

# switch

## open street sundays

Inaugural event | September 9, 2012 | 9 am - 2pm

Switch: Open Street Sundays is a transformative event that opens the streets to cyclists, walkers and families, demonstrating how our streets can be used to support a more active, sustainable, and fun city.

PLANNING & DESIGN CENTRE INITIATIVE

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## What is **Switch: Open Street Sundays**?

**Switch** is a weekly event that encourages people to enjoy their city by walking, biking, skating, dancing, and moving around their city safely and comfortably. Switch will offer the opportunity for everyone to get to many destinations on the Halifax peninsula in new and healthy way.

**Switch** is about opening streets to a greater variety of transportation modes. Switch is inspired by Ciclovía, which translates to “bike way” or “bike path”; millions of people in cities around the world now participate every Sunday and holiday on thousands of kilometres of city streets. The long-term effects of Ciclovía are safer cities where people can travel with ease, and a new vision of public space.

**Switch** reduces vehicle use, which means less traffic congestion, less wear on existing infrastructure, and improved air quality..

**Switch** creates new economic opportunities for existing businesses and temporary vendors by regularly increasing pedestrian traffic and enabling new sales in new places. Neighborhoods and communities benefit from the attention and inclusion in the Switch network.

**Switch** goals:

- Enable people to explore alternative modes of transportation in comfort and safety
- Demonstrate benefits to merchants of making room for other transportation modes
- Remove barriers to accessing the peninsula and promote a vibrant downtown
- Demonstrate HRM's long-term vision for an active transportation network
- Make physical activity enjoyable & give people a sense of freedom
- Enable and encourage exploration of new parts of the city

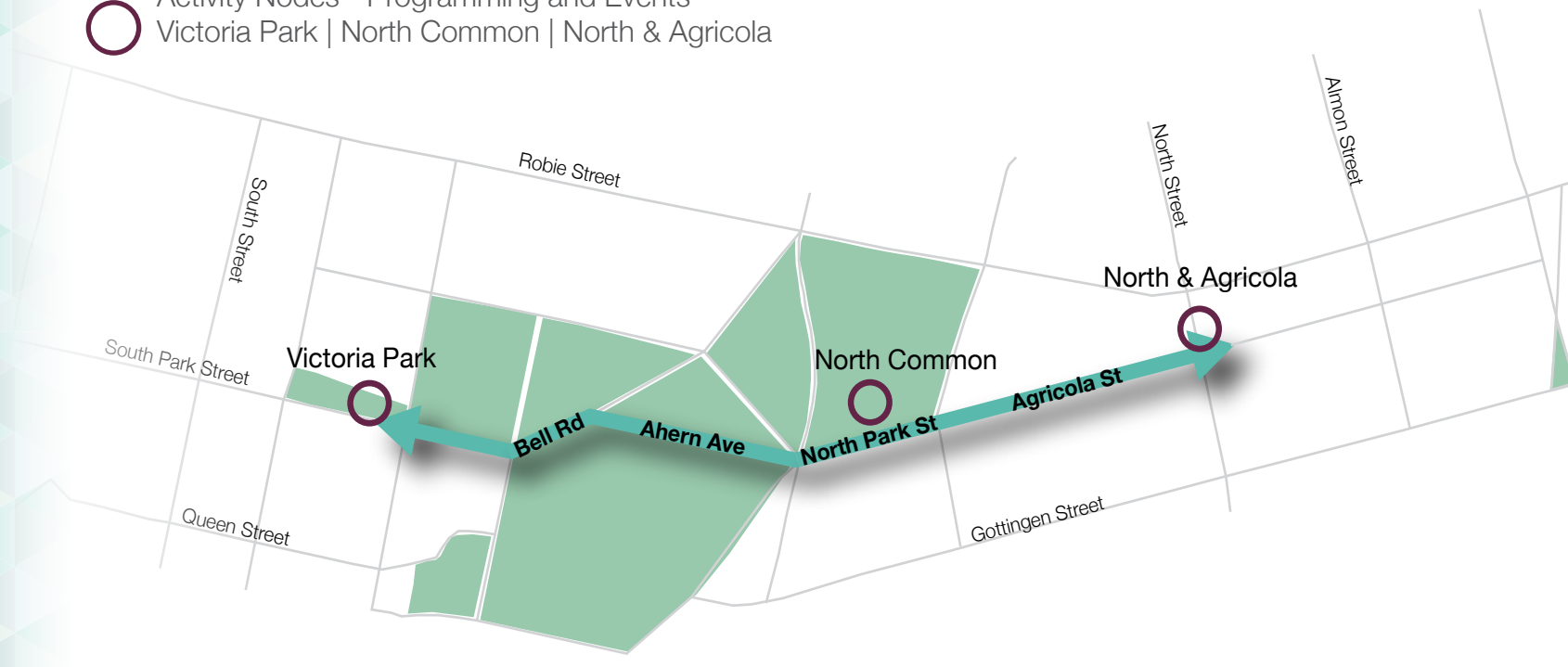


## Switch Route

Sunday September 9th, 2012 9AM-2PM

■ South Park Street | Bell Road | Ahern Avenue |  
North Park Street | Agricola Street

○ Activity Nodes - Programming and Events  
Victoria Park | North Common | North & Agricola



## Activity Nodes - Programming and Events

Three activity nodes will be situated along the **Switch** route. These nodes will provide space for a variety of artistic, entertainment, educational, culinary and other endeavors. Dancing, music, yoga, bicycle workshops, and local food vendors are just a small sample of what organizers imagine will take place in the designated areas.

### Activity Node Suggested Themes

Victoria Park - Health & Wellness

North Common - Active Transportation & Alternatives

North & Agricola - Local Business

### Opportunities to Get Involved

The **Switch** team is inviting community groups, organizations, vendors and businesses to host activities at one of the three activity nodes.

If you are interested in hosting an activity at one of the nodes or want to activate part of the route (art, kids activities, food etc) get in touch with [switchopenstreetsundays@gmail.com](mailto:switchopenstreetsundays@gmail.com) or call 494.8494. If you are interested in hosting something at Victoria Park email [kelly.e.fenn@gmail.com](mailto:kelly.e.fenn@gmail.com).

If you are interested in volunteering on the day of the event sign-up at <http://tinyurl.com/switch-volunteer>

To see examples of what is happening in other Canadian cities, visit:

[www.downtownwinnipegbiz.com/home/events/ciclovia/](http://www.downtownwinnipegbiz.com/home/events/ciclovia/)

[www.livestreets.ca](http://www.livestreets.ca)

[www.openstreetshamilton.ca](http://www.openstreetshamilton.ca)

Also find more examples from across North America in the Open Streets Guide:

[www.openstreetsproject.org/blog/2012/02/21/open-streets-project-releases-best-practices-guide/](http://www.openstreetsproject.org/blog/2012/02/21/open-streets-project-releases-best-practices-guide/)

