

# Pre-Budget Consultation Idea for Summerside

October 30, 2024

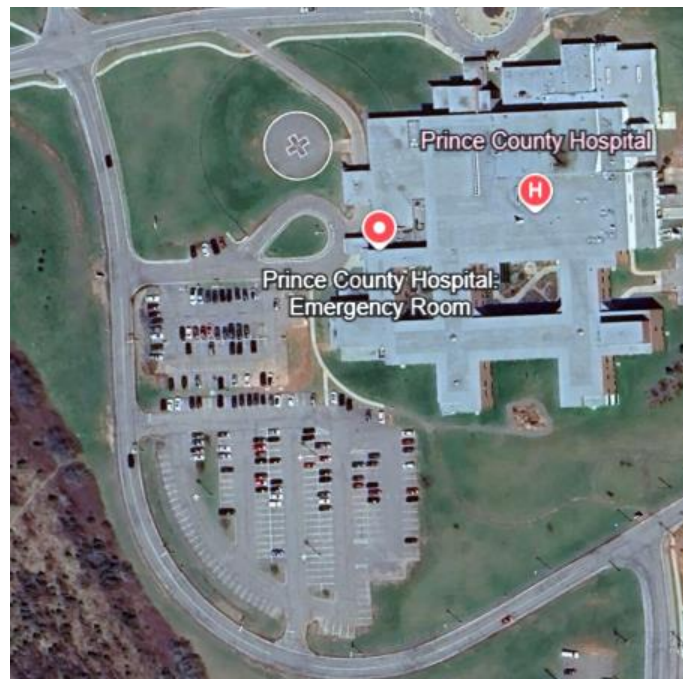
## RE: An opportunity to increase the health and safety of the most vulnerable

Dear Hon. Burridge, Hon. Ramsay, Hon. Myers, and Hon. Hudson:

As the newly elected Ward 5 City of Summerside Councillor, I want to bring a **top priority** (and potential **solution**) to your attention. This issue affects several Provincial Departments, including (1) Social Development and Seniors, (2) Transportation and Infrastructure, and (3) Housing, Land and Communities. With the Province currently engaged in pre-budget consultations, the timing for addressing this matter could not be better. I see this investment in Summerside's vulnerable population as a key to their health and safety, The **Province owns the land in question** and encompasses provincial assets such as the Prince County Hospital, Summerset Manor, senior public housing, and the soon-to-be-completed Emergency Shelter.

## ISSUE:

Most residents in this area of Frank Mellish Street are seniors without access to -- or cannot drive -- a motor vehicle. Therefore, walking, or using a walker or wheelchair are their primary means of transportation to nearby essential services (hospitals, groceries, manor, medical appointments, etc.). However, maintaining their health, friendships, and connection to the community is **at significant risk** because they need to walk, use a wheelchair, or use a walker **in the same lane as vehicular traffic**. There is no sidewalk or no shoulder. The concern is compounded as the Summerset



Manor began the Cycling Without Age program, which uses an e-powered bicycle carrying two residents around the community and has no choice but to travel with motor vehicles. Just observe a son struggling to push his mother in a wheelchair over grass and gravel, and it becomes clear that there is a significant need for support for those who are most vulnerable. Now, imagine how winter makes this even more challenging for them.

## SOLUTION:

Create a 412m (estimated) 10-foot-wide paved multi-use pathway on the west side of Frank Mellish Street. The area is well-groomed, without above- or below-ground infrastructure to impede construction, and does not seem to require ditch infilling, which, of course, would cut down the costs.



Please reach out if you have any questions. I'd love to talk more about the positive impact this investment will make in the daily lives of the residents.

Respectfully submitted,

Ken Trenholm  
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Future Homeless Shelter  
(10 bed with potential to  
24 in the future)

Provincial Seniors  
Housing, 145  
Nancy Guptil Ave  
(31 units)

Summerset Manor  
(82 beds + 80 staff)

Provincial Seniors  
Housing, 22 Frank  
Mellish Street  
(33 units)

55 Roy  
Boates Ave  
(38 units)

A 10-foot wide paved multi-  
use pathway that runs from  
Roy Boates Ave to  
MacEwen Road (412 m)

516 MacEwen  
Road (24 units)

### **SUPPORTS SENIORS' HOUSING**

With limited access to/ability to drive a car, a safe off-street multi-use paved pathway will support seniors who use walking as their primary form of transportation, exercise, and connection to the community. It will also support those using mobility scooters, walkers, or bicycles.

### **SUPPORTS MANOR**

The Summerset Manor offers an opportunity with a Trishaw to get residents out of the building, explore nature, and feel the "wind in their hair." The Trishaws require extra width, and being off-road would ensure the safety of the manor residents, family, and staff.

### **SUPPORTS COMMUNITY**

With no shoulder or sidewalk, people are often seen travelling along with traffic. This infrastructure would support all forms of community active transportation to essential services