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Advocating for Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Kevin Arsenault
Capital Project Technologist
Township of Scugog
181 Perry Street
Port Perry, ON L9L 1A7
February 18, 2021

Via E-Mail karsenault@scugog.ca

Re: Proposed Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plan

Dear Kevin,

As a community stakeholder, Durham Region Cycling Coalition (DRCC) is pleased to offer feedback with respect to the Proposed Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plan presently available for public review. In consultation with our broad-based membership, we have completed an extensive review of the proposed plan and would first off like to say THANK YOU for undertaking this long over due plan.

Regarding the proposed Visions, Goals and Objectives we are encouraged with the direction being established which we find to be comprehensive, inclusive and wide reaching including the creating of a connected “multi-modal” network designed for all ages and abilities as well as adopting a “Complete Streets” approach to future development.

Moreover, we concur with your resident survey results and hear the same message from our supporting members with the top priorities being improved cycling safety and closing the gaps within the cycling networks in the near term.

We completely understand the funding challenges with implementing new cycling infrastructure and would encourage Scugog to look at channeling a percentage of the Federal Gas Tax Revenue back into the plan thereby helping to support a transition away from a carbon economy as well as continuing to exploring future grant opportunities.



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These additional funding measures may help move more of the plan rollout to the immediate time frame versus the long-term category and aligns with residential survey results.

We would also like to draw your attention to the proposed cycling routes Tables 4.2 and 4.3, specific to the Opportunities Column. Of concern is the verbiage “*May help slow motor vehicles, Lower vehicle volumes along route*”. With cyclists being one of the most vulnerable user groups on our roadways, we do not believe an improvement to cycling networks should be a tactic to reduce vehicle speed volumes and would ask that this strategy be removed.

Cycling safety should be the number one priority.

In closing we are pleased with the overall plan and believe the Scugog economy will see significant benefits as more cycling support is put into place. Cyclist stop, shop and support local business which is a proven outcome seen across many communities who have increased their cycling network.

On behalf of every-one at DRCC, thank you for taking our feedback into consideration. We hope you find our comments constructive and helpful. We appreciate all the great work behind this plan are always available to provide additional input and support.

Respectfully,

Ron Lalonde
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Durham Region Cycling Coalition
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