

The Corporation of the City of Kawartha Lakes

Council Report

Report Number PLAN2017-047

Date: June 27, 2017

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Place: Council Chambers

Ward Community Identifier: Wards 7 & 13 - Bobcaygeon

**Subject: Active Transportation Master Plan for Environmental Action
Bobcaygeon**

Author Name and Title: Richard Holy, Manager of Planning

Recommendation(s):

RESOLVED THAT Report PLAN2017-047, the “Active Transportation Master Plan for Environmental Action Bobcaygeon”, be received;

THAT Council be requested to endorse the Active Transportation Master Plan prepared by Cambium Inc. on behalf of Environmental Action Bobcaygeon; and

THAT staff be permitted to prepare a Letter of Support for any application made by Environmental Action Bobcaygeon to secure funding to implement the recommendations of the Active Transportation Master Plan.

Department Head:_____

Financial/Legal/HR/Other:_____

Chief Administrative Officer:_____

Background:

Active transportation is any form of transportation that is human powered, including transport for persons using assistive mobility devices. Environmental Action Bobcaygeon (EAB) felt there was a need to develop an active transportation master plan to promote a healthy lifestyle for the residents in the community of Bobcaygeon. EAB received a Trillium grant to fund the development of an Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) for Bobcaygeon that will help make the community safer and more convenient to walk and bike in. The group retained Rob Voigt of Cambium Inc. to conduct the study, which included an extensive survey of the community's current assets, walking audits, a number of public consultation sessions and workshops, and final report preparation. The report was completed in the fall of 2016 and is contained in Appendix "A" to this report.

EAB now wishes to commence the implementation phase of the report and are seeking an endorsement from Council, which would allow the group to pursue various grant funding opportunities. An endorsement of Council would allow staff to prepare a letter of support as part of an EAB grant funding application.

Rationale:

The Plan is designed to begin the process of implementing strategic actions that will result in physical changes, programming opportunities, and collaborations that will benefit Bobcaygeon.

Interest in active transportation is growing throughout Canada. Active transportation as viable and desirable ways of travelling for daily activities is increasingly common. This will continue to increase in importance due to an aging population, challenging peoples' quality of life and enhancing the appeal of compact, walkable communities. Communities designed with active lifestyle infrastructure that prioritizes pedestrians and cyclists also support healthy daily physical activity.

Overall, Bobcaygeon's physical form and built environment is well suited to support active transportation relatively easily. It has great connectivity provided by overlapping sections of parks, trails roads, and sidewalks. The strategy presented in this Plan is to include a variety of action oriented initiatives that are at different scales to facilitate completion by a variety of stakeholders.

This plan was developed with a focus on:

- a) community building;
- b) neighbourhood scale improvements;
- c) walkability and bikeability;

- d) human-centered design; and
- e) practicality of implementation.

The Plan is specifically structured as a series of distinct projects designed to be implemented in both near and longer-terms and be completed by citizens, businesses, as well as the City of Kawartha Lakes. All the projects are arranged by general time frame, including Immediate Action, Near-Term, Mid-Term, and Long-Term.

Under Immediate Action are quick action-oriented projects that can be completed with approximately 100 days of dedicated and focused effort. They are low-cost, high-impact, and affect all aspects of active transportation in the community. Projects include: Downtown “Walk Your Town” Signage Programme, Neighbourhood Pace-Car, and Bike Repair Stations.

Near-Term projects are expected to be completed within 1 year. These include projects to amend community regulations and access, which are designed to help make active transportation more practical and functional, improve infrastructure for walking and cycling through new development, and engage the community in the process. Projects include: Wheelchair Accessible Beach, Bike Share, and Laneway and Parking Lot Improvements.

Mid-Term projects are generally greater in scale and scope and are projected to be completed within 2 to 3 years. These projects address a variety of important aspects of active transportation and active lifestyles, including: networks; infrastructure that supports different modes of transportation; and the resource to continue with implementation. Projects include: Final Bicycle Route Assessment and Improvements, Crosswalk Improvements, and Complete Streets Policy and Design Matrix.

Long-Term projects relate to long-term or larger scale infrastructure and design direction that will guide the evolution of the community. They include programming that support community collaboration and creative thinking. These are expected to take 3-5 or more years to implement. Projects include: Neighbourhood Urban Acupuncture and Traffic Calming Programme, Family-friendly Bikeway, and Main Street Update.

Through the projects described in the Plan, Environmental Action Bobcaygeon and its community partners will be able to address these challenges and realize the multiple benefits of being a community that supports active transportation and active lifestyles. The intent is that through the implementation of the projects in this Plan over approximately the next five to seven years, the community will

become more walking and cycling friendly for all ages through infrastructure, education, and culture.

Provincial Policies

Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006:

The Growth Plan (GP) is a framework for implementing the Government of Ontario's vision for building stronger, prosperous communities by better managing growth in the region. Furthermore, it guides transportation and urban form decisions, including multi-modal systems within growth areas. The GP should be read in conjunction with relevant provincial plans, including the 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS).

Section 3.2.2 1(b) of the GP provides that transportation systems within the GGH will offer a balance of transportation choices that reduce the reliance upon any single mode and promotes transit, cycling and walking. In addition, (c) be sustainable, by encouraging the most financially and environmentally appropriate mode for trip making; and (d) offer multi-modal access to jobs, housing, schools, cultural and recreational opportunities, and goods and services.

Section 3.2.3 3 of the GP provides that municipalities ensure that pedestrian and bicycle networks are integrated into transportation planning. These applications of greater mobility stated in the GP will provide safe, comfortable travel for pedestrians and bicyclists within existing communities and new development. By supporting active modes of transportation it will provide linkages between intensification areas, such as Bobcaygeon within the City of Kawartha Lakes, adjacent neighbourhoods, and transit stations, including dedicated land space for bicyclists on the major street network where feasible.

These GP policy directions are evident in the Active Transportation Master Plan and align with the GP's direction in sustainable planning.

Provincial Policy Statement, 2014 (PPS):

The 2014 Provincial Policy Statement (PPS) provides a policy framework for land use decisions within the Province of Ontario. The PPS also provides for efficient development patterns that promote transportation choices that increase the use of active transportation and transit before other modes of travel.

Section 1.5.1 (a) states that healthy, active communities should be promoted by planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, foster social interaction and facilitate active transportation and community connectivity.

Section 1.6.7.1 states that transportation systems should be provided which are safe, energy efficient, facilitate the movement of people and goods, and are appropriate to address projected needs.

Section 1.6.7.3 states that as part of a multimodal transportation system, connectivity within and among transportation systems and modes should be maintained and, where possible, improved including connections which cross jurisdictional boundaries.

The PPS states that the planning and management of development shall apply to the relevant policies of Section 1: Building Strong Healthy Communities, as well as the policies of Section 2: Wise Use and Management of Resources and Section 3: Protecting Public Health and Safety. This Plan has also demonstrated consistency with the PPS.

Official Plan Conformity:

The City of Kawartha Lakes Official Plan contains some objectives and policies geared towards promoting active transportation. The Plan has objectives to:

- Develop a transportation system strategy which will emphasize safety, convenience and efficiency and which will address the multiple forms of transportation found in the City including roads, waterways, trails, pedestrian routes, public transit and the airport.
- Encourage the efficient use of energy with respect to all modes of transportation.
- Link places of employment, education, cultural and community activities by safe and efficient pedestrian routes. Provide a pedestrian and cycling environment for all members of the community.

The Plan also contains a specific policy that encourages the development of active transportation infrastructure where possible in the following manner.

- provide safe, comfortable travel for pedestrians and bicyclists within existing communities and new development;
- provide linkages between intensification areas, adjacent neighbourhoods, including dedicated lane space for bicyclists on major street network where feasible; and
- promote and support travel demand management initiatives to reduce the dependence on the single occupant vehicle (healthy community policy).

The ATMP prepared for EAB achieves the goals of the CKLOP by promoting healthy communities through active transportation. The Plan will assist in

providing linkages between different parts of the community, provide accessibility options for seniors and persons needing assistive mobility devices, and infrastructure to park and repair bicycles. The Plan will help to promote an active lifestyle for the community and promote active transportation for commuting purposes as well. The ATMP conforms to and promotes the policies in the CKLOP.

Other Alternatives Considered:

No other alternatives have been considered.

Financial/Operation Impacts:

There are no financial considerations to the City as the Plan would be implemented by EAB through grant funding and community fund-raising. No City expenditures are anticipated as a result of this endorsement.

Relationship of Recommendation(s) To The 2016-2019 Strategic Plan:

The Council Adopted Strategic Plan identifies these Strategic Goals:

- A Vibrant and Growing Economy
- An Exceptional Quality of Life
- A Healthy Environment

This application aligns with the goals of providing an exceptional quality of life and a healthy environment by promoting active transportation that will contribute to the success and livability of communities.

Review of Accessibility Implications of Any Development or Policy:

Some of the recommendations carry some accessibility implications for the City. Should EAB wish to construct an accessible ramp at Beach Park, this would require City approval.

Servicing Implications:

There are no servicing implications for the City.

Consultations:

The report was circulated to internal Departments for review.

Development Engineering has confirmed their acceptance of the ATMP as an overall strategy. They will include the group as a stakeholder on all upcoming road design projects.

The Community Services Department indicated that the ATMP is well-developed document that will assist the City in the future. The report clearly states what role EAB would play in the implementation versus what the City's implementation responsibilities would be. Specific comments on the report relate to the following matters:

- The report provides a project schedule for implementation purposes and indicates the City's role in certain areas. These projects have not been included in the Community Services Department's strategic plans, work plans, or budgets.
- The bike corrals and bike repair stations will likely be located on City property. Questions relating location, impacts in City property, vandalism, on-going maintenance, and liability need to be assessed.
- While the wheelchair accessible beach is an understandable concept, matters relating to on-going maintenance need to be assessed.
- Additional cycling and wayfinding signage would need to be incorporated into the City's standards to ensure a consistent approach.
- Additional sources of infrastructure funding are necessary to fund the implementation of the report's recommendations.

Development Services – Planning Division Comments:

The Planning Department is supportive of the initiative taken by Environmental Action Bobcaygeon in developing this Plan. The Plan aligns with Provincial policies on active transportation, healthy communities, and community development as well as aligning with transportation policies contained in the City's Official Plan.

Many communities have prepared community-wide active transportation master plans to guide their development and funding of active transportation infrastructure. Although the City has not prepared such a Plan to date, this Plan will be used as a basis for a City-wide Plan in the future. An active transportation master plan could either be a separate document or could form part of the update to the City's Transportation Master Plan. Given that the Provincial policy and funding is being made available for such an endeavor, the City will be pursuing this in the near future.

Conclusion:

In consideration of the comments contained in this report, Staff would respectfully recommend that Council endorse the Active Transportation Master Plan prepared for Environmental Action Bobcaygeon.

Attachments:

The following attached documents may include scanned images of appendixes, maps, and photographs. If you require an alternative format, please call Richard Holy, Manager of Planning, (705) 324-9411 ext. 1246.

Appendix 'A' – Active Transportation Master Plan for Environmental Action Bobcaygeon



PLAN2017-047
Appendix A.pdf

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Department Head: Chris Marshall, Director of Development Services

Department File: C06