

## FEDERAL GAS TAX FUND PROJECT HIGHLIGHT

### MUNICIPALITY OF THE DISTRICT OF CHESTER

#### HIGHWAY #3 PAVED SHOULDERS PROJECT

**Project Category:** Highways

**National objective:** Strong communities

**Federal Gas Tax Fund contribution to project:** \$273,977

**Total project cost:** \$273,977

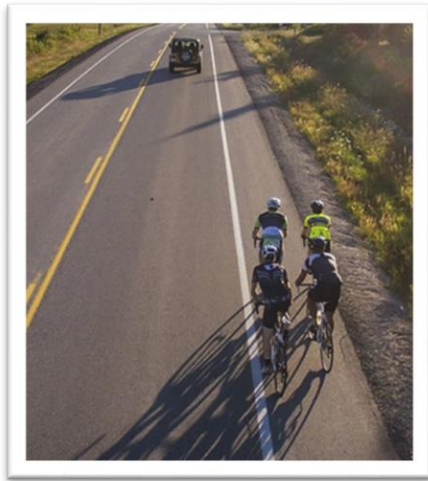
**Project Completion Date:** Fall of 2018

The Municipality of the District of Chester undertook a study in 2012 to set out a 20-year vision for the land along Highway #3, recognizing it as an important corridor and gateway to the Village of Chester. The study explored options for improving the area and provided development guidelines to add value esthetically (by enhancing landscape and architectural standards), environmentally (including the addition of green spaces and rest stops) and actively (to improve pedestrian and cyclists' access and safety).

When a 9.6 km portion of Chester's *Highway #3 Street Plan* was identified in the Province of Nova Scotia's *Five-Year Highway Improvement Plan* for repaving, the Municipality saw this as an opportunity for collaboration to maximize investments and enhance the project by adding 1-metre paved shoulders for recreation and active transportation purposes.

The Province decided to break the near 10 km into two segments, and initially intended to repave the more easterly section in 2018 and the other in 2019. Knowing this first section posed concerns that would warrant special consideration before adding paved shoulders to ensure pedestrian and cyclist safety, allow controlled road access and maintain connections to active transportation trails, the Municipality approached the Province about reversing the order

of its work. Amenable to this suggestion, the Province added 5.6 km of paved shoulders from Chester Basin to Wake-Up Hill in the Fall of 2018 while repaving this section of Highway #3. The Municipality of the District of Chester was able to use federal Gas Tax Funds for the project, an investment that was maximize through its collaboration with the Province.



Paved shoulders provide a stable surface off the busy roadway, transforming it into a destination and creating a safer and more comfortable walking and bicycling environment along this secondary road. By increasing recreational and active options in the absence of sidewalks, paved shoulders make a positive contribution to creating healthy, connected and sustainable communities.

This project demonstrates the importance of collaboration and how municipalities can partner with the Province to take advantage of existing paving plans to improve their highway corridors. It also demonstrates that by considering the needs of all users, and linking provincial projects with local initiatives, we can build communities that are safely connected and enable the development of more recreational and active transportation opportunities for all to enjoy.