What is Walk Cycle Waterloo Region?

The Region of Waterloo is developing a plan to make it easier to walk, bike and roll (in-line skating, skateboarding, using mobility devices) in our community. This plan will outline actions we can take to meet the walking and cycling targets from the Regional Transportation Master Plan (RTMP, 2010). The RTMP established a target of 12 per cent of peak trips to be made by cycling and walking by 2031. This target requires an approximate 50 per cent increase in these modes over 2006 levels. Walk Cycle Waterloo Region will also help us meet the RTMP goal of developing a safe, convenient, and well integrated bicycle and pedestrian network.

Research has shown that a vast majority of people would chose to cycle more if they could take a route that felt safe, comfortable, and convenient. The key to meeting the RTMP goals is to provide cycling facilities that are attractive to this “Interested but Concerned” segment of the population.

![Graph showing cycling attitudes](#)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Strong &amp; Fearless</th>
<th>Enthused &amp; Confident</th>
<th>Interested but Concerned</th>
<th>No Way, No How</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt;1%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>60%</td>
<td>33%</td>
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Where Are We Now?

In November 2011, over 150 people attended workshops in Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo. Since then, we have developed draft walking and cycling networks. In addition, we will be completing a sign strategy to help make it easier to find your way around Waterloo Region on foot or by bike.

The final plan will include nine action plans. We are currently asking for your input on the first four:

- Cycling and Walking
- Infill/Gaps
- Local improvements “Fix-It” List
- Strategic Signage

We have started background work on the remaining action plans and will be asking for your input on these in the fall:

- Design Guidelines
- Winter Network
- Behavioural Shift Program
- Performance Monitoring
- Signature Pilot Projects
Need More Background on Walk Cycle Waterloo Region?

Be sure to check out our website, walkcyclewr.regionofwaterloo.ca. There you will find information presented at the workshops in the fall of 2011, as well as our newsletter recapping what we heard from the public at the workshops. Be sure to follow us on Facebook and Twitter for project updates.

Cycling and Walking Network Action Plans

The goal of Walk Cycle Waterloo Region is to create a complete cycling and walking network that serves the needs of the community. The network needs to be practical and able to be constructed in a timely manner. The project team has developed draft walking and cycling networks considering the following:

- Comments received from the public at and following the November 2011 workshops
- Input from Regional and Area Municipal staff
- Input received from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee
- Location of destinations of regional importance including employment areas, secondary institutions, commercial centres, etc.
- Areas of potential for increasing walking and cycling given the population density, land use and trip making patterns

The Region will develop a funding strategy to help prioritize the implementation of the walking and cycling network. Focus will be given to areas with high demand/beaten paths and key centres such as rapid transit stations and commercial centres where quick wins can be achieved.

The draft plans have special study areas identified that will require further study. These areas are pedestrian bridges, trail/road connections and crossings of concern.
The draft walking and cycling networks are available for your review at the open house or online at WalkCycleWR.regionofwaterloo.ca.

Closing the Gaps with Infill Projects

Filling the gaps is key to providing a network that connects destinations around the region. In some cases, it is not comfortable to cycle or walk along Regional roads. To address this, the walking network recommends building sidewalks on both sides of the road in urban areas and rural settlement communities. The cycling network focuses on closing the gaps in the network we’ve already started to build, but some exceptions do exist:

1. Some Regional roads are in good condition; reconstructing them within the next 20 years to provide cycling facilities would not be cost effective.

2. Our goal is to build bike routes that connect to destinations. Some road segments are isolated from destinations, so they are not included in this plan.

3. Our goal is to build bike routes that more people feel comfortable using. Where there is not enough space to build the type of cycling facility that would be comfortable for “Interested but Concerned” cyclists, we have proposed local connections using trails and local streets rather than busy Regional roads.

Local Improvements: the “Fix-It” List Action Plan

As communities implement walking and cycling infrastructure over time, improvements and maintenance can improve the overall quality. But sometimes “spot” improvements are overlooked or do not have a funding program. The Fix It Action Plan recognizes locations that require small or more significant improvements to improve the overall connectivity, comfort and safety of the network. Projects have been identified by staff, the public, and the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Examples include:

- Improvements to freeway interchanges such as Franklin Boulevard, Hespeler Road, King Street, University Avenue, etc.
- Improvements to underpasses and overpasses such as Sportsworld Drive at Hwy. 7/8, Lexington at Hwy. 85, etc.
- Improvements to trail crossings such as Moffat Creek Trail at Water Street, Iron Horse Trail at Weber Street, etc.
- Multi-use trail transition to bike lanes such as George Street at Parkhill Road
- Traffic signal timing improvements such as King and William Streets, University Avenue and Phillip Street, etc.
A full list of projects is available for your review on our website. An annual audit program is recommended to identify additional “fix it” locations.

**Finding Your Way: The Strategic Signage Action Plan**

You told us that it can be difficult to find your way around the region by foot and by bike. The Region is working with the three Cities and the four Townships to develop an integrated signage strategy for Waterloo Region’s trail and bike networks. The Trans-Canada Trail was identified as a good route to test out new trail marking, route direction and destination signs. The on-road cycling network will be integrated with the named trail network by adding bicycle logos to street name signs along roads with cycling facilities. Regional destinations would be signed at key decision points, indicating the distance and time. The result would be an easy to recognize network, and times to destinations that make the trip by bicycle viable to those who have never tried it.

**Walking and Cycling to the King/Victoria Transit Hub**

The Region has purchased a number of properties near the intersection of King and Victoria Streets in the City of Kitchener for developing a Transit Hub that integrates walking, cycling, Light Rail Transit, Grand River Transit, VIA, GO, inter-city buses, taxis and other motor vehicles. The Transit Hub will become a centre of activity in downtown Kitchener, with a high-quality streetscape that attracts development and new opportunities to live, work and play.

To help create a vibrant public space, the Region is identifying high priority routes for people walking and cycling to and through the Transit Hub area. This Access Plan will integrate and expand on existing walking and cycling routes, as well as identify ways to improve the connectivity of surrounding neighbourhoods.

The draft walking and cycling links to the King/Victoria Transit Hub station area are available for your review at the open house or online at www.regionofwaterloo.ca/transithub.
Your input is important!

We want to get your input on this plan. Please take a moment to fill out a comment form and submit it by **June 26, 2012**. You can also submit your comments via mail, fax or email or complete the online survey.

A comprehensive consultation page is available on our website to help provide your input. A video, network maps and an online comment form are now available.

**Our Next Steps**

Over the summer, we will finalize the walking and cycling network. In fall 2012, we will invite the public to give input on the full set of draft action plans. Together these will form the basis of the final Walk Cycle Waterloo Region plan. We expect to finish the plan by the end of 2012 with final Regional Council consideration in early 2013.
Stay Informed

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Email us! WalkCycleWR@regionofwaterloo.ca

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