

September, 2021

Volume 1, Issue 4

Advocating  
for  
safe  
cycling  
throughout  
Durham  
Region

### ***A Message from our President - Bruce MacDonald:***

Gradually our lives are returning to normal and clubs are starting group rides again. A great feeling for all as more and more of us get our second jabs.

As you read further you will see that we have been busy as usual reviewing, commenting and submitting recommendations on regional and local cycling infrastructure projects and transportation master plans.

On a personal note, I have to inform you all that I will be stepping down from my position as Executive Director and President at the end of this term. It has been six years since we founded DRCC and much has been achieved in that time that makes me proud of all the people who have contributed to our success. I'm confident that under the new administration DRCC will still be recognized as the voice of cycling throughout the Region

## UPDATES

### ***Pringle Creek Bridge Reconstruction, Brock Road S***

No further information regarding final design received. Most likely the final design will be presented as a fait accompli since it will be deemed that our earlier comments have been evaluated and included or rejected.

### ***New Website***

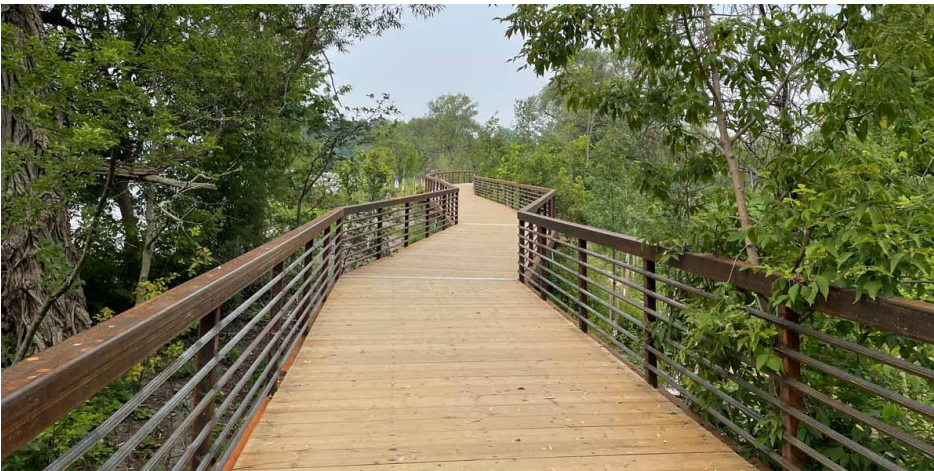
We are up and running. See our new look at <https://durhamsafecycling.ca>

## **Ontario Shores**



We have received a communication from the Town of Whitby that the situation is under review and that they will keep us apprised of proposed modifications. Maybe seeking our input before releasing the final modification. However, as of publishing, no further communication received.

## **Ajax Waterfront Trail Re-Opens**



The bridge over Duffins Creek on the Waterfront Trail in Ajax is now open including new signage (at the request of DRCC) that says cyclists to yield to pedestrians and not for cyclists to dismount.

## **Whitby Waterfront Trail Reopened**

The Town of Whitby has completed the upgrading of the Waterfront Trail from South Blair St to Boundary Rd and the trail is fully open. The upgrade is 4.0 m wide with a painted centre line to help segregate users.



## ***Active Transportation Plans Across the Region***

There has been considerable progress in the development and approval of active transportation plans as noted below. Except for Uxbridge, we have provided feedback to all the ATPs

- Durham Region: ATP in final stages of approval with fall 2021 target date for council approval;
- Scugog: ATP approved by council June 28, 2021;
- Pickering: Integrated Transportation Master Plan (ITMP) now in final stages of approval based on community feedback;
- Whitby: ATP approved by council June 14, 2021;
- Township of Uxbridge: draft ATP now in the final stages.

## **DRCC SUCCESSES**

### ***York Durham Line***



York Durham Line-Looking North

Five years ago, we identified to the Region several “gaps” in the cycling network, i.e., short lengths of unsafe roads on popular cycling routes. One gap was on the York Durham Line between Aurora Rd and Wagg Rd. When it came to our attention that the Region was planning to reconstruct this section of highway, we reviewed the proposed design and were aghast to find that no cycling infrastructure had been included.

We contacted the Region with suggestions for a revised design and can now report that when this section of road is reconstructed next year there will be a 1.5 m paved shoulder on the west side and a 1.5 m paved shoulder transitioning to a 1.5 m paved boulevard on the east side. A full-length paved shoulder was not possible on the east side due to existing services.

This is our third successful “gap” closing.

### ***Annual General Meeting***

This year's AGM is tentatively scheduled for early November via Google Meet. A formal notification and agenda will be issued closer to the actual date.

This year we will be voting for a new board of directors for a two-year term. Bruce MacDonald has indicated that he will relinquish the position of President and Chief Executive Officer but will run as a director for the Durham Mountain Bike Club. Derek Lee will not be running for director leaving one director for the Durham Cycling Club.

Clubs should now be considering who they will appoint as their director for the next two-year term.

### ***Whites Road Extension***



If you have been along Taunton Rd in Pickering recently you will have noticed that Whites Rd has been extended north of Taunton Rd up to Hwy 7. This section of 4-lane highway includes a High Occupancy Vehicle (HOV) lane and a designated bike lane in both directions.

Whites Rd south of Taunton Rd will eventually be realigned eastwards to meet the north section at a new 4-way intersection on Taunton Rd.

Whites Road Extension showing HOV and Cycling Lanes

## ***Community Ambassadors***

In order that DRCC can keep abreast of local news impacting cycling we introduced a Community Ambassador for each of the municipalities and the Region. Thus far we have for:

Town of Ajax - Derek Lee

City of Oshawa - Robert Astley

City of Pickering - Andrew Steinsky

Township of Scugog - Mark Gibbons

Town of Whitby - Ron Lalonde

If you or someone you know would be willing to act as an ambassador for any of the other municipalities (Brock, Clarington and Uxbridge,) please let us know. We can provide a copy of the guidelines for a Community Ambassador.

## ***Federal Funding for Active Transportation***

In March this year the federal government announced \$400 million, over five years, of grant money that will be available to the provinces, cities, regions and municipalities for active transportation projects. We took the opportunity to write to the Region and each of the municipalities advising them, should they not already be aware, of the significant funding available for active transportation projects. We also mentioned it may be a good opportunity to preselect priority projects, in anticipation of the funding release, to gain a head start.

Since sending the initial letters the federal government has now announced details of the available funding and the application process. This prompted us to issue follow-up letters encouraging the Region and municipalities to take advantage of the significant opportunity to advance their active transportation projects.

You can view the full details of the funding release at <https://www.infrastructure.gc.ca/trans/active-actif-eng.html#2> .

## ***Metrolinx Improved Station Access***

Metrolinx has announced they will be providing improved access for pedestrians and cyclists to five GO stations, one of which will be Ajax. These will be the first of several stations to benefit from Metrolinx's commitment to reducing the number of vehicles driving to the GO every day.

## **Pickering Waterfront Redevelopment**



Our Pickering Ambassador Andrew brought to our attention that Pickering was seeking input to plans for the redevelopment of the City's waterfront due to damage from recent flooding. Basically, the section west of Frenchman's Bay would remain relatively unchanged whereas to the east there were two alternatives presented, one active the other passive. After review we submitted a letter to the City recommending the active alternative that would include a segregated bicycle path to separated cyclists and pedestrians.

We also recommended that the existing Waterfront Trail diversion be maintained and upgraded for cyclists wishing to avoid the busy beach area.

## **Highway 401 Bridge and Interchange Reconstruction in Oshawa**

The Ontario Ministry of Transportation (MTO) intends to reconstruct the Wilson Rd overpass and modify the Bloor/Harmony interchange on Hwy 401. MTO's consultant for the detailed design and class environmental assessment study, AECON, has solicited interested organizations to register for information and input to the process which we have done.

The Regional Cycling Plan and the Oshawa Active Transportation Master Plan identified Wilson Rd and Bloor St as primary cycling routes. The cycling plans were prepared in recognition of the current and future population growth and it will be important to ensure adequate cycling facilities are accommodated in the reconstruction.

## ***Harwood Avenue South, Ajax***

The Town of Ajax is looking into removing the bike lanes on Harwood Ave S between Westney Rd/Dryer Dr and McRae Rd and reinstating vehicle lanes for two lanes in each direction. This move seems entirely due to the Town trying to appease a few local motorists at the expense of the safety of cyclists. Our objection to this move has been communicated to the Town. The Town has initiated a study report which we will be keeping a look out for.

## ***Vulnerable Road Users***

Earlier this year we participated in a provincial roundtable discussion advocating for changes to Ontario Provincial Bill # 282 - Moving Ontarians More Safely (MOMS). We submitted written feedback to the Province asking for changes to the Bill in support of safe cycling by including provisions for Vulnerable Road Users.

No changes or recommendations in support of safe cycling were accepted by the government that seems less and less inclined to recognize the vulnerability of cyclists and funding cycling infrastructure.

## ***DRCC at Work***



In September the first Port Perry Pedals charity cycling event was held and we had an information booth at the start location. Our theme was the one-meter law when passing cyclists.

The event was organized by Marc Gibbons our community ambassador for Scugog and over 200 cyclists participated raising a total in excess of \$40,000.

Thanks goes to all the club cyclists who supported the event as well as all the family participants.



**Contact Information:**

Web site	<a href="https://durhamsafecycling.ca">https://durhamsafecycling.ca</a>
Twitter	@durhamrcc
Facebook	@durhamrcc
Instagram	durhamsafecycling
E-Mail	<a href="mailto:info@durhamsafecycling.ca">info@durhamsafecycling.ca</a>

**DRCC Membership**

If you belong to one of our six supporting clubs you are a DRCC *Affiliate Member*.

We also welcome non-cycling club cyclists looking to support our advocacy work.

You can join DRCC as an *Associate Member* for the low annual fee of \$10.00. Simply send an e-mail to: [info@durhamsafecycling.ca](mailto:info@durhamsafecycling.ca) and we will provide an application form.

We welcome comments and suggestions or would like to volunteer your services? You may contact us via e-mail or social media as noted on the left.