



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?

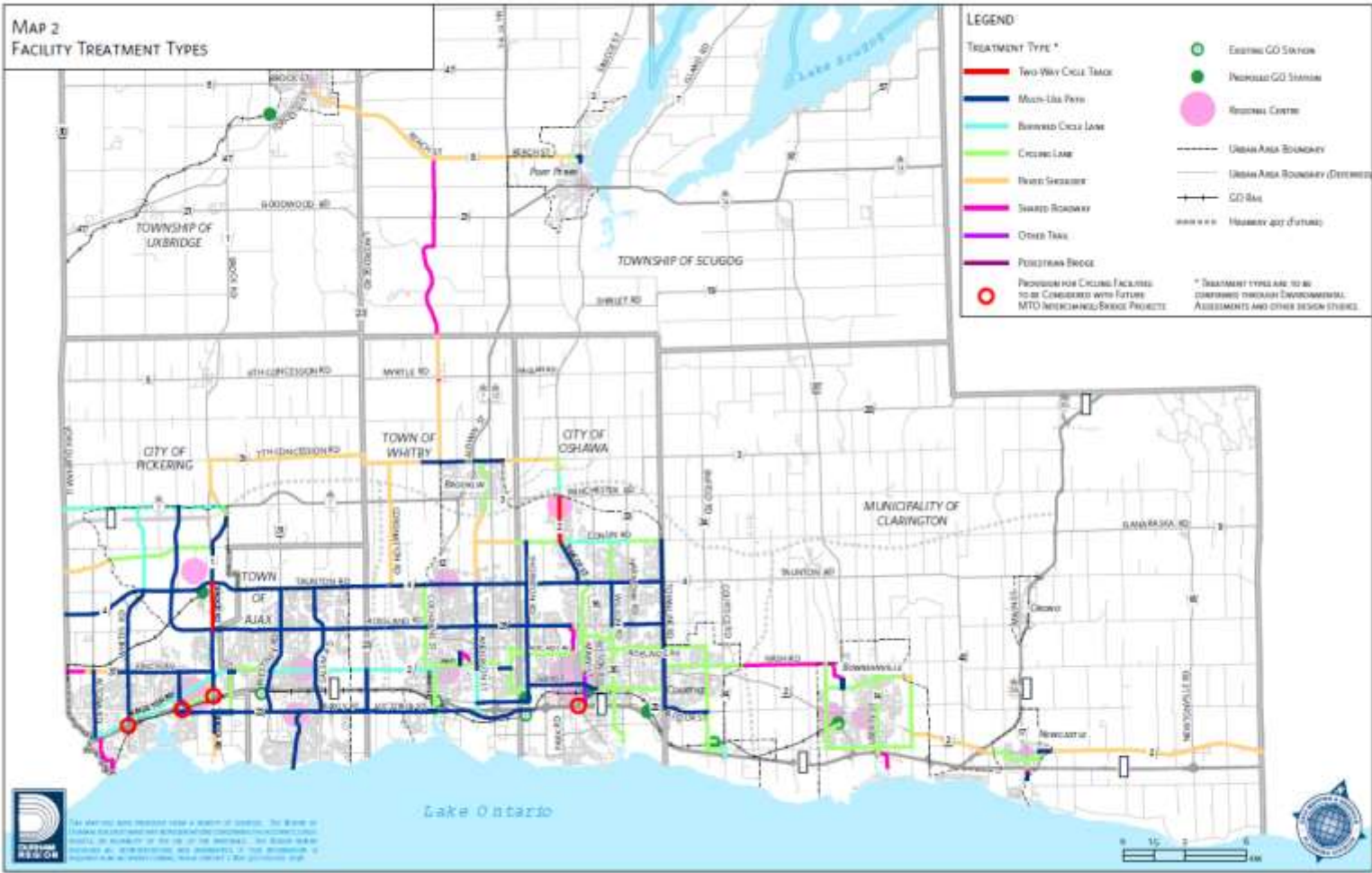
- In Ajax not much to fix. Town is progressive. and bicycle friendly;
- A bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community - one of 28 in Ontario;
- Some issues:
  - Lack of safe bike routes going north – south:
    - Church St safest
    - Harwood Ave is busy and narrow lanes;
    - Westney and Salem require 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



The planning and design team is a team of experts. We have a lot of experience with transportation planning and design. We have a lot of experience with transportation planning and design. We have a lot of experience with transportation planning and design.



# 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.