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Promoting Safe Cycling Throughout Durham Region

Via E-Mail

Envision Durham
Planning and Economic Development
605 Rossland Road East
Whitby ON, L1N 6A3

Oct. 15, 2019

RE: Envision Durham – Transportation System Discussion Paper, File D12-01

Dear Reader,

As a strategic stakeholder, Durham Region Cycling Coalition (DRCC) is pleased to have the opportunity to provide feedback pertaining to the above noted discussion paper. As such, our comments and feedback will be confined to segments relating to Active Transportation (AT) within the report.

Upon completing a comprehensive review, DRCC is very encouraged to see AT forming an integral component of the review process by the hierarchy position within the TMP Strategic Position and Goals summary. As the future unfolds, DRCC supports AT as an identified user group moving to a fore front position within the planning process as an alternative to single use vehicles within the region.

Recognizing AT as a growth-oriented user group, we concur with your study surveys regarding AT as an “extremely important” mobility option for travel within the region. We have been hearing similar comments from our DRCC membership base with the caveat being the need for safety and connectivity within the AT network.

We also note that a critical piece to success will be an update to the Regional Cycling Plan which we understand is commencing shortly. DRCC looks forward to participating in the RCP update as a partner in progress with time lines to be determined by the Region.

We agree with the reports definition of AT users being viewed within two groups, that being utilitarian and recreation, however we would ask that consideration be given to urban versus rural users within each segment. Each of these groups have very unique needs - something we hear frequently from our membership - and will differ by category. This should be taken into consideration as a key component of the RCP review.



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With this in mind, DRCC strongly believes AT as an identified user group has the potential to see double digit growth as a viable transportation alternative by:

- Prioritizing the Regional Cycling Plan review recently launched fall 2019.
- Establishing short-term immediate timelines to implement the findings of the RCP.
- Supporting a stand-alone AT funding model within the Regional Capital Budget providing steady predictable dollars allocated in support of the Regional Cycling Plan.
- Adopting a Complete Streets Policy for all new road builds throughout the region.
- Integrating the AT network across regional roads - which form the primary spine network - with local municipal roads and pathways, many of which have an AT network in place.
- Co-ordinating all new AT infrastructure in collaboration with regional partners utilizing Ontario Traffic Manual Standards by taking a “marked and marketed” approach including:
 - Intersections supported with full Cross Rides.
 - Multi-use -paths identified with centre lines, painted user symbols and signs.
 - On road cycling facilities constructed from a user’s safety point of view.
 - Standard navigational signage across the region in support of AT.
 - Mid block trail crossings supported with proper signage and road markings.
 - Trail etiquette signs across all trails such as the waterfront trail.
 - Easy of access signal controls for pedestrians and cyclists at signalized intersections including automatic cycle detection.
- Expanding public transit as an AT partner by:
 - Continuing support for First mile – Last mile across the Durham Transit high volume network with secure AT parking along routes at key pick up points.
 - Providing an integrated AT network along key corridors in support of Metrolinx Mobility Hubs.
- Reviewing the Transportation Demand Management guidelines to include primary urban destination points accessibility by AT such as:
 - High Schools, Colleges and University Campuses in addition to concentrated work destinations.
 - Major/ local shopping destination points.
 - Community traffic hubs such as major down town locations, libraries and municipal sports facilities.



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In closing, thank you for providing DRCC with an opportunity to provide feedback. We are encouraged with the direction we are seeing within the discussion paper and remain optimistic our suggestions will be helpful as the planning process unfolds.

Respectfully,

Bruce MacDonald
Executive Director, Durham Region Cycling Coalition