes to reflect new proposed policy

Proposal and Discussion

So, I propose that any group other than the ones highlighted in the group of \$40,500 above be required to present and compete with other requests for funding at a two community events each year. The model is loosely based on the 100 Women Who Care model. The basics of the model are as follows:

In order to give back to the community, with an impact that is similar to a "seed" program, we can hopefully jump start wonderful creative projects within our community.

1. This money would be granted in a program called “A” Fresh Start- Community Initiative. This program would be 2 times a year, with \$17500.00 available each time.
2. Organizations can apply; up to 2 times a year- deadline is April 1st for first public voting- in June- and August 1st for second public voting- in October. However, an organization or sports, culture group can only be chosen once a year. If chosen, they have to wait to apply in another year.
3. The presentation, idea, or use of the money is for creative- New events or initiatives or that enhance current programs- not just for normal sustainable operations of an organization.
 - a. For example: a new cultural play, new event, festival, fundraising event with funds going back into Amherst and area, or new enhancement to an existing service or event.
4. All of the applicants (that qualify), are put in a “Hat “and 5 are chosen at random the May/Sept. council meetings and these 5 are to present at the public event in June and Oct.
 - a. The public meeting would be for 1 ½ hours from 7pm- 8:30 pm- June and Oct. at the Community Credit Union Business Innovation Centre.
 - b. All presenters and public are welcome to attend. There will be a \$2.00 fee to participate. The door take will be donated to a local charity. (Or divided amongst the non winners – see note below).
 - c. The 5 make presentations to a max allowance of 10 minutes each.
 - d. After all presentations done:
 - i. Those in attendance from the public vote on the top 3. The council there then vote on the order of awards based on the ranking. (This is to avoid some group coming with 50 supporters to boost the vote)
 - e. Two options for awarding funds:
 - i. Option A: (two events @ \$17500.00 each)
 1. 1st place \$10,000.00
 2. 2nd place \$5000.00
 3. 3rd place \$2500.00
 4. 4th/5th place split door proceeds- only 4th and 5th placers are able to re apply at next event- winners 1,2,3 have to wait for 1 year- if they still qualify.
 - ii. Option B:(Two events @ \$17500.00 each)
 1. Still \$17500.00 to be awarded, but all 5 chosen get an award- the money at the door is donated to charity- i.e. VON or Foodbank etc.
 2. Public vote on top 3 – council then votes on ranking of all 5.
 - a. 1st place- \$8000.00
 - b. 2nd place- \$4500.00
 - c. 3rd place- \$3000.00
 - d. 4th place- \$1250.00
 - e. 5th place- \$750.00
 - f. Under both options, while voting is going on- previous winner talks about how they spent the money for their cause.

Motion:

That staff be directed to prepare revisions to the Community Grants Policy to reflect the proposal outlined above and that any decisions on community grants be deferred until the revised policy is brought back to Council for discussion and debate.

Organization			Awarded 2015/16	Awarded 2016/17	Request 2017/18	Award 2017	
Amherst Little League Basebal Assoc	PR	C	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500	
Amherst Little Leage Tball	PR	C	500	500	500	500	
Autumn House	PR	C	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Cumberland Early Intervention Program	PR	C	1,200	500	500	500	
Food Assistance Network	PR	C	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	
LA Animal Shelter	PR	C	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	
Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland	PR	C	500	500	500	500	
Cumberland Health Care Red Carpet Gala	AR	C			1,000	1,000	
Cumberland County Museum	AR	C	4,000	4,000	10,000	4,000	
Amherst Youth Town Council	AR	C			5,000	1,000	
Relay for Life Committee	AR	I			2,000	2,000	
Amherst Aerials Gymnastics Club	AR	C			2,000	1,000	
Showcase Productions Society	AR	C	1,000	1,000	1,500	1,000	
CARMA	AR	C	500	1,000	2,000	500	
Senior Safety Program	AR	C	5,000	6,500	6,500	5,000	40,500
100 Women Who Care Cumberland	AR	I			144	-	
Chamber of Commerce	AR	I			269	-	
CARMA - Spayghetti	AR	C		-	500	-	
Caumberland Dragon Boat Team "Y" Not	AR	C			500	-	
Cumberland Public Libraries	AR	C			500	-	
Amherst Kodokan Judo Academy	AR	C			500	250	
Amherst & Area Tae Kwon Do Parents Association	AR	C			500	250	
Area Tourism Action Committee	AR	C			1,000	-	
Amherst Community Garden	AR	C			1,000	500	
Double "D" 4H Club	AR	C			1,000	250	
Empowering Beyond Borders	AR	C			1,150	500	
Rotary Club of Amherst	AR	I			1,200	1,200	
Rural Communities Foundation	AR	C			1,500	-	
Nova Scotia SPCA	AR	C			2,500	-	
Amherst Curling Club	AR	C			4,000	-	
Bordertown Biker Bash Committee	AR	C	10,000	5,000	5,000	3,000	
Cumberland Y Summer Kick Off	AR	C			5,000	2,500	
Fibre Arts Society of NS	AR	C	8,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	
Nu Palyz Arcade	AR	C			7,000	-	
Amherst Golf Club	AR	C			10,000	-	
Esther Fest	AR	C		10,000	10,000	10,000	
Summer Slam Jam (Trider's)	AR	C			20,000	-	
Allowance for intra year requests						9,650	33,100
			54,200	57,500	133,263	73,600	

DEPARTMENT: ALL TOWN DEPARTMENTS

TITLE: **COMMUNITY SUPPORT GRANTS POLICY**

Minutes reference date: 23 September 2013 27 October 2014 21 May 2015

POLICY STATEMENT:

1. Amherst Town Council directs the operation of the Town through its approved policies. Every year the Town receives more grant requests than it can fund. The purpose of this policy is to establish equitable guidelines for the distribution of limited amounts of funds to non-profit and charitable organizations in the community in a manner approved by Council. It is not the intent of this policy to fund activities of organizations that are clearly within the mandate of the Government of Nova Scotia or the Government of Canada (e.g. health, social services, housing).
2. This program does not govern the following, which are separately administered:
 - * Tax Exemption for Non-Profit Organizations (full and partial tax exemption by-laws);
 - * Residential Property Tax Rebates (low-income homeowners).

AUTHORITY

3. Authority is provided under Section 65, *Municipal Government Act*, as amended.

APPLICATIONS FOR ASSISTANCE

4. All grant applications shall normally be submitted on the form provided by the Town. The Town of Amherst will not consider requests received as part of general (mass) mailing or telemarketing campaigns. Applications will be considered from groups that have had satisfied conditions and obligations from previous grants awarded to them and provided sufficient proof of their non-profit status. Funding applications will not be considered from the following:

- ✓ Businesses
- ✓ Hospitals, medical programs, treatment services or social services programs.
- ✓ School Boards or quasi government organizations
- ✓ Non-profit organizations for the purpose of funding accumulated deficits.
- ✓ Organizations with political affiliations

Funding will not normally be provided to religious organizations where services include the promotion or required adherence to a particular belief.

Funding will also not normally be provided to fund raising campaigns of national charitable organizations.

Applicants are encouraged to submit applications to the Town of Amherst prior to January 31st if possible in order to address the schedule under the Towns budget process.

SPECIAL CONSIDERATION

5. The current level of financial support to the Amherst Food Assistance Network, Cumberland Early Intervention Program, Sexual Health Centre for Cumberland County and Cumberland County Transition House (Autumn House) will be continued. While the intent of the policy is not to fund social service type organizations, support to these projects will be continued. Further applications requesting financial assistance in this category will not be considered. Funding for 2014 in the amount of \$1000 and 2015 in the amount of \$500 for the Amherst Bantam Baseball Association will be confirmed under this policy though the annual budget process.

POLICY COMPONENTS

6. A) **Community Support Grants**

A Community Support Grant is a grant to fund a project, program or activity that provides support to:

- Arts Culture and Heritage Activities
- Youth
- Seniors
- Community Spirit and Wellness

Maximum funding considered under this component will be \$500 per request.

B) **Recreation and Physical Activity Grants and Assistance**

- (1) **Indirect Recreation Programming Support** (through reduced rental rates for Town-owned facilities):

Amounts may be appropriated under this program only when it provides an organized recreational opportunity through an organization recognized and registered with its relevant provincial umbrella (e.g. Hockey Nova Scotia). Support currently provided to the following organizations will be continued:

- Cumberland County Minor Hockey Association
- Amherst Skating Club

- (2) **Direct Recreation Programming Support**

Amounts may be appropriated under this program only when the organization provides an organized recreational opportunity through an organization recognized and registered with its relevant provincial umbrella organization. Support currently provided to the following organizations will be continued:

- Fundy Youth Soccer Association (Payment of Property Taxes)
- The current funding for Amherst Little League will continue and be included in our operations budget each year under Program Youth.
- The current funding for Amherst T-ball will continue and be included in our operations budget each year under Program Youth.

(3) Financial Assistance to Teams Traveling to Provincial, National and International Competition

Amounts may be appropriated under this program only when the team or individual applying meets the following applicable criteria:

- The team/individual has been successful at a regional qualifying competition recognized by its relevant provincial or national umbrella organization (e.g. Hockey Nova Scotia or Skate Canada).
- The team is located in the Town of Amherst and is considered by the provincial or national umbrella organization to be the home for the team.
- Individuals playing for an Amherst Team do not qualify for funding support. Only the team qualifies to apply for funding.
- The individual is competing as an individual and has their principal residence in the Town of Amherst.

Maximum funding considered under this component will be \$500.00 for a team and \$250 for an Individual.

(4) Financial Assistance for hosting Invitational, Provincial and National Tournaments.

An organization or team hosting an Invitational Tournament in the Town of Amherst qualify for funding support under this policy.

Maximum funding considered will be \$250.00 for the host team or organization.

Organizations who have successfully applied to host a Provincial or National Tournament in the Town of Amherst qualify for funding under this policy.

Maximum funding considered will be \$500.00 for the host organization.

C) **Festivals and Events Grants**

- The Town of Amherst recognizes that local festivals and events are an integral part of life in Amherst. The Town wants to encourage and support organizations that successfully organize and facilitate these events. It is recognized that there are many requirements to be successful, ranging from the financial capacity of the organizing body to facility requirements. Through this policy, the Town of Amherst will provide support to organizing bodies who demonstrate that their event or festival garners broad community support, significant participation up to 1000 people, and provides a unique experience not duplicated by other ongoing events, festivals or activities. The Town of Amherst will consider requests for financial assistance submitted.

Maximum funding considered under this component will be \$500.00

- Major events and festivals in the community are designed to stimulate public participation and enhance the quality of life for our residents, while serving as an economic generator for the Town. These events will draw spectators from the Maritimes, nationally or internationally and increases the profile of our community. These events must be a minimum of three days in length and must be affiliated with a local community non-profit organization.

Maximum funding considered under this component will be determined by council upon reviewing the proposal and recommendations from staff.

EVALUATION CRITERIA

7. Applications being considered for funding will be evaluated on the following criteria.

a) Financial Need (20%)

- a. Need for direct financial assistance from the Town is identified.
- b. Other fund raising efforts identified and sources confirmed.

b) Economic Impact (15%)

- a. The event or activity promotes economic activity in the community
- b. The event or activity positions the town to be destination for visitors.
- c. Direct economic impact identified. (revenues generated by event; hotel rooms sold; local vendors utilized; volunteers mobilized; local purchased made; etc.

c) Value of Event or Activity (50%)

- a. Uniqueness of the experience to the community and is not a duplication of other activities.
- b. Potential of audience numbers and participation levels (planned success levels)
- c. Potential of event to become an annual marquis event.

- d. Ability for the event or activity to become self-sufficient with little or no financial assistance from the Town.
- d) Organizational Strength (15%)
 - a. Strong and committed leadership with a clear focus
 - b. Proposals, budgets and action plans are clear, organized and well developed

Only applications scoring in excess of 60% will be considered for funding.

Authority of the Chief Administrative Officer

The Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) may approve applications submitted under this policy that are \$500 and less, provided such applications qualify in accordance with this policy and fall within the thresholds established. Council will be notified by email upon approval of each application and a media release will be issued to communicate the support provided by the town under the application. A list of applications approved will be provided to Council quarterly. (March, June, September and December)

GENERAL CONDITIONS

- 8. a) Applications received after the January 31st deadline are considered late. Late applications are reviewed only after the regular review. Each year the Town receives more applications than it can fund, so it is important for applications to be on time and contain the correct information.
- b) Awards are announced after the Town's budget has been approved (usually in May).
- c) Successful proponents shall agree for the Town to arrange a presentation of the community support grant with the media present and for the Town to use any photo images, videos or stories related to the community support grant in other forms of media as the Town deems fit.
- d) An applicant must be a registered non-profit organization or charitable society. Part of the review process includes confirmation of registration by municipal staff.
- e) Only one application per organization can be submitted in each funding year.
- f) Grants are not awarded for salary/wages of staff positions or board honoraria.
- g) Grant applications should be able to demonstrate active fundraising efforts to support the continuation of a program, project or service.
- h) Grants may be awarded with certain terms and conditions. The letter of award will state if any particular restrictions apply to the grant. Funding may be revoked for failure to comply with terms and conditions.

- i) Awards may be issued in full (the usual practice) or can be paid in instalments. The letter of award will state if a holdback applies to the grant.
- j) In rare circumstances, an applicant's eligibility may be suspended for a specified time period for misappropriation of funds, failure to report, or misrepresentation.
- k) At the end of a project or the organization's year-end, grant recipients **must** submit a report and/or financial statement to the Town

Date: _____

REQUEST FOR FINANCIAL SUPPORT

1. ORGANIZATION INFORMATION:

Name of Organization: _____

Full Mailing Address: _____

Contact Person: _____

Email Address: _____

Telephone: _____

2. AMOUNT OF FUNDING ASSISTANCE BEING REQUESTED \$ _____

3. What is the purpose for the funding requested? (Community Event; Tournament - Provincial / National / Invitational; Festival, etc.)

4. Please attach a budget for the tournament, event or activity; include sources of revenue and ALL costs. **Please attach all documents that support the funding request.**

5. What are the expected benefits to the community? (event participation numbers; local, regional, provincial or national attraction; time span; community assets being used; support from business community)

6. Please list all funding sources and/or other community partners for this event:

NAME	FUNDING IF ANY

7. How many volunteers contribute to this event or festival: _____





COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

CDR# 2018063

Date: January 22, 2018

TO: Mayor Kogon and Members of Amherst Town Council

SUBMITTED BY: Vince Arbing, CA - Treasurer

DATE: 22 January 2018

SUBJECT: Temporary Borrowing Resolution

ORIGIN:

2017-18 Capital Budget

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY:

Section 66 of the *Municipal Government Act* provides that the Town of Amherst, subject to the approval of the Minister of Municipal Affairs, may borrow to expend funds for a capital purpose authorized by statute; Section 65 authorizes the Town to expend funds for the capital purpose of: water systems; acquisition of equipment, materials, vehicles, machinery, apparatus, implements and plant for a municipal purpose; wastewater facilities and stormwater systems; and equipping and maintaining fire departments or emergency services providers.

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Temporary Borrowing Resolution in the amount not exceeding \$1,712,500 for the following items, and it's submittal to the Department of Municipal Affairs for Ministerial approval, be referred to the January 22, 2018 regular meeting for Council's approval

• East Victoria Street – water main replacement (water utility)	\$ 183,000
• Production Well Blow Off for 2 Wells (water utility)	50,000
• Alma Street – water main replacement (water utility)	50,000
• Highfield Street – water main replacement (water utility)	50,000
• Freeman Street – water main replacement (water utility)	30,000
• Trench Box (water utility)	20,000
• East Victoria Street – sanitary sewer, street reconstruction, curb	367,000
• Station Street – storm water separation	412,500
• Fire Truck	550,000
	<u>\$ 1,712,500</u>

BACKGROUND:

Temporary borrowing resolutions (TBRs) are used as temporary financing for capital projects. The Minister of Municipal Affairs allows municipalities to use TBRs to borrow funds on short term loans not exceeding 12 months. Once the projects are completed and the actual costs are known, by next year, the Town will enter into long term borrowing with the Municipal Finance Corporation by issuing debentures. We require the Minister's approval of a TBR before we can apply for debentures. The



\$1,712,500 is the amount Council approved to borrow in the 2017/18 capital budget process less the Water Reservoir project.

DISCUSSION:

Similar to the General Borrowing Resolution approved by Council last spring, this TBR will give the Town the authority to borrow, *if required*, from our financial institution, RBC, for the completion of the capital projects identified. This is not to say the Town *will* borrow the funds, and it does not commit us to long term financing. The main purpose of this TBR is to obtain Ministerial approval so that we can borrow funds next spring in the debenture issue. This TBR will only be valid for 12 months from the date the Minister approves it.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS:

There are no actual financial implications to approving the TBR unless we actually use it, as an overdraft, to finance the capital projects. If this occurs, the rate will be as that set out in the General Borrowing Resolution with RBC in the spring, prime minus ¼% on the amount borrowed. As stated earlier, the long term financing of these projects will come in the form of debentures issued in the spring or fall.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT:

None at this time.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS:

The financing of the capital projects is not expected to have any environmental implications.

ALTERNATIVES:

There are really no viable alternatives to applying to the Minister of Municipal Affairs for this TBR. Such approval will be required before we can apply for long term financing next year.

ATTACHMENTS:

Temporary Borrowing Resolution - Various Purposes and Schedule "A"

Report prepared by: Vince Arbing, CA - Treasurer

Report and Financial approved by:

Schedule "A"

**TOWN OF AMHERST
TEMPORARY BORROWING RESOLUTION**

\$1,712,500

File No. 2017/18-1
Various

East Victoria Street – water main replacement (water utility)	\$183,000
Production Well Blow Off for 2 Wells (water utility)	\$50,000
Alma Street – water main replacement (water utility)	\$50,000
Highfield Street – water main replacement (water utility)	\$50,000
Freeman Street – water main replacement (water utility)	\$30,000
Trench Box (water utility)	\$20,000
East Victoria Street – sanitary sewer, street reconstruction, curb	\$367,000
Station Street – storm water separation	\$412,500
Fire Truck	<u>\$550,000</u>
	<u>\$1,712,500</u>

MEMORANDUM

To: Mayor Kogon and Council
From: Andrew Fisher, Manager of Planning & Strategic Initiatives
Date: January 22, 2018
Subject: Active Transportation Plan Update

The purpose of this memo is to update Council on the Active Transportation Plan (AT Plan) draft, and get Council's input around what the cycling network might look like within the streetscape. Once this input is provided the details can be incorporated into the plan, and adopted by Council.

Background:

In general, the draft AT Plan created in 2011 contains a solid basis from which to develop a more detailed implementation plan. While some changes are required, the background information and best practice principles remain relevant in 2018, and are consistent with AT plans in other jurisdictions. AT principles include safety, connectivity, accessibility, placemaking and aesthetics. Rooted in these principles are the following three plan objectives:

1. Develop a connected and continuous town-wide cycling and pedestrian network with safe, comfortable, and direct routes.
2. Ensure a made-in-Amherst plan by integrating best practice with local context.
3. Make use of existing infrastructure, and incorporate existing and planned routes where they meet the goal of the plan.

Guided by these principles, objectives, and input from the public, the draft AT Plan provided pedestrian and cycling network plans. The **Pedestrian Network** shown on the following page relies mostly on the existing network, with the following notable sidewalk extensions:

- a. South Albion toward the Cumberland Regional Health Centre;
- b. Church Street to the soccer fields and Brentwood Estates.
- c. Connect the trail from Willow to Marshview.
- d. Complete the sidewalk on Anson Ave. between Albion and Hickman Streets.

Staff feel these extensions should remain as priority improvements to the pedestrian network. In addition, staff feel that connecting the ARHS area with the intersection near Pharmasave via Willow Street and Robert Angus Drive is important. This connection would accommodate student pedestrian traffic accessing the commercial area during noon hour. It is also anticipated that this connection would experience significant AT traffic.

Discussion Points

An overview of this information will be presented at COW to allow Council an opportunity to provide input and direction, such that further refinements to the plan can be made. It should be noted that except for the streets being looked at by EXP, all routes will require more detailed project plans and construction cost analysis.

Pedestrian Network Plan



The Cycling Network Plan below focuses on connecting as much of town as possible via the most direct route. As is typical in older communities, integrating cycling infrastructure into a transportation network designed for vehicles presents several challenges. Maximizing safety for cyclists must be measured against constraints that include: varying right-of-way widths, existing infrastructure, traffic speed and volume, and implementation costs. In other words, while completely redesigning all designated right-of-way's to include bike lanes separated from vehicles and pedestrians would be ideal, the associated cost would not be feasible.

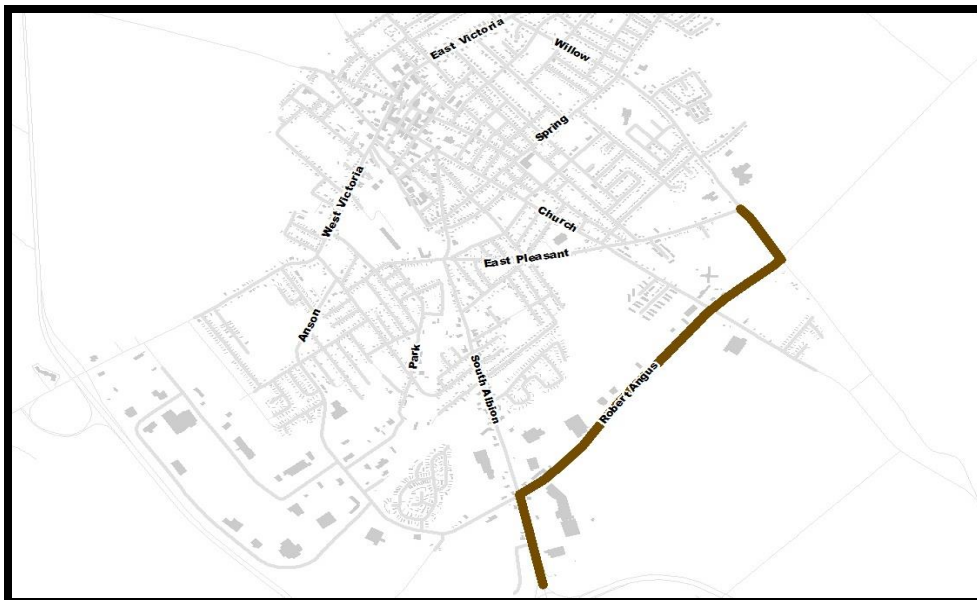
The network is colour coded to identify different cycling infrastructure profiles that take the above noted objectives and challenges into consideration. Below will provide more detail on each category with the purpose of **getting further direction from Council around whether the route is desirable, and if the recommended cycling infrastructure profile is acceptable.**

Cycling Network Plan



Two-way Off Street Trail

- Locations: Robert Angus Drive – South Albion to Willow
Willow Street – Robert Angus to ARHS
South Albion – Robert Angus to town limits
- Description: Widen the existing separated sidewalk to 3 metres (10 feet) to create a 2-lane shared pedestrian and cycling route. Extend the route to Willow at ARHS, and South Albion on the east side in the boulevard.
- Notes: A separated cycling route shared with pedestrians offers a level of safety from the high traffic volume and speed of vehicles in this area. Extending the route on South Albion provides access to the hospital and route 2 as far as the Town limits. It is also likely that this route can be extended along Willow Street to Dickey Brook.





Two Lane Separated Route Example

On-Street Stencil (Shared Bike Lane)

Locations: Full extent of Victoria Street except the downtown core.
East Pleasant and Park Streets

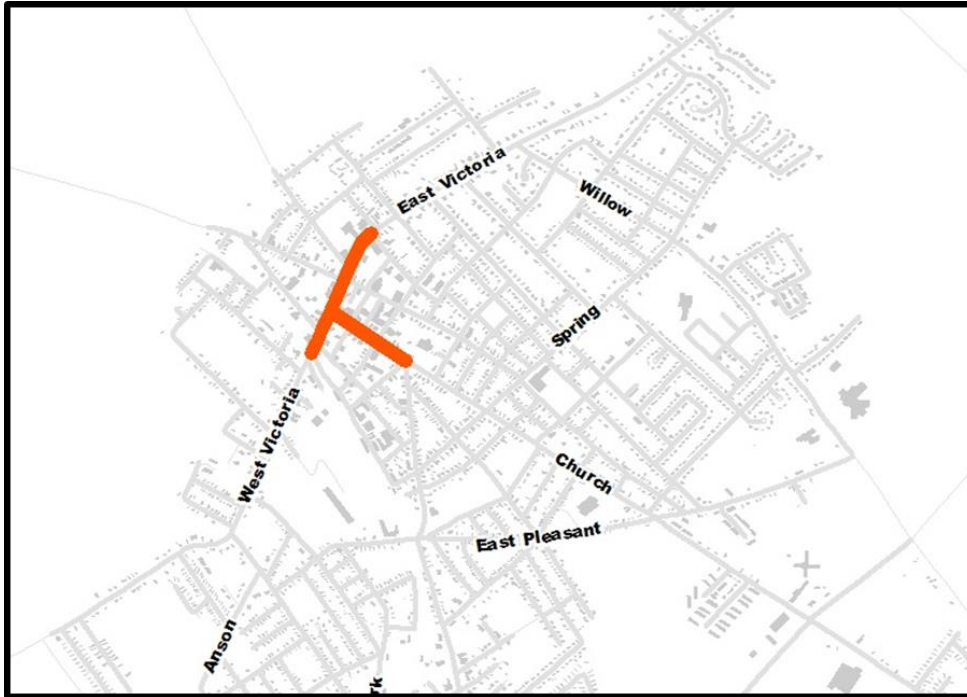
Description: Bicycle stencil painted on the edge of pavement, with signage indicated that this is a designated cycling route. Street parking would be permitted.

Notes: The stencil and signage provide a level of awareness and expectation that bicycles will be present, while allowing for intermittent street parking. Even within the widest street (Victoria), there is insufficient width to install solid line bike lanes while maintain street parking. On Victoria, sufficient street width exists to remove parking and install continuous bike lanes if desired by Council.



Downtown Core (Conflict Area)

Locations: Downtown Core Area on East Victoria and Church
Description: Shared bike lanes, and ample bike parking.
Notes: Downtown is considered a major destination for bike parking where final destinations can be easily reached by foot. The narrow right-of-way makes dedicated cycle infrastructure very difficult. A shared lane stencil would raise awareness of the presence of bicycles.



Urban Area Shared Lane and Bike Parking Example

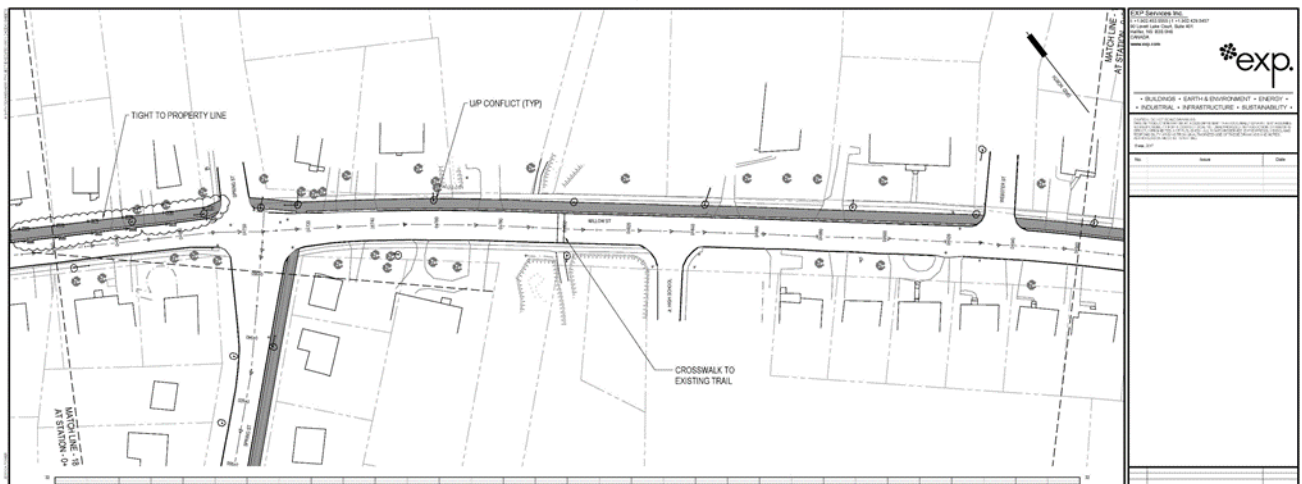
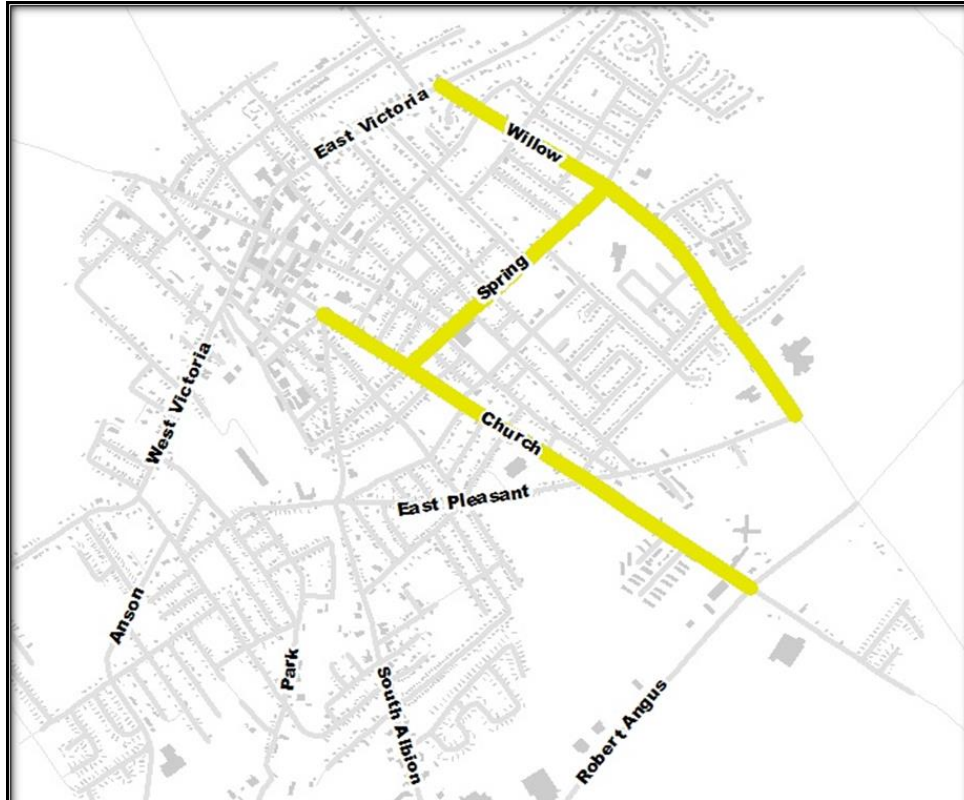


EXP Detailed Streetscape Design

Locations: Church, Willow, and Spring Streets

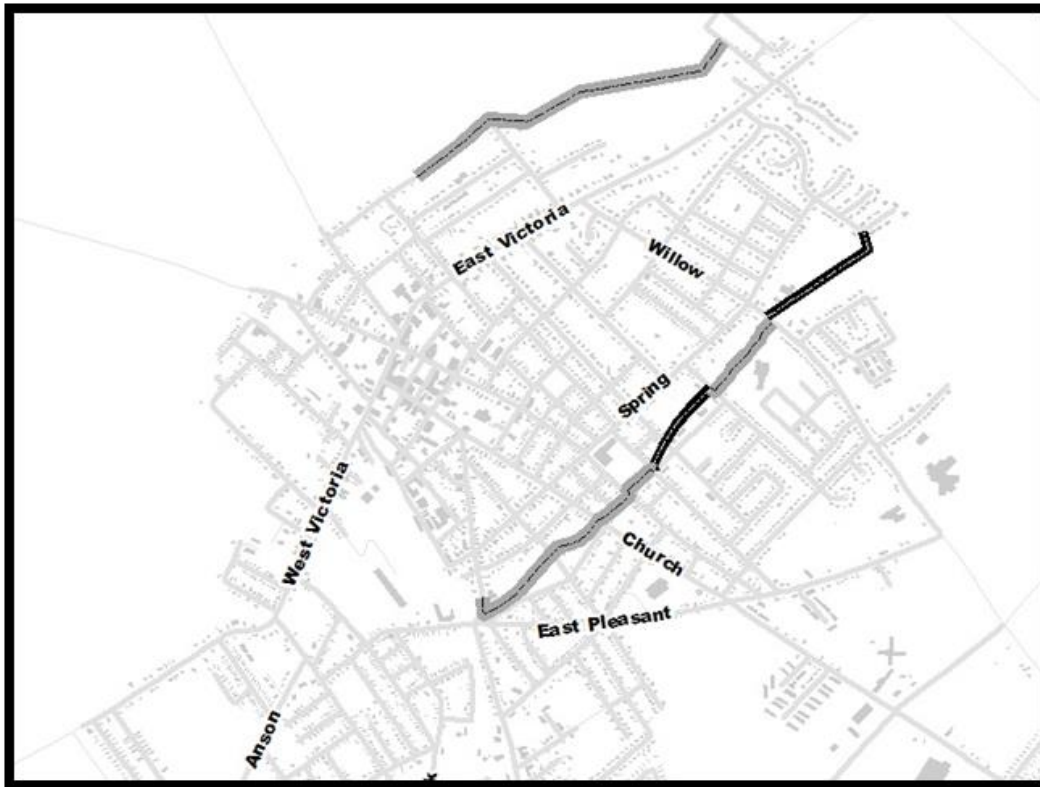
Description: A detailed design exercise is being undertaken to locate a separated trail on these streets as part of the underground infrastructure renewal project.

Notes: Preliminary drawings have been recently submitted for review. EXP have found several conflicts such as utility poles and in some cases a lack of right-of-way width. Through further revisions, it is anticipated that construction-ready detailed drawings will provide a cycle route on some or all of these streets.



Centennial Trail

- Locations: Parallel with Dickey Brook from the fire station to Marshview Drive.
Along the marshlands with street connection on Brownell.
- Description: Opportunities to make further connections along Dickey Brook
A street connection is required along Brownell Avenue using signage.
- Notes: A portion of this trail is an important route through the middle of town connecting schools and parks. Discussions have taken place with the Dickey Street apartment owner to install along brook between Rupert and Donald Avenue. The town owns land west of Willow Street to connect the trail to the Strawberry Fields neighbourhood; however, the property may intersect with the brook.

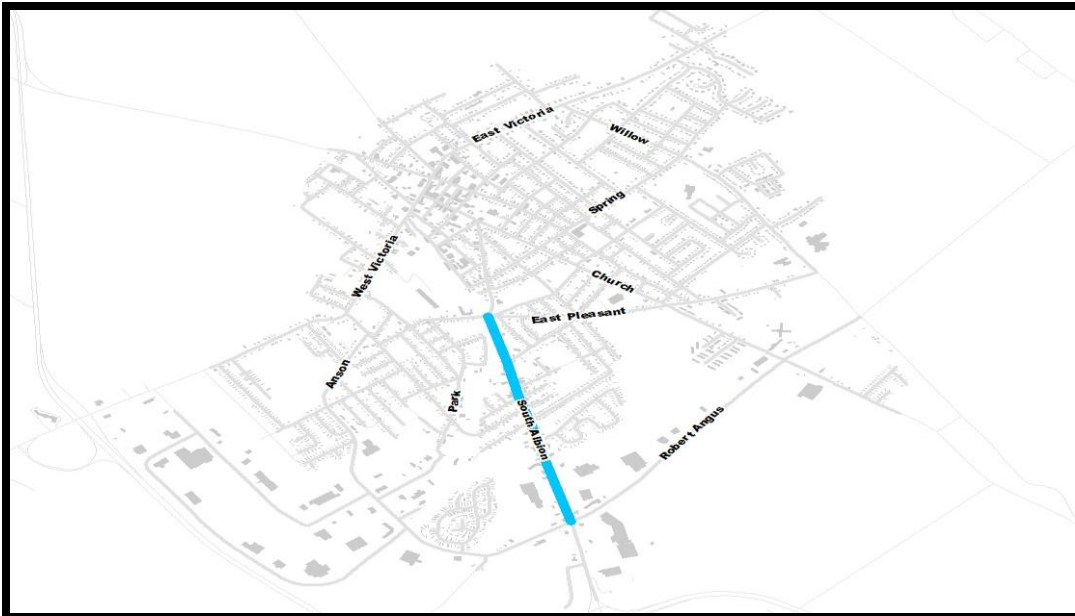


Solid line Bike Lanes (Continuous Lanes)

Location: Albion Street

Description: Remove or narrow middle turning lane, and install two solid line bike lanes.

Notes: Albion Street is the most direct route and provides maximum connectivity between the two commercial areas of town. This route would be highly visible and could send a strong message that Amherst is a 'bike-friendly' community. In practice, there is little to no on-street parking along this street. Implementing this route would likely increase congestion during peak hours. Real or perceived cycling safety could be undermined by heavy vehicle traffic volumes.



Direction being Sought:

Staff are looking for Council direction on the following AT features. With this direction provided, staff will look to come back to Council next month with a final draft for consideration.

Does Council want:

1. a trail connection between Willow Street and Marshview Drive?
2. a new sidewalk on Church Street from Robert Angus to Town boundary?
3. a new sidewalk on South Albion to Hickman via Anson Avenue to connect the areas without a sidewalk at this time?
4. Two-way off-street shared trail from ARHS to South Albion at the TCH ramp?
5. Victoria Street – a stencil and parking OR a solid line lane without parking?
6. Pleasant and Park Streets – are stencils and signage acceptable?
7. South Albion – is this route worth further investigation?