

June 3, 2008

Mr. Paul May
Director of Infrastructure Planning
Region of York
17250 Yonge Street

CFN 39513

VIA MAIL AND EMAIL
(paul.may@york.ca)

Newmarket, ON L3Y 6Z1


Dear Mr. May:

**Re: Response to York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan Study, Final Report
Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (EA) – Phases 1 and 2
Humber, Don, Rouge and Duffins Watersheds; Regional Municipality of York**

Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) received your letter and report dated May 8, 2008 regarding the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan Study, Final Report. We commend York Region for taking on this important project and for providing TRCA with the opportunity to participate in this process. We strongly support your vision for a network of trails and bicycle lanes that link communities and provide a means for active transportation in efforts to achieve a more sustainable region.

It is our understanding that the master plan is intended to be a mechanism for shifting public travel choices to minimize environmental impacts through the expansion of the road network, the need for new and widened roads and to avoid network delay and congestion. This plan supports the policies in the Regional Official Plan, specifically section 6.3 which states that it is the policy of Council to "recognize the importance of cycling and walking as an alternative form of transportation and aims to establish a bicycle path and walkway system in conjunction with local municipalities."

TRCA staff understand that it is the Region's objective to promote a safe environment for the use of bicycles and to allow people to walk to work, as well as other utilitarian purposes, traveling within and between communities and for leisure. We are supportive of this vision, and look forward to being involved at all stages of further planning under the Environmental Assessment Act and at the detailed design and planning phase.

As you are aware, TRCA has a comprehensive trail network that it manages, or municipalities manage as per a land management agreement with TRCA, within both conservation areas, and the valleyland systems which we own in York Region. TRCA staff recognizes the importance of linking the urbanized network with an open space trail system to provide various trail users with a full range of options and opportunities. Therefore by building connections between trails on our lands, such as the Oak Ridges Trail, and those outlined in the plan, we can further develop a fully integrated network that allow users to access all parts of the community.

TRCA will also incorporate recommendations from your Master Plan into our future Watershed Plans in an effort to maintain consistency throughout the trail network, as well as further develop the trail systems within our conservation areas and lands. TRCA is also very supportive of the proposed Lake to Lake Route and we look forward to assisting with its implementation.

TRCA feels that the implementation of this Pedestrian and Cycling Plan will improve the co-ordination of local municipal cycling and pedestrian initiatives and provide guidance for a range of appropriate treatments for bicycles and pedestrians within the Region as part of your Vision 2026 Strategy. TRCA looks forward to being a part of the Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan project as an important sustainable initiative.

Please do not hesitate to contact myself at 416-667-6270 or at bdenney@trca.on.ca if you have any questions or would like to arrange a meeting.

Yours truly,



Brian Denney, P. Eng.
Chief Administrative Officer

bd/lr

SENT VIA EMAIL

cc: Denis Kelly, Regional Clerk, York Region
Grant Uyeyama, Manager-Development Planning, City of Vaughan
Gayle Wood, CAO, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority
Beth Williston, Manager, Environmental Assessments, TRCA
Carolyn Woodland, Director, Planning and Development, TRCA
Bill Kiru, Manager, Development, Planning and Regulation, TRCA
Quentin Hanchard, Manager, Development, Planning and Regulation, TRCA
Adele Freeman, Director, Watershed Management, TRCA
Gary Wilkins, Humber Watershed Specialist, TRCA
Mike Bender, Manager, Conservation Land Planning Group, TRCA
Ron Dewell, Senior Manager, Conservation Lands and Property Services, TRCA
Derek Edwards, Director, Parks and Culture, TRCA
Gord MacPherson, Manager, Restoration Services, TRCA
June Murphy, Planner II, Environmental Assessments, TRCA
David Burnett, Oak Ridges Moraine Specialist, TRCA
Lewis Yeager, General Manager, Rouge Park Alliance, TRCA