



COMMUNITY

# Planning begins for second phase of new N.B. trail



SHORE-LINE TRAIL  
SENTIER LIGNE CÔTIÈRE

Cap-Acadie said they are in the planning process for the second phase of a trail system that will be part of the 170 km Shore-Line Trail from Alma to Cap-Pelé.  
Photo: Submitted

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**Sarah Seeley | Times & Transcript**

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Planning is underway for the second phase of a trail that will travel along the southeastern coast of New Brunswick.

The Regional Town of Cap-Acadie said in a news release

the council authorized Phase 2 to explore the idea of developing a 40-km walking and cycling trail from Boudreau-Ouest to Shemogue.

That section of trail would eventually be included in the Trans Canada Trail network, would be part of the Shore-Line Trail project, a 170-km trail that will link Cap-Acadie to Alma, said the town in the release.

The Shore-Line Trail was initiated by a New Brunswick study and is managed by Plan 360, the planning division of the Southeast Regional Service Commission.

Cap-Acadie Mayor Serge Leger said the first phase of the project was to get the design for the trail, and do two public consultation

sessions on March 27 in Grand-Barachois and on April in Shemogue.

The consulting firm NuFocus Group has been hired to support the municipality in the steps Phase 2 of the project, and the town will now proceed with meetings with the identified property owners to determine the ideal route to carry out the project while still respecting the privacy of those residents.

During the planning process Cap-Acadie first hired the firm Viridis Environnement to propose a route that follows the bay coast while respecting environmental standards and staying as far away as possible from existing properties. The first section they'd like to tackle is from Boudreau-Ouest to Barachois.

Serge Leger said so far the response from residents has been positive and the biggest

question from residents has been where the trail will go on their property. The trail is expected to cross over 130 properties.

He hopes the creation of the trail will spur businesses like restaurants and accommodations to open up along the trail and drive tourism to the region.

"It's going to bring a lot of people around. People are going to discover southeastern New Brunswick and Cap-Acadie better," he said.

Beaubassin-est had earmarked \$1.3 million for the Shore-Line Trail prior to municipal reform that formed Cap-Acadie, said Serge Leger.

A two-kilometre section of the Shore-Line Trail opened last summer. It begins at the Ponderosa Pines Campground and ends at

Hopewell Rocks Provincial Park.

Marc Leger, regional trails coordinator with Plan360, said work began on a section of trail along an existing dike between Riverside-Albert and Shepody last year. The final details are expected to be completed this year. The team is looking to extend that section of trail to Harvey Dam in one direction, and in the other direction expanding it to Hopewell Rocks.

The federal government recently announced \$895,000 in active transportation funding to upgrade trails in New Brunswick, including \$158,040 for the Hillsborough section. The project is also receiving \$12,840 from the Village of Hillsborough and \$92,520 from the Southeast Regional Service Commission, said Infrastructure Canada spokesperson Caleb Spassov.

Leigh Watson, spokesperson for the Department of Tourism, Heritage and Culture, said in an email the department has budgeted \$500,000 for designated "signature trails" around the province during the 2023-24 fiscal year. Applications are being accepted until May 30 and will be assessed by the department.

The section of trail in Cap-Acadie is different, said Marc Leger, because unlike in Albert County it will be in closer proximity to people's houses.

He noted they are in discussions with homeowners, and some of the concerns from landowners throughout the consultation process for the entire trail has been privacy and the possibility of the trail being a spot for dangerous activity. Marc Leger said they try to keep a buffer of 100 m

from houses to provide a sound barrier.

If there is enough buy-in from the landowners, Marc Leger said the hope is to start work on one of the Cap-Acadie sections by next year.


Once the Cap-Acadie section is completed Marc Leger said it will allow for residents of all generations to walk or cycle to Aboiteau Beach without getting on the highway, and it will allow for the development of businesses along the trail.


"Communities build trails and trails build community," he said.

Another large section of the trail that is underway is the segment between Riverview and Shediac. The trail between Moncton, Riverview and Dieppe is well established, but Marc Leger said they are working on areas between Dieppe and

Shediac. The goal is to have the 40-km section completed by 2025, meaning people will be able to go from Metro Moncton to Parlee Beach using the trail.

"It's ambitious, but I think it's possible," Marc Leger said.

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