The Region of Waterloo’s Active Transportation Master Plan

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

http://walkcyclewr.regionofwaterloo.ca
http://www.regionofwaterloo.ca/bigshift
Walk Cycle Waterloo Region, the Region of Waterloo’s Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP), is a very important part of achieving the kind of transportation system we need to shape the future of our community for the next 20 years and beyond. This brochure provides a summary of the goals, objectives and recommended actions in Walk Cycle Waterloo Region.

**Why Do We Need Walk Cycle Waterloo Region?**

Waterloo Region is a vibrant global community that is experiencing unprecedented investment, growth and change. Already the fourth largest community in Ontario and the 10th largest in Canada, Waterloo Region continues to grow and prosper. With our population expected to reach 729,000 by 2031, the Region has committed to ensuring our growth is compact and concentrated mostly in existing built-up areas. This means we must make sure our roads and transit systems work well, and that pedestrians, cyclists and people with disabilities also have good transportation options and connections to Grand River Transit and ION rapid transit.

**What is Walk Cycle Waterloo Region?**

Walk Cycle Waterloo Region was developed over a number of years, and with significant public input, as a result of the direction set by the Regional Transportation Master Plan (RTMP 2010) to increase the number of trips Waterloo Region residents take by transit, walking and cycling. Walk Cycle Waterloo Region is a comprehensive plan to help make it easier to walk, cycle and use mobility devices to get around Waterloo Region. Walk Cycle Waterloo Region was developed in co-operation with the Area Municipalities and works together with similar Area Municipal plans that focus on walking and cycling.
Goal of Walk Cycle Waterloo Region

Currently, 7.8 per cent of afternoon rush hour trips in Waterloo Region are made by people walking and cycling. This means over 23,000 residents are using human-powered transportation during the afternoon rush. The Regional Transportation Master Plan set the goal to increase walking and cycling trips to 12 per cent by 2031, and Walk Cycle Waterloo Region is the plan that will help us reach it. Achieving this goal, combined with the Region’s ongoing efforts to increase transit use, will help reduce the need for road expansions over the next 20 years. This will also help to create a more compact, vibrant and liveable community.

How will we achieve our goal?

Walk Cycle Waterloo Region is made up of five action plans that will help us reach the 12 per cent target.

Network Action Plan

This action plan outlines how the approved cycling and walking network would be constructed:

- Walking and cycling facilities would be constructed as part of the Region’s current 10-year plan for making improvements to our road network.

- Walking and cycling facilities that are not part of the road improvement plan would be constructed independently.

- Specific improvements at intersections, interchange ramp crossings or curb cuts would improve the safety, convenience and comfort for existing and future cyclists and pedestrians.

- Special projects such as the Waterloo Spur Line, highway and river crossings and retrofitting pedestrian walkways will make it easier for people to walk and cycle.
Strategic Signage Action Plan
This is a plan for adding directional and Regional destination signs to our network to assist pedestrians and cyclists get to where they want to go. It was developed with staff from the Area Municipalities.

Winter Network Action Plan
This is a plan to update current snow clearing practices to make walking and cycling easier year round.

Behavioural Shift Action Plan
This action plan includes current and future educational programs and marketing strategies that would encourage even more people to walk and cycle in Waterloo Region.

Performance Monitoring Action Plan
This action plan gives us the tools to measure our success, refine our efforts when needed, and report our progress.

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Walk Cycle Waterloo Region plans to build:
- Over 30 per cent more sidewalks
- Seven times more multi-use trails
- Over 70 per cent more cycling facilities

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Facility</th>
<th>Regional Network</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Existing</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sidewalks along Regional roads</td>
<td>365 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Boulevard Multi-Use Trail</td>
<td>17 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bike lane</td>
<td>117 km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Segregated bike lane</td>
<td>0 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rural bike lane</td>
<td>247 km</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.0m paved edge</td>
<td>206 km</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal: Cycling Network</strong></td>
<td>570 km</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total: All Networks</strong></td>
<td>952 km</td>
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* For the 48 km of constrained corridors, bike lanes are preferred but may not be feasible due to the right-of-way constraints. These corridors may be marked shared use with “sharrows” if constraints can not be overcome.
How will the plan be implemented?

Walk Cycle Waterloo Region was tabled at Regional Council on Feb. 26, 2014. The Region will continue to work with the Area Municipalities and other partners on an implementation plan that will set priorities for the actions recommended in Walk Cycle Waterloo Region, and provide funding options that will be considered by Regional Council in 2015. In the interim, Walk Cycle Waterloo Region will be used as key input into planning, designing and constructing our Regional transportation infrastructure. As the implementation plan develops, we may need to make changes to Walk Cycle Waterloo Region, so it should be seen as a “living document” that will evolve over time.

For more detailed information about how Walk Cycle Waterloo Region was developed, or to read a full version of the plan, please visit our website at walkcyclewr.regionofwaterloo.ca. Thank you!

Region of Waterloo

Walk Cycle WATERLOO REGION

Be Part of the BIG SHIFT

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