



Promoting Safe Cycling Throughout the Region

Presentation to
Ajax Transportation Advisory
Committee

October 22, 2015

One Too Many!



“I would ride a bike but it is too dangerous”



Why a Coalition?

- Spurred into action by another tragedy Durham's five largest bike clubs came together;
Clarington Cycling Club; Durham Cycling Club; Oshawa Cycling Club; Durham Mountain Bike Club and Uxbridge Cycling club.
- Recognized the need throughout the Region to improve cycling infrastructure and personal safety;
- A greater voice. Over 1,200 active club members;
- Also advocating for the casual and commuter cyclists and their families;
- Recognition and support for cycle tourism;
- Cycling is healthy and produces zero emissions for a better environment;
- Supported by the five largest bike shops in the Region.
Northern Cycle - Ajax; Impala - Whitby; Bicycles Plus - Oshawa; Bay Cycle and Cycle Life - Pickering



What's Wrong?

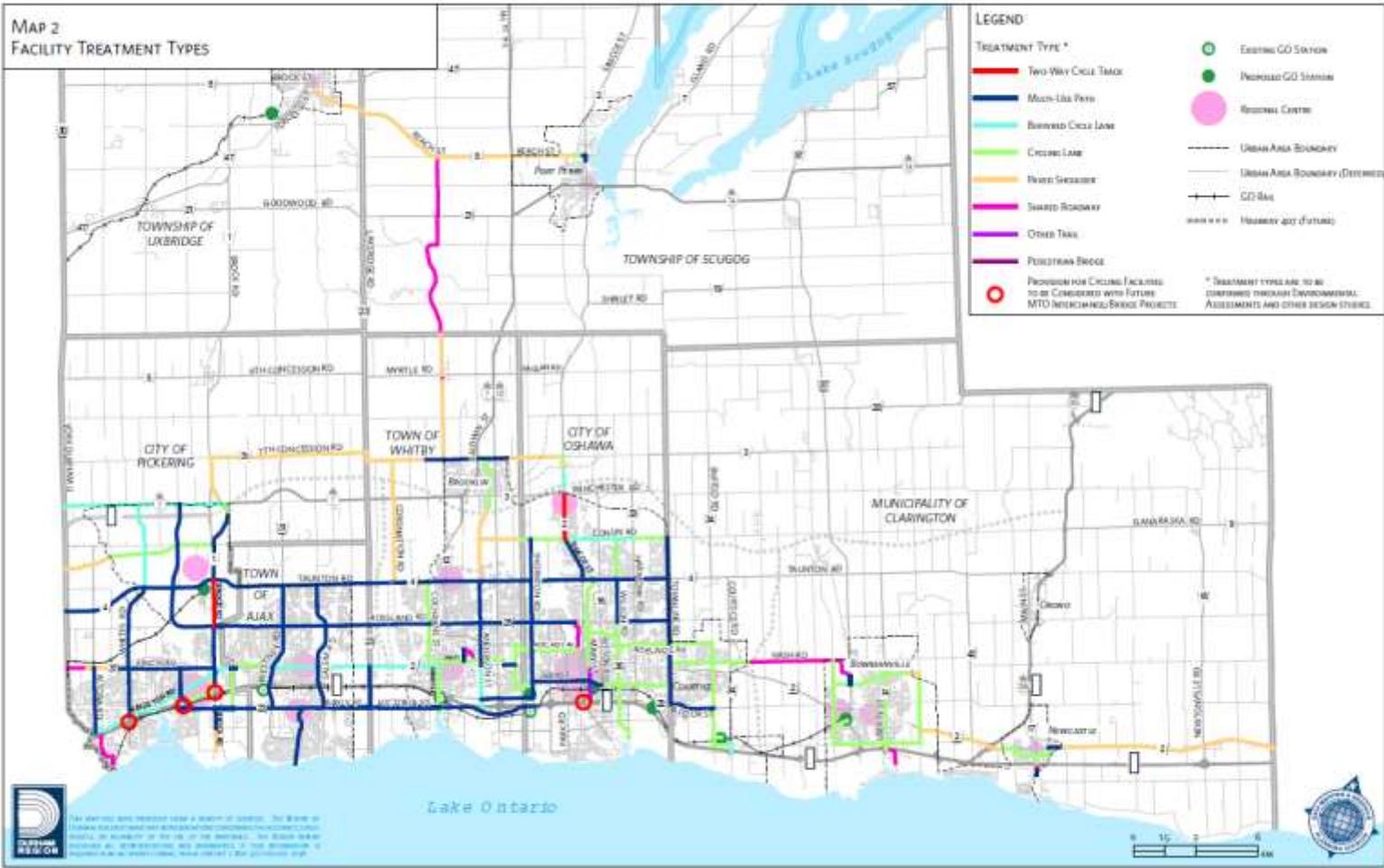
- In Ajax not much to fix. Town is progressive. and bicycle friendly;
- A bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community - one of 28 in Ontario;
- Some issues:
 - Lack of safe bike routes going north – south:
 - Church St safest
 - Harwood Ave is busy and narrow lanes;
 - Westney and Salem require negotiation of Hwy 401 on/off ramps;
 - Lakeridge way too busy with 80+ km/h traffic incl. trucks.
 - Continuation of bike lanes on Highway 2;
 - Replacement of old style catch basin gratings;
 - Trail closure on east bank of Duffins Creek (north of dog park);
 - Signage on multiuse paths – Taunton, Bayly.



Across the Region

- Disconnects in well used bike routes, e.g. Concession Rd. 7 to Columbus Rd. (Have to ride 500 m on Lake Ridge Rd.). Theme of upcoming presentation to the Region;
- Coordination between levels of government. Need continuous, safe routes between municipalities for commuters and recreational cyclists alike.
- Lack of interconnectivity between Waterfront Trail and Green Belt Trail;
- Poor road surfaces (potholes, ruts and “tram lines”);
- Incorporate Book 18 recommendations as standard;
- Pave gravel shoulders. Whitby is planning this on Ashburn Rd in 2016;
- Include paved shoulders in all new and reconstruction. One meter of extra paving protects edge of driving lane and allows motorists to pass a cyclist without fear of hitting the cyclist or having to change lanes.

MAP 2 FACILITY TREATMENT TYPES





Progress so far

- Feb. 2015 Report submitted to all Regional councilors - Cycling Hazards and Infrastructure Improvements within the Regional Municipality of Durham;
- Apr. 2015 Presentation to the Durham Region Joint Committee addressing overall cycling concerns and suggestions for improvement;
- May 2015 Presentation to Town of Whitby focusing on shortfalls and recommendations for improvement within Whitby;
- June 2015 Presentation to Town of Whitby on the need to update their Cycling and Leisure Trails Plan (all recommendations adopted);
- Registered as a stake holder for the Region's Transportation Master Plan Update.
- August 2015 Report to Town of Ajax highlighting dangerous catch basin covers and preferred options.



Planned Actions

- Partake in the review the City of Pickering's Bikeway and Trails Master Plan update. Part of the City's Integrated Transportation Plan for 2016;
- Presentation to the Township of Uxbridge early November;
- Presentation to Region of Durham – Close the Gaps;
- Enquiry with Durham Region to adjust sensitivity of traffic lights so they are triggered by cyclists;
- Ensure next phase of Hwy 407 East overpasses have bike lanes included on cycling routes. Letters exchanged with Minister of Transportation;
- Attendance at Bicycle Facilities & Municipal Liabilities Workshop November 23 at Regional Headquarters;
- Presentations to town/city councils of Ajax, Pickering, Oshawa and Clarington.



Highway Traffic Act Amended

- Bill 31 incorporated September 1st this year.
- Key changes for cyclists:
 - One meter clearance when being overtaken (edge of mirror);
 - Permitted to ride on paved shoulders;
 - Permitted to ride on crosswalks controlled by lights;
 - Rear, flashing red light is permissible (daytime use urged for safety).
- Not changed:
 - Bike fitted with bell or horn;
 - Front light/front and rear fork reflector tape required at night;
 - Must produce ID when requested by a police officer;
 - Traffic violations can result in demerits points.

Recent Improvements

Lakefront trail separation at
Lynde Shores – Victoria St.



Continuous bike lanes on
Anderson Rd. bridge over Hwy
407

Recent Improvements

Conlin Road - Bridge and Road Reconstruction with bike lanes



Mayor and officials



Grateful Cyclists



Ajax – Leading in Durham



Clements Road West

Traffic calming and protection to bike lanes



Partial Recessed Catch Basin

Can ride closer to curb



Ajax – Leading in Durham



Etiquette sign for trail users



Chevrons to show lane direction

Ajax – Leading in Durham



Cycling routes clearly posted





Good and Bad

Greenwood Rd - Pickering



Greenwood Rd - Ajax



Good and Bad



Dangerous catch basin cover



Ideal catch basin treatment

Good and bad

Audley Road – New pavement with bike lane (Catch basin intrusion)



Audley Road – Lack of maintenance. Bike lane use negated



How can we help?

- Ensure cycling is a key component in Regional and Municipal Active Transportation Plans;
- Draw on the experience gained from cycling in other cities in Canada and abroad;
- Liaise with all levels of government in a positive manner;
- We are connected with like coalitions – Share the Road, Toronto, York Region;
- Help promote cycling in Durham as a safe destination for all types of cycling activity – tourism, recreation and commuting.