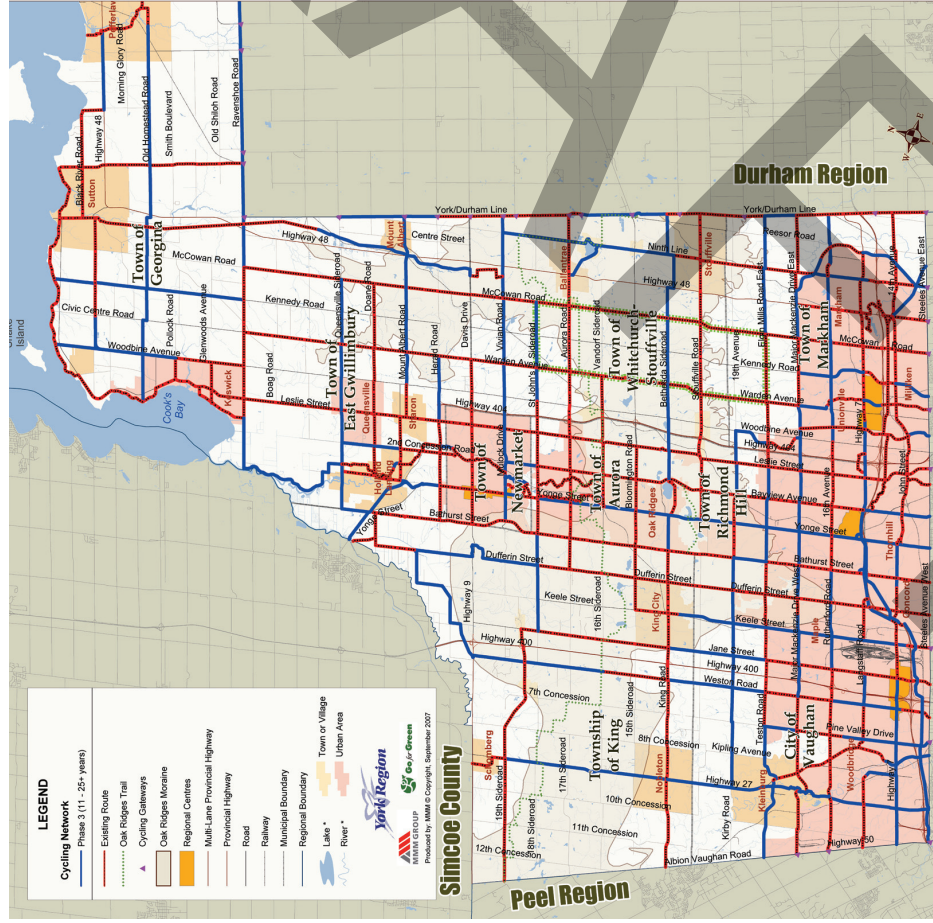


CYCLING NETWORK

Phase 3 (2018-2032)





User-friendly Pedestrian Facilities

During PCMP study research, the top five suggested improvements for walking in York Region were:

- Enhance connections between neighbourhoods;
- Add destinations;
- Add street trees;
- Create interesting places to see along routes; and
- Add or widen trails in open spaces.

The range and density of recommended pedestrian facilities varies according to location and land use. Implementation is dependent on local municipalities as they have jurisdiction. The PCMP identifies a number of “pedestrian zones” where the infrastructure should be consistent with the Region’s growth management plans. Opportunities for pedestrian-friendly urban design and amenities will be considered during detailed design.

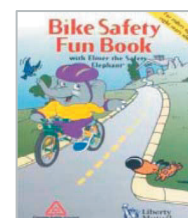
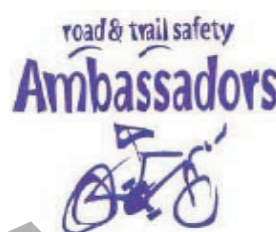
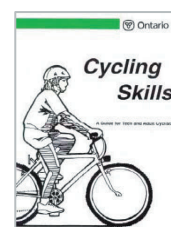
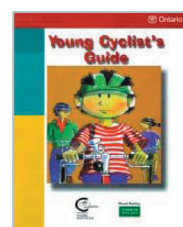
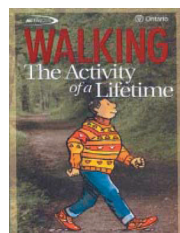
The planned network consists primarily of sidewalks on Regional roads. Any locations where sidewalk links are missing have been identified. In some areas, the network includes linear off-road multi-use trails. The completed system comprises over 665 linear km of sidewalks (477 linear km of this total exist today).

In urban areas, sidewalks should be provided on both sides of arterial and collector roads, and off-road links should facilitate direct connections with transit stations and other key destinations. In suburban areas, it may not be necessary to have sidewalks on both sides of the roads. In rural areas, a paved or granular shoulder can also serve as the pedestrian facility.



Every street is a pedestrian street.

Many jurisdictions have developed educational programs and publications that can be adapted for use in York Region at nominal cost.



Public Education and Outreach

Many comments received during the study indicated that a focused effort is required to convince people that walking and cycling are safe convenient alternatives to the automobile for short trips. Public education is therefore one of the most important components of the planned strategy.

According to a Canadian Institute of Health Information study, cycling puts more people in the hospital than any other summer activity in Ontario. The Ontario Trauma Registry reports that children aged 5 to 14 are most likely to incur injuries while cycling. The implementation of new programs and the continuation of existing initiatives will require comprehensive communications and an education program to help reduce the likelihood of cycling-related injuries. Many jurisdictions in Canada have developed materials and programs that can be adapted for Regional use:

- CANBIKE cycling courses for all ages and skill levels;
- Road and Trail Safety Ambassador Program;
- S.P.A.C.E. traffic education for all road users;
- Bike Bus Program to increase cycling awareness and education;
- Bicycle User Groups (BUGs); and
- Publications and brochures to educate citizens about both cycling and pedestrian safety.



Similar programs can be delivered in York Region by partnering with internal and external organizations such as York Regional Police, York Region Public Health, local municipalities, school boards, Transport Canada, Canada Safety Council, Ministry of Transportation of Ontario, Ministry of Health, Ontario Cycling Association and the business community.

Promotional materials will include a user-friendly York Region cycling map, which will be produced by 2009 and updated on a regular basis to highlight new routes. Cycling and hiking are popular tourist activities, and the private sector and other stakeholders will be encouraged to invest in the promotion of York Region as a destination for visitors.



Implementing the PCMP

The overall direction for the PCMP was established through extensive community and stakeholder effort. Additional priorities will evolve through planning, technical review and capital budget processes. Any changes to policies and the network should also be considered through York Region's Official Plan and Transportation Master Plan reviews. To provide future flexibility, the pedestrian-cycling network will be delivered in three phases over a 25-year period.

Phase 1 is a 5-year action plan. The process to manage the program includes:

- The Pedestrian and Cycling Public Advisory Committee, which comprises public representatives from each community as well as Regional and local municipal staff, will continue to provide a forum to address key issues;

- A Pedestrian/Cycling Coordinator to guide implementation by working with internal and external partners and committees, and coordinating staff resources, annual budgets, program delivery, performance measures and annual progress reports;
- The Pedestrian and Cycling Municipal Partnership Program, through which York Region will contribute up to 50% of the cost of approved submissions from local municipalities and agencies / stakeholders; and
- An Inter-Municipal Working Group that includes staff from each of the local municipalities, conservation authorities, school boards as well as the Regional Planning, Health, Works and Police Service to review progress.

Phase 1 is proposed to deliver:

- 253 KM of bike lanes /paved shoulders;
- 27 KM of multi-use trails;
- 87 KM of signed bike routes; and
- 43 KM of sidewalks.

Phase 2 will continue the network implementation and programs for the next 5-year period. Together, Phases 1 and 2 coincide with York Regions 10-Year Capital Roads Program. Since Phase 3 is part of the longer-term strategy, its elements will be confirmed and incorporated into updates of the PCMP and capital roads program.

Phase 2 is proposed to deliver:

- 198 KM of bike lanes /paved shoulders;
- 26 KM of multi-use trails;
- 43 KM of signed bike routes; and
- 11 KM of sidewalks





Mayor
Frank Scarpitti
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Jim Jones
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Jack Heath
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Tony Wong
Town of Markham



Regional Councillor
Gordon Landon
Town of Markham



Mayor
David Barrow
Town of Richmond Hill



Mayor
Linda D. Jackson
City of Vaughan



Chairman and CEO
Bill Fisch



Regional Councillor
Brenda Hogg
Town of Richmond Hill



Regional Councillor
Joyce Frustaglio
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
Vito Spataro
Town of Richmond Hill



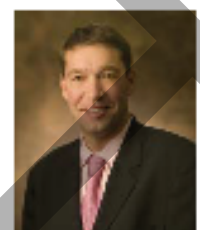
Regional Councillor
Mario Ferri
City of Vaughan



Mayor
Tony Van Bynen
Town of Newmarket



Regional Councillor
Gino Rosati
City of Vaughan



Regional Councillor
John Taylor
Town of Newmarket



Mayor
Robert Grossi
Town of Georgina



Regional Councillor
Danny Wheeler
Town of Georgina



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Phyllis M. Morris
Town of Aurora



Mayor
Wayne Emmerson
Town of Whitchurch-Stouffville



Mayor
James Young
Town of East Gwillimbury



Mayor
Margaret Black
Township of King

A Message from Regional Council

York Regional Council strongly supports this Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan initiative that focuses on the provision of sidewalks, bike lanes and multi-use trails to interconnect walking and cycling pathways throughout the Region.

A community with walking and bike paths is more liveable. They allow residents and visitors more opportunities to enjoy the outdoors and maintain health and wellness through exercise. An extensive, inter-connected system of walking and biking facilities will enrich the quality of life and provide better mobility for our residents for years to come.

In addition, a shift to alternate forms of transportation, such as walking, bicycling, public transit and carpooling, can greatly reduce vehicle greenhouse gas emissions that are a major source of poor air quality. Poor air quality adversely impacts our health and can cause illness in people with heart and lung conditions. Those at particular risk include young children, the elderly, asthmatics and anyone with existing respiratory or coronary conditions.

Reducing traffic congestion also leads to a more efficient transportation network. Moving people and goods in a timely manner is necessary to help our economy remain competitive and prosperous.

As York Region continues to grow and urbanize, our walking and cycling facilities will help to make our communities more sustainable. In partnership with our local municipalities, we will implement this plan and build on our strengths to ensure that York Region continues to be an attractive place to live and work.