

**FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND PROJECT SPOTLIGHT**  
**CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY'S**  
**GRAND LAKE MULTI-USE PATH: AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT**

**Cape Breton Regional Municipality**

**Incorporated:** 1995

**Population:** 97,398 (2011 Census)

**Project:** CBRM's Grand Lake Multi-use Path

**Qualitative benefits:** Improves accessibility and safety; supports active living, contributes to less greenhouse gas emissions.

**Federal Gas Tax Fund contribution to project:** \$ 200,000 (approximately)

**Total project cost:** \$1,000,000 (approximately)

**Other Gas Tax Fund projects under way or completed:**

- Sydney Port Access Road Bikeway
- Greenlink Trail System
- Renwick Brook Pedestrian Tunnel Feasibility Study

**CAPE BRETON REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY**

Cape Breton Regional Municipality (CBRM) is the second largest municipality in Nova Scotia with a population of approximately 100,000. Covering a land mass of 2,434 km<sup>2</sup> in southeastern Cape Breton Island, CBRM has much to offer in the retail, tourism (arts, culture and recreation), light manufacturing and information technology sectors, all of which contribute to strengthening its local economy. It is home to significant amenities, including:



- the Fortress of Louisbourg – a national historic site and the largest historical reconstruction in North America)

- the Port of Sydney – a world-class deep water port which supports the cruise ship industry and provides potential for future petroleum and natural gas exploration off Cape Breton Island
- the internationally-acclaimed Cape Breton University
- a campus of the Nova Scotia Community College
- Canada's Coast Guard College

CBRM is the gateway to the world-renowned Cabot Trail, and Newfoundland and Labrador via North Sydney's Marine Atlantic ferry terminal. Membertou and Eskasoni First Nations serve as vital regional economic engines. CBRM is celebrated for its Celtic Colours Festival, and its many cultural and entertainment facilities, including Centre 200, the Savoy Theatre and the John Harris Cruise Pavilion.

### CBRM'S GRAND LAKE MULTI-USE PATH: AN ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PROJECT

CBRM understands the many benefits of active transportation, which has long been a priority for its council, staff and residents. In an effort to encourage more people to use active modes of transportation to access key destinations, CBRM developed a plan to establish a solid framework for active transportation infrastructure and programs within the municipality. One of the key aims of this multi-year plan was to improve the overall quality of life in CBRM by making its communities more connected, vibrant and sustainable.



Since Council adopted the plan in 2008, CBRM has been making great strides on its journey to becoming a more active transportation-friendly municipality. Project by project, it is creating an active transportation culture that connects its communities through walking, cycling and other modes of human-powered transportation. CBRM's dedication to active transportation is leading to a

host of economic, social and environmental benefits within its individual communities and across the region.

All of its active transportation projects have benefited from the federal Gas Tax Fund (GTF), and CBRM has used its GTF allocation to strategically leverage additional funding. One such initiative is the Grand Lake Multi-use Path -- a signature project in CBRM's Active Transportation Plan. This 10-km multi-use trail is designed for walking, cycling and other non-motorized modes of transportation and connects residents and visitors to key destinations in Sydney, Glace Bay and all communities in between. Mayor Cecil Clarke remarked, *"We are pleased with the progress we have made with the support of our funding partners. Developing a robust trails system is an important part of healthy lifestyles. Cape Breton Regional Municipality is seeking to be a leader in the development of walking and cycling trails."*

The idea to develop the Grand Lake Multi-use Path came from a desire to connect Cape Breton University (CBU) to its surrounding amenities. CBU is situated about half way between downtown Sydney and Glace Bay, along a busy commercial thoroughfare – one that poses significant challenges for walking or cycling. As a separated path, this project will improve safety along Grand Lake Road and support efficient, accessible and varied options for travel while connecting CBRM's residential, educational and business communities. The Grand Lake Multi-use Path could also serve as a catalyst for eco-tourism as the Municipality could promote a "fly and ride" option at the Sydney airport for those wishing to cycle the active transportation corridor as a starting point to explore the region.

With support from various funding partners, including the Government of Canada through the federal Gas Tax Fund, 2.3 km of the Grand Lake Multi-use Path has been completed to date. Plans are in place for the spring of 2016 to develop the next 5 kilometers. Once completed, this multi-use path will be a true active transportation corridor – connecting people to the places where they work, study and play. It may also earn CBRM bragging rights for having the longest paved, multi-use, off-road path in Nova Scotia – giving the Municipality yet another reason to celebrate its dedication to active transportation!