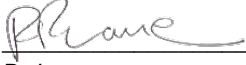
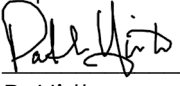





Region of Queens Municipality 9.1 Staff Report For the Regular Meeting of November 25, 2025

Date: October 29, 2025
File No: 10350-50-2511-16
To: Mayor and Council
From: Willa Thorpe, CAO
Subject: First Reading – Bylaw No. 28 Road Trails Designation

Prepared by:  R. Lane Project Officer	Supervisor:  P. Hirtle DCAO	CAO Concurrence:  W. Thorpe CAO
---	---	---

RECOMMENDATION

That Bylaw No. 28 Designation of road trails on municipal roadways be now introduced and read a first time.

PURPOSE

To propose a new bylaw which will permit five sections of municipal roadways to be designated as road trails.

BACKGROUND

At the Regular meeting of October 28, 2025, Council passed the following motion:

That Council for Region of Queens Municipality direct staff to draft a bylaw that designates five sections of road trails on public roads in

Liverpool.

ALTERNATIVES/OPTIONS

1. Council introduces Bylaw No. 28 Designation of road trails on municipal roadways and reads the Bylaw a first time.
2. Council directs staff to gather additional information before introducing Bylaw No. 28 Road Trails Designation.

ANALYSIS

Staff have reviewed bylaws from five other municipal jurisdictions in Nova Scotia:

- Town of Oxford
- Town of Yarmouth
- Town of Shelburne
- Town of Digby
- Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM)

Of the five bylaws, only the HRM bylaw is of a longer form, whereas the other four are of a short form. The HRM bylaw is more prescriptive regarding:

- who can apply for a road trail designation,
- the assessment and evaluation of the proposed route,
- any rules and regulations of agreements that need to be in place stipulating which body is responsible for expensing development and ongoing maintenance.

The short form of the bylaw is intended to allow Council to determine these factors on a case-by-case basis and seems to be the preferred method elsewhere. A legal opinion on the pros and cons of the short form versus long form indicated:

- restating the legislation was not recommended or necessary
- leaving additional details of implementation to a case-by-case was appropriate.

As such, a short form of the bylaw has been drafted for Council's consideration. When assessing the safety and suitability of a road trail application on provincial roads, The Province references an internal policy document which states the

assessment criteria used. Council could refer to this policy when considering any future road trail designations.

Rules and regulations around Off-highway Vehicle (OHV) use on road trails are defined in three existing pieces of provincial law; Road Trails Act, Off-Highway Vehicles Act, and the Motor Vehicles Act. If Council is satisfied with the adequacy of existing rules, those rules do not need to be restated in this bylaw. Explicitly stating rules is appropriate when Council wishes to make further restriction to any existing rules. Council is reminded that a municipal bylaw cannot include more lenient rules than those found in Provincial Acts.

IMPLICATIONS

This bylaw cannot take effect until all signage is installed, and any work required to any section of a route is completed. Therefore, staff recommend the bylaw be enacted on February 1, 2026.

COMMUNICATIONS

If Council accepts the draft bylaw as presented, the standard public notification and engagement process prior to second reading will be followed. If Council elects to adopt the bylaw, an education program will be available for all road users in Liverpool to raise awareness and compliance.

BYLAWS/PLANS/POLICIES

Bylaw No. 28 – Designation of road trails on municipal roadways - DRAFT

SUMMARY

As outlined in the Road Trails Act s.5(2), The designation of road trails, proposed routes, and any future designation must be done through bylaw and bylaw amendment. Staff recommend that Council introduce and read bylaw No. 28 – Designation of road trails on municipal roadways.

ATTACHMENTS/REFERENCE MATERIALS

- Bylaw No. 28 – Designation of road trails on municipal roadways - DRAFT
- [Halifax Regional Municipality Bylaw R-500: The Designation of Road Trails on Municipal Highways](#)
- [Town of Digby bylaw 2024-03: Road Trails Designation](#)
- [Town of Oxford bylaw 05-2024-2: Road Trails Designation](#)
- [Town of Yarmouth bylaw 80: Road Trails Designation](#)
- [Road Trails Act for Off-highway Vehicles](#)