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Advocating for Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Metrolinx
97 Front Street West
Toronto, ON
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Via e-mail; dsbrt@metrolinx.com

February 07, 2022

Attention: Stephen Linton - Senior Manager, Community Engagement

RE: Notice of Completion Environmental Project Report – Durham Scarborough Bus Transit Project

Dear Stephen,

Durham Region Cycling Coalition (DRCC) is a not-for-profit volunteer organization, representing the six cycle clubs as well as local cycling enthusiasts across Durham Region advocating for safe cycling improvements.

As a community partner, we are pleased to respond to the January 20, 2022 Notice of Completion within the prescribed time limits.

Our team has completed an extensive review of the most recent posted material and have found the overall conceptual design - specific to Durham Region project limits – inclusive and supporting safe cycling with the prominent features being dedicated cycle tracks and or in-boulevard MUP's.

Thank you for supporting separated Active Transportation.

This in mind, we also see a number of opportunities as follows;

- Kingston Road Rouge River Bridge
 - We note there are no plans to include cycling support which will create a safety gap for cyclists.
 - We believe alternatives are available and should be included to maintain cycling connectivity.

- City of Oshawa
 - Current plans have AT support ending at the Dundas St. E. / Thornton Rd. intersection.
 - Has the option of adding Cycling Sharrows into the identified bus lanes been considered?
 - Currently in use in Scarborough – Eglinton Ave.
 - Will an in-boulevard MUP be considered to close this primary gap?



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- First mile / Last mile
 - Although bike parking is referenced, we see no definitive plan.
 - How will cyclist arriving by bike at a dedicated stop be able to securely store their bike on site while in transit?
 - Will key cross intersections receive primary bike parking support?
- Intersections.
 - Cyclist are most vulnerable entering intersections which is the primary location for cyclist collisions and injuries.
 - Will fully marked cross rides be in place at all intersection?
 - How will signalized intersections incorporate bike specific signal heads?
 - Referencing OTM Book 18 Guidelines.
- Alternative Routes Oshawa, Whitby and Ajax
 - Proposed alternate routes are currently limited or unsupported cycling corridors.
 - Will the project scope include safe cycling infrastructure across the alternate routes identified?

Further to this, upon review of Appendix B5, we note the following;

- Page 17
 - The Regional Cycling Plan is referred to as on going with the Regional 2012 Plan used as a material source guide.
 - **The 2021 Regional Cycling Plan was approved by Regional Council Oct. 2021 with the 2012 plan now being redundant.**
 - Please update all material to include the newly approved plan.
- Page 24
 - The Town of Whitby Active Transportation Plan is referred to as a draft document.
 - **Whitby Town Council approved the Town of Whitby Active Transportation Plan June 2021.**
 - Please update all material to include the newly approved plan.
- Exhibit 26. Within Pickering Village
 - Both eastbound and westbound cyclists will have to divert from Kingston Rd. due to the reduced right-of-way through the Village. Will any additional cycling infrastructure be part of the project or will it be the responsibility of the Town of Ajax?
 - We presume our previous suggestion of a cantilever bike path on the south side of the Duffins Creek bridge has been rejected.



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- The Great Trail: various references.
 - Please note; June 2021 the name reverted back to the original name – “Trans Canada Trail”

In closing, we realize that active transportation funding is always a challenge. We view this project as an excellent example of how to safely combine motor vehicles, transit vehicles and bicycles within a shared corridor.

As such we are fully supportive of the concept.

On behalf of every-one at DRCC, thank you for taking time to review our comments. We look forward to seeing the inherent benefits of this project as the future unfolds. If we can assist in any way with routing and planning, please reach out and we will be happy to help.

Respectfully,

Ron Lalonde

Executive Director
Durham Region Cycling Coalition
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c.c. Mathew Darling – Project Manager, Region of Durham