



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Community Growth and Economic Development Committee Agenda

Tuesday, June 3, 2025, 9:30 a.m.

Regional Council Chambers

Regional Headquarters Building

605 Rossland Road East, Whitby

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2097.

Note: This meeting will be held in a hybrid meeting format with electronic and in-person participation. Committee meetings may be [viewed via live streaming](#).

	Pages
1. Roll Call	
2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest	
3. Adoption of Minutes	
3.1 Community Growth and Economic Development Committee meeting - May 6, 2025	3
4. Statutory Public Meetings	
There are no statutory public meetings	
5. Presentations	
5.1 Danielle Culp, Project Planner, and Chris Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning re: Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024 (2025-CG-8) [Item 7.2 a.]	9
6. Delegations	
6.1 Ursula Kressibucher (Virtual Attendance), Chair, Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association re: Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week (2025-EDT- 11) [Item 8.2 a.]	
6.2 Gary Jarosz (In-Person Attendance), Interim CEO, Spark Centre re: Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024 (2025-EDT-12) [Item 8.2 b.]	

- 7. **Community Growth**
 - 7.1 Correspondence
 - 7.2 Reports
 - a. Report #2025-CG-8 25
 Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report
 2023-2024
- 8. **Economic Development**
 - 8.1 Correspondence
 - 8.2 Reports
 - a. Report #2025-EDT-11 52
 Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing
 Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week
 - b. Report #2025-EDT-12 57
 Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024
- 9. **Advisory Committee Resolutions**
 There are no advisory committee resolutions to be considered
- 10. **Confidential Matters**
 There are no confidential matters to be considered
- 11. **Other Business**
- 12. **Date of Next Meeting**
 Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 9:30 AM
- 13. **Adjournment**
 Notice regarding collection, use and disclosure of personal information:

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 email addresses, will become part of the public record. This also includes oral
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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

COMMUNITY GROWTH & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

A regular meeting of the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee was held on Tuesday, May 6, 2025 in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 9:30 AM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: Councillor Chapman, Chair
Councillor Pickles, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerr
Councillor Shahid
Councillor Woo
Councillor Wotten
Regional Chair Henry

Absent: Councillor Collier

Staff

Present: E. Baxter-Trahair, Chief Administrative Officer
M. Broderick, Manager, Business Development & Investment, Economic Development
T. Fraser, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
S. Gill, Director, Economic Development & Tourism
C. Goodchild, Director of Community Growth
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
J. Kelly, Manager, Integrated Growth Management & Policy
E. Kennedy, Economic Development Specialist
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning
L. Lovery, Director, Rapid Transit & Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
A. Luqman, Acting Manager, Transit-Oriented Development (TOD)
J. Severs, Manager, Marketing & Tourism, Economic Development
T. Shaver, Manager, Small Business Enterprise Centre, Economic Development & Tourism
K. Smith, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
L. Talling, Acting Manager, Agriculture & Rural Affairs, Economic Development
L. Trombino, Manager, Development Advisory Services
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
R. Woon, Senior Solicitor, Chief Administrative Office – Legal Services

2. **Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest made.

3. **Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Wotten,
(24) That the minutes of the regular Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting held on Tuesday, March 4, 2025, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. **Statutory Public Meetings**

There were no statutory public meetings.

5. **Presentations**

- 5.1 Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Durham Region, and Larissa Fenn, Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority, re: Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority General Update (Report #2025-EDT-8) [Item 8.2 a.]
-

Simon Gill, Director of Economic Development and Tourism, Durham Region, and Larissa Fenn, Vice-President, Corporate Affairs, Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority General Update.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Who We Are
 - Hamilton-Oshawa Port Authority (HOPA) is one of 17 Port Authorities in Canada
 - Canada Port Authority
 - Managing Working Waterfronts on the Canadian Great Lakes
 - A Growing, Integrated Port Network
- HOPA Ports
 - Cargo Highlights
- Dredging Oshawa Harbour
- Farewell & Harbour Roads
- Economic Development Partnership
 - Hannover Messe
- Economic Development Partners – Key Sectors
 - Agri-Food
 - Manufacturing
 - Film
 - Construction Materials

- Energy
- Transportation/Logistics
- Integrated Network
- Moving Goods in Southern Ontario
- Carbon & Congestion
- Innovation
 - Using Data to Optimize Modal Choice
- Friends of Second Marsh
 - Phragmites Removal
- Community Partnerships
- Port of Oshawa
 - Looking Ahead

L. Fenn responded to questions from the Committee with regards to half load shipments and whether the sedimentation being experienced along the harbour has an impact on load capacities; the anticipated timeframe for extending the east wharf; whether such an extension would increase port capacity to permit an additional cargo ship; whether federal or provincial environmental assessments would be completed as part of the extension study process; how the film industry contributes as a key sector to the Oshawa port; whether the port is seasonally operated; and whether the “just-in-time” freight service offered by HOPA may be impacted by future shipment strategies.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

7. Community Growth

7.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

7.2 Reports

A) Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Township of Scugog Membership Appointment for 2025-2026 (2025-CG-6)

Report #2025-CG-6 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Wotten, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(25) That we recommend to Council:

- A) That Jay Jutzi be appointed to the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) as its Township of Scugog representative;

- B) That Mr. Jutzi be advised of their appointment to the DATC; and
- C) That a copy of Report #2025-CG-6 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be forwarded to the Township of Scugog and the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

CARRIED

8. Economic Development

8.1 Correspondence

There were no communication items to be considered.

8.2 Reports

A) Hamilton Oshawa Port Authority General Update ([2025-EDT-8](#))

Report #2025-EDT-8 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Woo,

- (26) That Report #2025-EDT-8 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

B) 2024/2025 Out of Office Tourism Marketing Campaign ([2025-EDT-9](#))

Report #2025-EDT-9 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Staff responded to questions from the Committee with regards to the federal and provincial tourism-related grant programs that the Region and area municipalities qualify for; how the Region can ensure it secures its maximum grant funding opportunities; how grant funding is utilized by the Region and whether such funding is distributed to the lower-tier municipalities; how the Region can boost outside attraction to the Region; and how the Region supports tourism events at the lower-tier municipalities and contributes to increasing public interest of such events.

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Pickles,

- (27) That Report #2025-EDT-9 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development be received for information.

CARRIED

C) Durham Region Music Industry Analysis and Forum (2025-EDT-10)

Report #2025-EDT-10 from B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development, was received.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Woo,
(28) That we recommend to Council,

That due to the strong potential economic and social benefits of a vibrant music industry, the Nordicity Music Industry Analysis report (Attachment #1 to Report #2025-EDT-10 of the Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development) be endorsed, and that staff be directed to consider opportunities to advance the Key Priority Areas of that Report through the 2026 Business Plans and Budget process.

CARRIED

9. Advisory Committee Resolutions

9.1 Durham Active Transportation Committee

A) Resolution regarding June Bike Month

Moved by Councillor Shahid, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
(29) That we recommend to Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

And whereas Durham Regional Community Growth staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June;

And whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region of Durham's planned Bike Month activities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request Regional Council's support of the planned Regional Bike Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

CARRIED

9.2 Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee

A) Resolution regarding Toronto and Region Conservation Authority (TRCA) Rural Clean Water Program

Moved by Councillor Pickles, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(30) That we recommend to Council:

That Council be advised of the Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee's (DAAC) support of the Toronto and Region Conservation Authority's Rural Clean Water Program, and support of the Region's Community Growth and Economic Development Department exploring the program further.

CARRIED

10. Confidential Matters

There were no confidential matters to be considered.

11. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

12. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Community Growth & Economic Development Committee meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025 at 9:30 AM in the Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby.

13. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by Councillor Shahid,
(31) That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 AM

Respectfully submitted,

B. Chapman, Chair

V. Walker, Committee Clerk

The Regional Municipality of Durham

Active Transportation

Progress Report

2023-2024

Presentation to:

Community Growth and Economic Development Committee

Date: June 3, 2025



Active Transportation Vision

The Region of Durham, in partnership with its area municipalities, supports the planning, design, implementation and promotion of a **connected, safe, and accessible region-wide Primary Cycling Network**.

The network accommodates **people of all ages and abilities** while considering the unique trip types and preferences of those who live, work and play within the Region.





Active Transportation Snapshot

Active Transportation – Snapshot



13

of km of new cycling routes added to the Region's Primary Cycling Network (PCN) from 2023



9%

Percentage of AM peak period trips made by Durham residents using active modes of transportation



690,358

of impressions made through Regional social media posts about active transportation and vision zero initiatives and infrastructure in 2024

Active Transportation – Snapshot



14

of km of new cycling routes added to the Region's Primary Cycling Network (PCN) from 2024



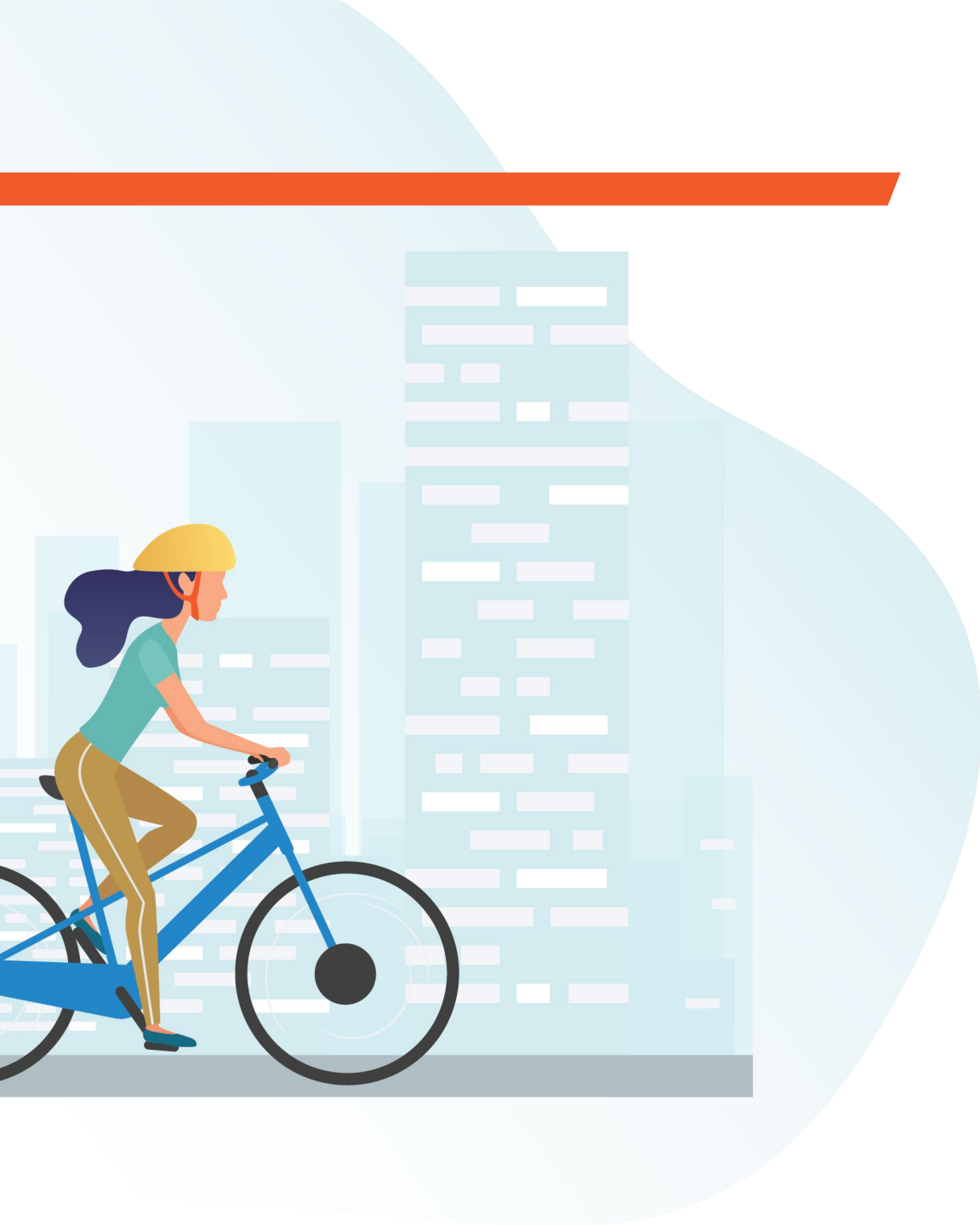
20

of pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) installed in 2024

\$900,000

of dollars allocated by the Region in 2024 to advance shovel-readiness of cycling network infill projects to help fill in gaps in the network





Growing the Network

Growing the Network

Between 2023 and 2024, the Region has added over 28 km of cycling facilities across Durham, supporting safe, comfortable travel for people of all ages and abilities, as shown in Figure 1.

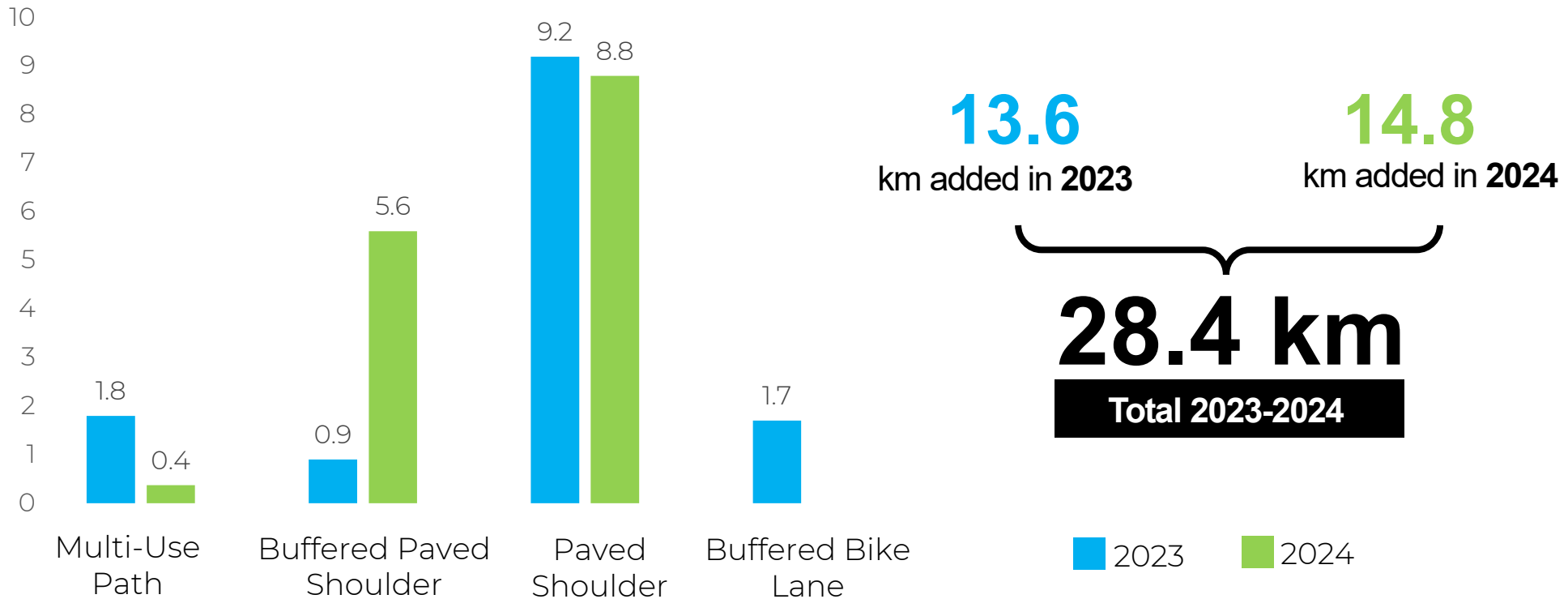


Figure 1: Kilometres (km) of new PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024

Growing the Network

The RCP proposes 162 km of new cycling facilities over the next 10 years, including Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) and on-road infrastructure across all eight area municipalities. Figure 2 highlights the kilometres of cycling facilities planned and built on Regional Roads.

Continued progress depends on regular network reviews and identifying new opportunities and resources to accelerate implementation.

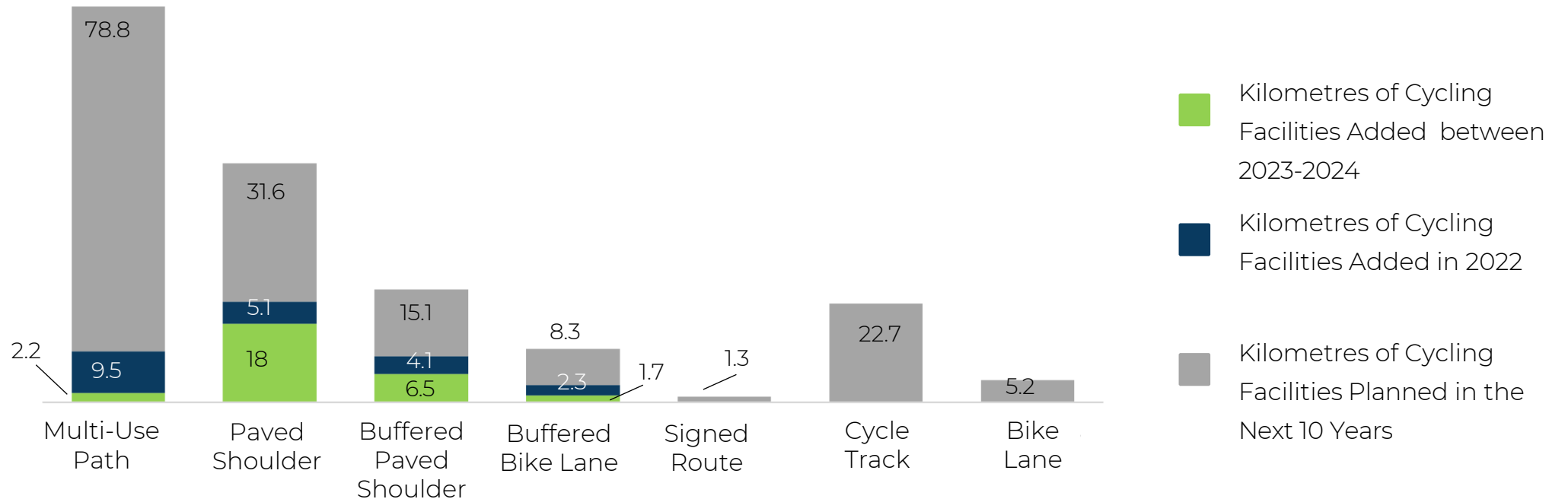


Figure 2: Kilometres (km) of short-term cycling facilities planned and built on Regional Roads between 2022 to 2024



Increasing Cycling Mode Share

Increasing Cycling Mode Share

Cycling counts are conducted over a one-week period during the summer at 295 stations on Regional roads. Conducting these counts helps us better understand the volume of network users and determine locations for connectivity improvements (Figure 3).

As set out in the Durham Transportation Master Plan, the Region has a target of 9% of Durham residents walking and cycling and 20% using public transit by 2031. Based on 2022 Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) data, the Region is on track for achieving its active mode share target.

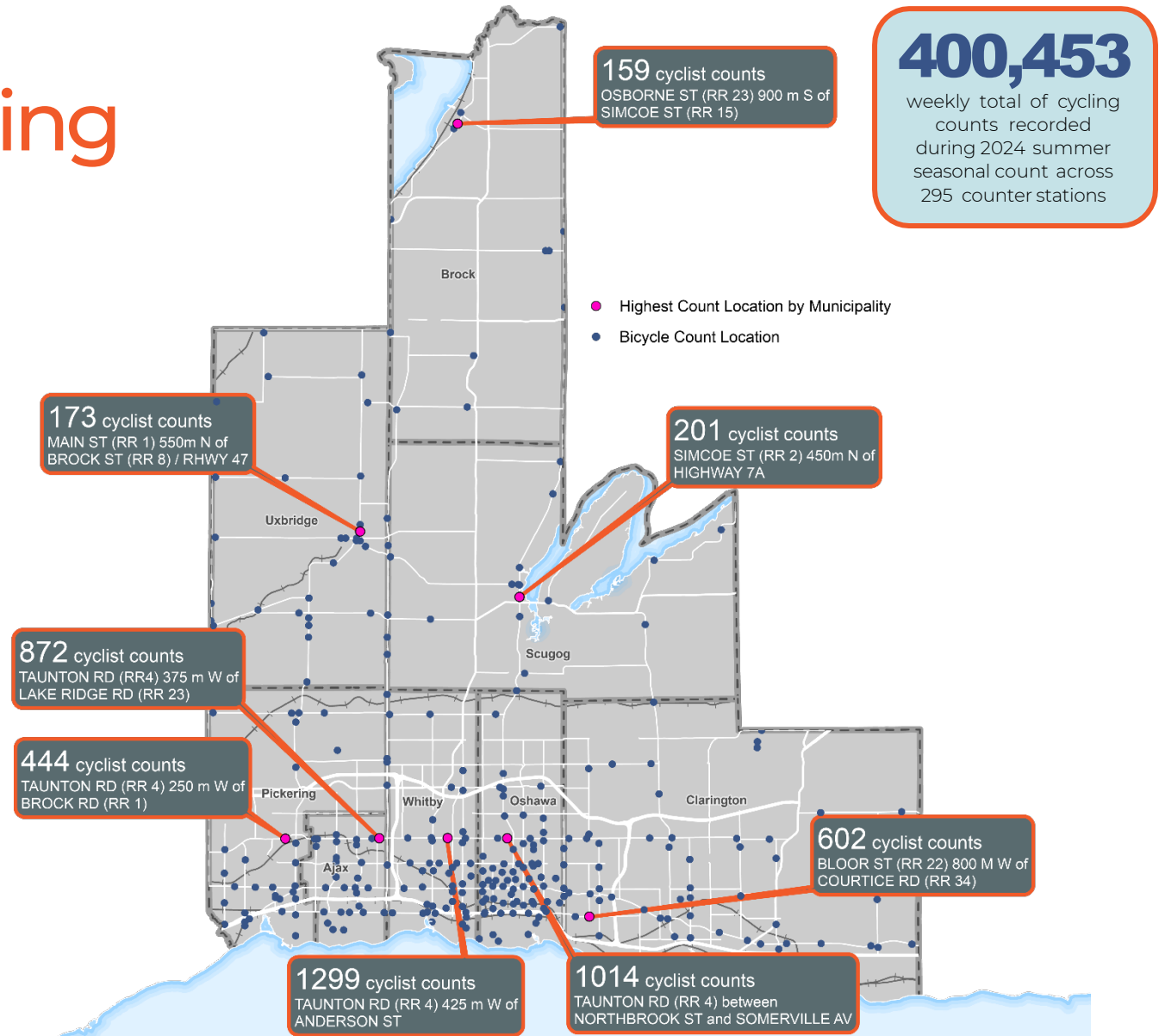


Figure 3: Summary of average daily cyclist counts collected at Regional bike count locations during a one-week period during summer 2024



Enhancing Education and Awareness

Enhancing Education and Awareness

The Region developed a clear set of messages to effectively promote and educate cyclists about cycling in Durham Region to use throughout various cycling-supportive campaigns and programs. Reach and engagement with programs and cycling educational materials has increased annually since the RCP was implemented.



Rural Cycling Loops Launch Event
Promotional Event
September 6, 2024



Bike Month
Educational Campaign
June 6, 2024



Trail Pop-Up
Promotional and Educational Event
September 28, 2024

Key Features:

- 13 routes
- Routes range from 8km to 60km

- Connects cyclists via on-road rural cycling loops to tourism experiences to encourage cycling tourism within Durham
- Promotes scenic recreational routes for cyclists of all skill levels

Key Features:

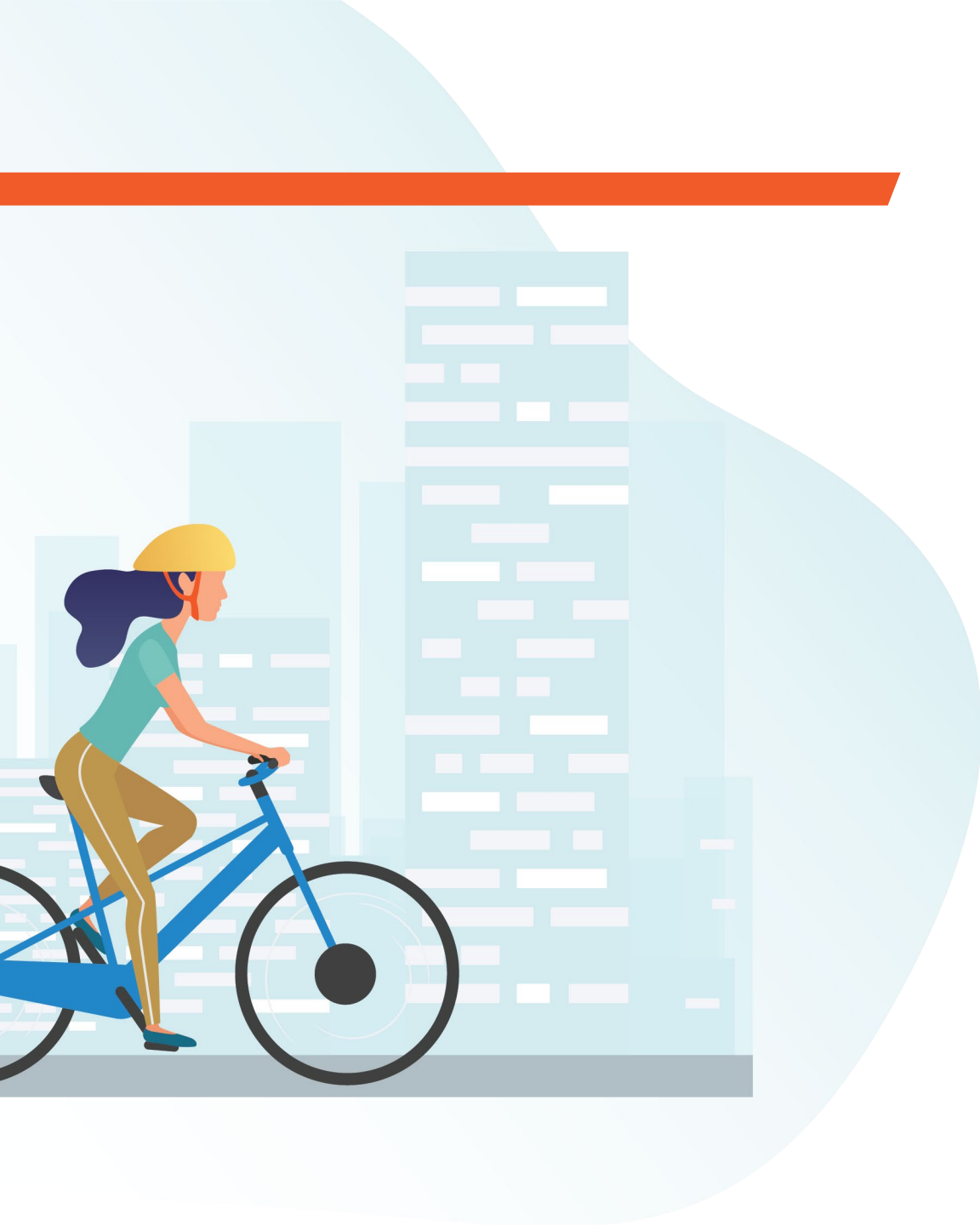
- 30 Bike Month pledges
- 120 attendees

- Hosted Bike to Work Day for the first time since 2019
- Promoted safe cycling throughout the entire month through 3 targeted campaigns

Key Features:

- 20 attendees

- Partnered with Oshawa Cycling Club on the Waterfront Trail in Whitby
- Increased awareness and education of safe cycling practices



Looking Ahead Future Projects and Next Steps for the Network

Upcoming Projects for 2025

The Region plans to continue building out the Primary Cycling Network (PCN) through a combination of capital road program and standalone infill projects, as illustrated in Figure 4. These projects expand connectivity and access across the Region.

- 12.3 km of new active transportation infrastructure is planned through capital road projects.
- 9.0 km of new active transportation infrastructure is planned through standalone infill projects.
- Projects are strategic links toward a complete and connect region-wide PCN.
- Projects address safety, help connect people to key destinations, and lay the groundwork for a more complete, connected and accessible cycling network.

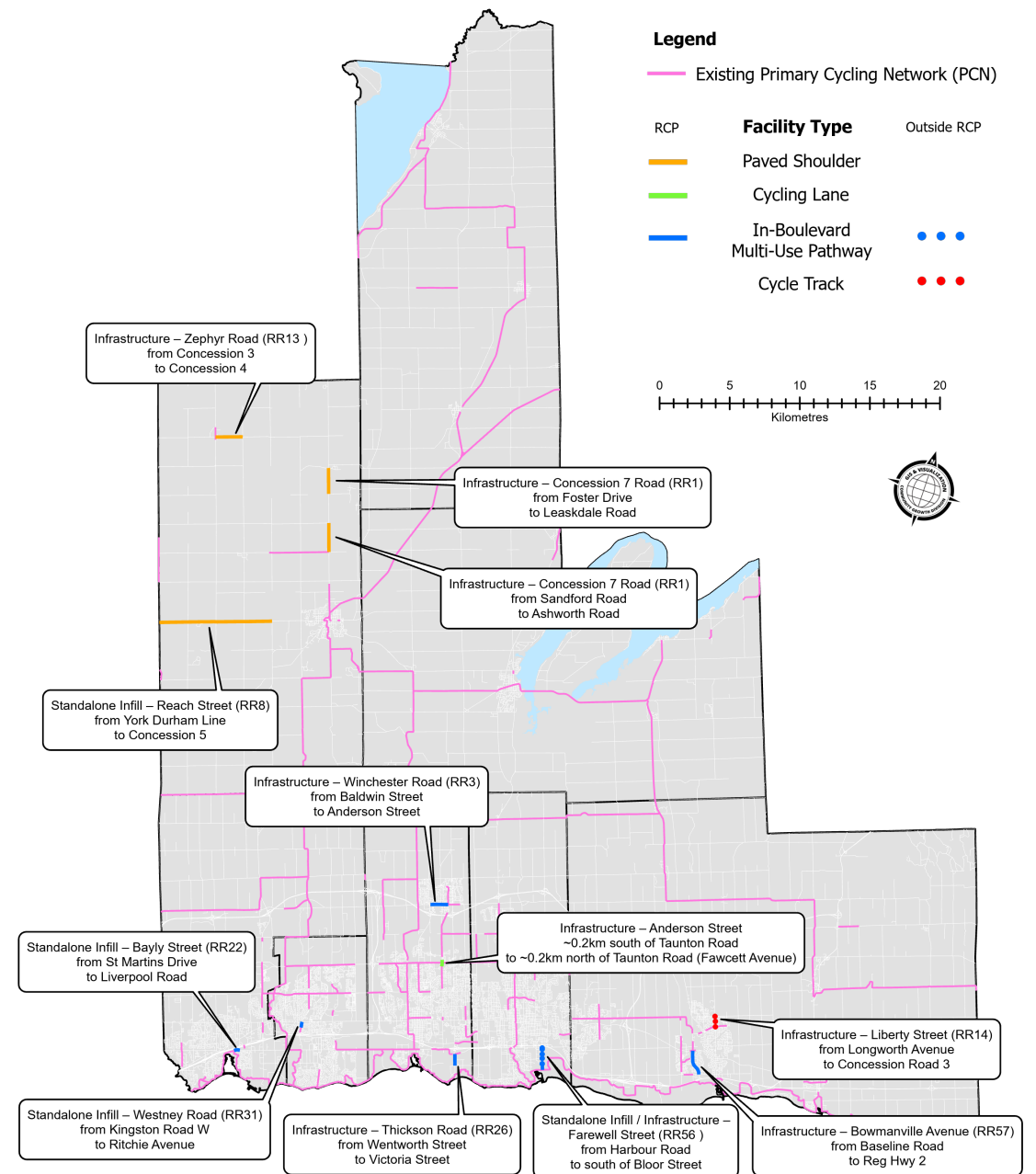


Figure 4: Summary of 2025 planned active transportation projects

Next Steps



Regional staff will continue to...



Advance Short-Term Cycling Routes

Focus on implementing routes identified through the RCP and the Region's nine-year capital budget and forecast in 2025.



Improve Monitoring & Tracking

Coordinate with area municipal staff and other partners to improve the monitoring and tracking of active transportation assets, including a new map viewer, and establishing a set of indicators to track active transportation.



Develop Bicycle Parking Guidelines

Work with a consultant to initiate the development of bicycle parking guidelines with completion in March 2026.



Report Back

Provide annual updates to Council on the progress made to advance active transportation and recommendations of the RCP.

Thank You!



Get in Touch:

Danielle Culp

Project Planner, Transportation Planning
Community Growth and Economic Development Department

Telephone: 905-668-7711 ext. 2526

Email: Danielle.Culp@durham.ca



If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-CG-8
Date: June 3, 2025

Subject:

Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the annual progress made in implementing the Region's active transportation infrastructure initiatives and recommendations identified in the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) in 2023 and 2024. Attachment #1 - Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024, provides a comprehensive overview of the various activities and accomplishments in an easy-to-read, infographic format.

2. Background

2.1 The RCP identifies a Primary Cycling Network (PCN) and recommended that 162 km of cycling facilities be installed along the PCN by 2031 that fall within Regional jurisdiction. The RCP was updated in 2021, and focusses on actions and initiatives to support the expansion and enhancement of a Region-wide cycling network that is connected, accessible and comfortable for people of All Ages and Abilities (AAA).

The RCP also considers the unique trip types and preferences of those that live, work, and play within Durham.

- 2.2 In January 2024, staff developed an [Active Transportation Progress Report](#) to summarize annual advancements being made on Regional active transportation projects and programs, since the adoption of the updated RCP.
- 2.3 In November 2024, the province introduced new legislation Bill 212 – Reducing Gridlock, Saving You Time Act, which requires municipalities to seek provincial approval before adding new bicycle lanes that remove a traffic lane. The Region’s practice typically aligns cycling facility implementation with road-widening, reconstruction and rehabilitation projects that do not require the removal of an existing traffic lane. As such, Regional staff do not anticipate that any approval by the province will be required to implement the PCN.

3. New Cycling Facilities Added to the PCN in 2023-2024

- 3.1 Throughout 2023 and 2024, the Region has added several new cycling facilities on the PCN to support different cycling trip types and comfort levels. Implementing a range of cycling facilities helps improve connectivity and comfort for a range of ages and abilities and further supports the Region’s [Vision Zero goals](#).
- 3.2 A total of 28.4 kilometres (km) of cycling routes on the PCN were completed between January 2023 and December 2024. Figure 1 illustrates the length of these cycling routes by facility type (in km) added to the PCN on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024.
- 3.3 The length of completed PCN routes in both 2023 and 2024 exceed the target completion of 8.5 km per year identified in the RCP.

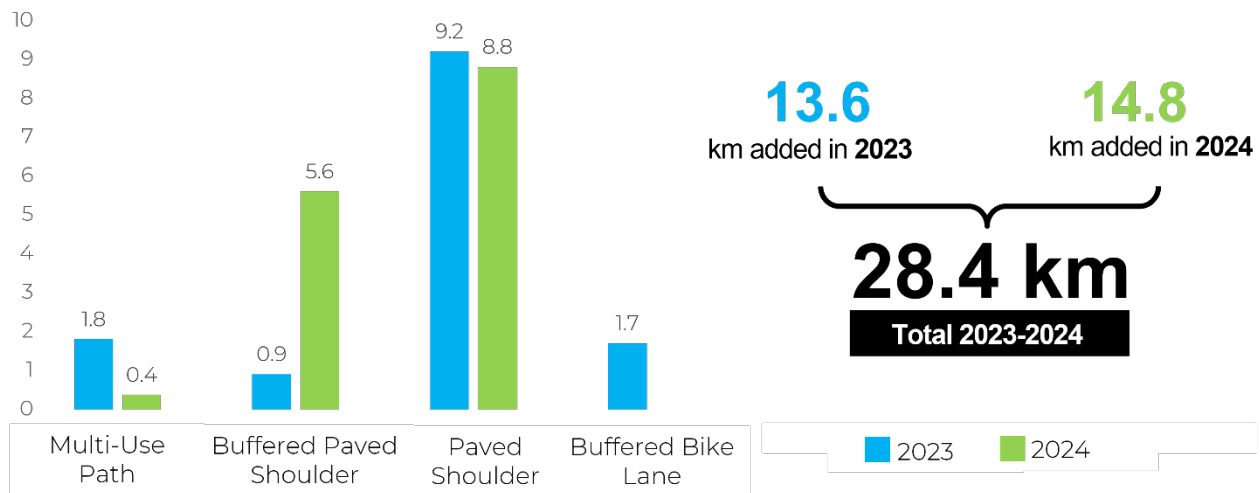


Figure 1 – Kilometres of PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024

4. Summary of Progress on Implementing Supportive Cycling Infrastructure in 2024

4.1 A weekly total of 400,452 cyclist counts was recorded during a one-week interval in the summer of 2024, based on data collected at 295 count station locations across Regional roads in Durham. One station was removed from the count in 2024 due to its proximity to another, ensuring the data reflects accurate usage patterns. These counts are comparable to 2023 and reflect a strong and stable demand for cycling infrastructure.

4.2 The Region has installed three signalized crossrides and 20 pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) across Regional roads and intersections to help make it safer and easier for people to walk and bike throughout the region.

5. Additional Active Transportation Achievements

5.1 In addition to expanding the cycling network, progress has been made on the following RCP actions. These actions have either been initiated or completed as of year-end 2024:

a. Policies and Plan Development:

- **Bicycle Parking Guidelines:** currently procuring consulting services to develop guidelines for bicycle parking across Durham Region. This will assist municipalities, developers, and stakeholders in providing high-quality bicycle parking facilities and determining optimal locations.

- **Durham Meadoway Visioning Study:** the vision for a 30-kilometre pedestrian, cycling, and linear park corridor has been completed, setting the framework for future development of this significant active transportation corridor.
 - **Cycling Wayfinding and Signage Strategy:** a region-wide, cohesive signage system was completed to promote cycling, improve the use of the Primary Cycling Network (PCN), and enhance cyclist safety and experience.
- b. Infrastructure Funding:
- **Federal Active Transportation Fund Application:** the Region applied for funding to support the implementation of over 13 km of additional cycling routes to accelerate the expansion of the PCN. We anticipate receiving an update on the status of our application by fall of 2025.
- c. AT Recognition Initiatives:
- **Bicycle Friendly Communities Designation Application:** the Region applied for the Share the Road Bicycle Friendly Community Bronze designation to recognize progress in enhancing cycling infrastructure and creating a bike-friendly community. We anticipate receiving an update on the status of our application in June 2025.
- d. Public Engagement and Education:
- **Active Transportation Educational Campaigns:** hosted a series of initiatives coordinated through the Smart Mobility program and Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) programs, focusing on promoting safe cycling and encouraging the use of active transportation.
 - **Social Media Engagement:** Regional social media posts generated 690,358 impressions in 2024, raising awareness about cycling safety, sustainable transportation, and active transportation benefits.
- e. Digital Tools and Reporting:
- **External Active Transportation Map Viewer:** an interactive map is being developed to provide the public with detailed information on the active transportation network, monitor progress, and ensure transparency. We expect to have the viewer ready for December 2025.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1 Regional staff will continue to advance the implementation of short-term cycling routes identified through the RCP and the Region's nine-year capital budget and forecast in 2025.
- 6.2 Regional staff will continue to coordinate with area municipal staff and other partners to improve the monitoring and tracking of active transportation assets and establish a set of indicators to improve evaluation and tracking of active transportation infrastructure, amenities, and programs.
- 6.3 Regional staff will report back to Council on the progress made annually to advance active transportation and recommendations of the RCP.

7. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 7.1 The RCP received approval in October 2021 through Report [#2021-COW-26](#) and a staff presentation was provided which summarized the draft 2021 RCP.
- 7.2 On January 31, 2024, Council received Report [#2024-P-5](#) for information of the progress made in advancing active transportation infrastructure and initiatives between 2022-2023.

8. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 8.1 This report aligns with the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:
 - a. Connected and Vibrant Communities
 - C4. Improve road safety, including the expansion and connection of active transportation networks to enhance the range of safe mobility options.
 - b. Strong Relationships
 - S1. Enhance inclusive opportunities for community engagement and meaningful collaboration.
 - S5. Ensure accountable and transparent decision-making to serve community needs, while responsibly managing available resources.

8.2 This report addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region’s 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. Processes: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.

9. Conclusion

9.1 This report helps demonstrate the progress that the Region of Durham is making to support active transportation, while further strengthening partnerships between the Region, area municipalities, local cycling and active transportation groups and the public.

9.2 Continuing to invest in active transportation is imperative in establishing the Region as a premier cycling destination, a leader in coordinating and delivering community-based cycling initiatives and programs and achieving its sustainable mobility targets.

10. Attachments

Attachment #1: Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Colleen Goodchild, Director of
Community Growth

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Nancy Taylor BBA, CPA, CA for
Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Active Transportation Progress Report 2023-2024

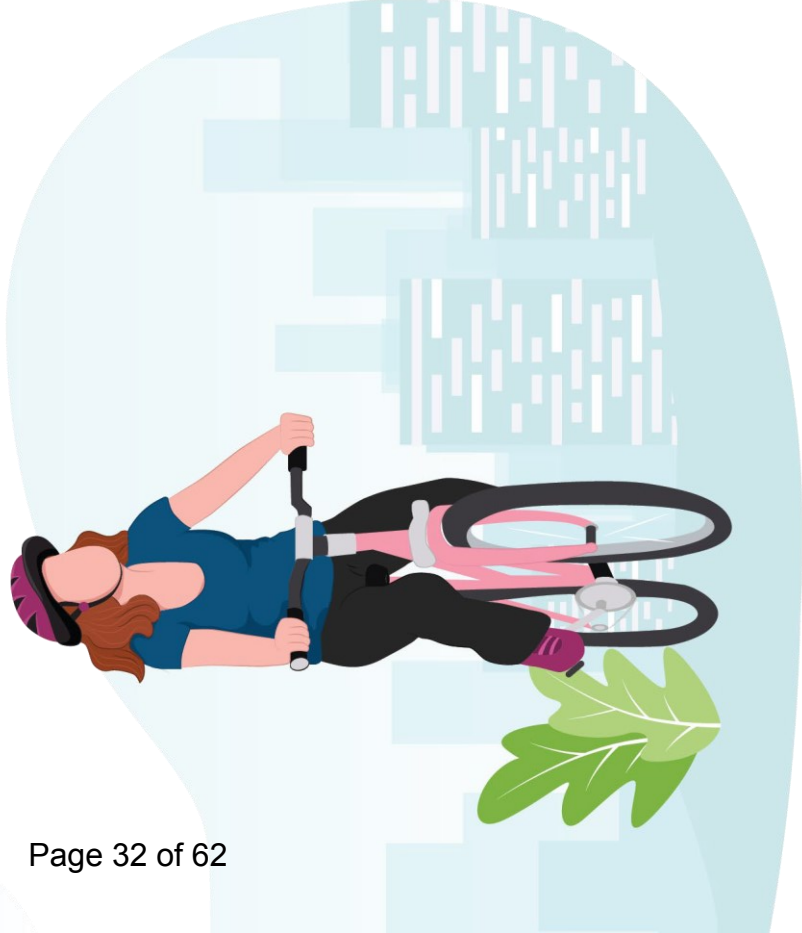


Active Transportation Progress Report

Purpose

The Active Transportation Progress Report summarizes the progress made with implementing new pedestrian and cycling infrastructure and programs within Durham region.

The purpose of the Active Transportation Progress Report is to inform the public and decision makers of the status of key criteria and measures identified through the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) to help the Region achieve the goals of the RCP and other sustainable transportation directions identified by the Region.



Active Transportation

Snapshot

Over the last two years, the Region has made significant strides when it comes to advancing and promoting active transportation initiatives in the Region. This section provides a summary of the demonstrated commitments the Region is making to improve active transportation connectivity, awareness and education.



Active Transportation – Snapshot



13

of km of new cycling routes added to the Region's Primary Cycling Network (PCN) from 2023



9%

Percentage of AM peak period trips made by durham residents using active modes of transportation*



690,358

of impressions made through Regional social media posts about active transportation and vision zero initiatives and infrastructure in 2024

***Note:** The percentage using active modes of transportation (walking and cycling) is based on the 2022 Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS), where the data was collected during Fall 2022 and Spring 2023. Active Transportation Progress Report 4

Active Transportation – Snapshot



14

of km of new cycling routes added to the Region's Primary Cycling Network (PCN) from 2024



\$900,000

of dollars allocated by the Region in 2024 to advance shovel-readiness of cycling network infill projects to help fill in gaps in the network

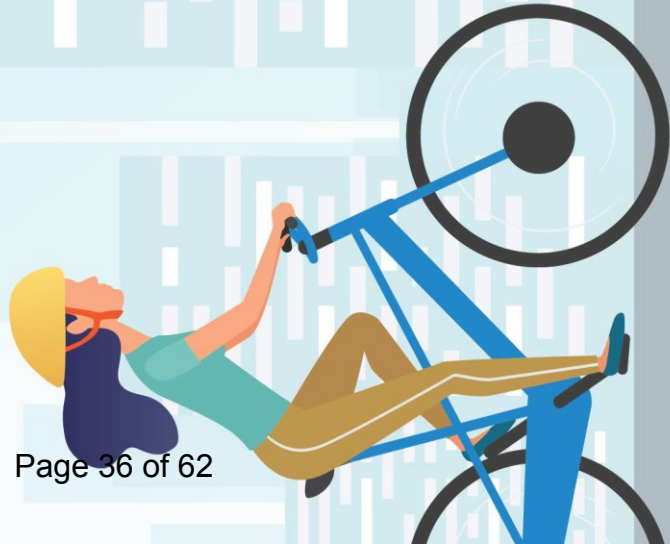


20

of pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) installed in 2024

Increasing Active Transportation Mode Share

This section provides a snapshot of sustainable travel behaviour and provides a pulse on the volume of active transportation trips along key active transportation corridors. It identifies additional active transportation infrastructure and supportive amenities that the Region has recently implemented to help improve comfort and safety along key active transportation routes.



Increasing Cycling Mode Share

In 2024, the Region conducted cycling counts over a one-week period at 295 stations on Regional roads throughout Durham.

Conducting these counts along key cycling routes helps us better understand the volume of network users and help determine locations for connectivity improvements.

Figure 1 shows the average daily cycling counts from the one-week count conducted in summer of 2024, highlighting the highest-volume location in each municipality.

As set out in the Durham [Transportation Master Plan](#), the Region has a target of 9% of Durham residents walking and cycling and 20% using public transit during the AM peak period by 2031. Based on the recent Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) data, the Region is on track to achieving its active mode share target.

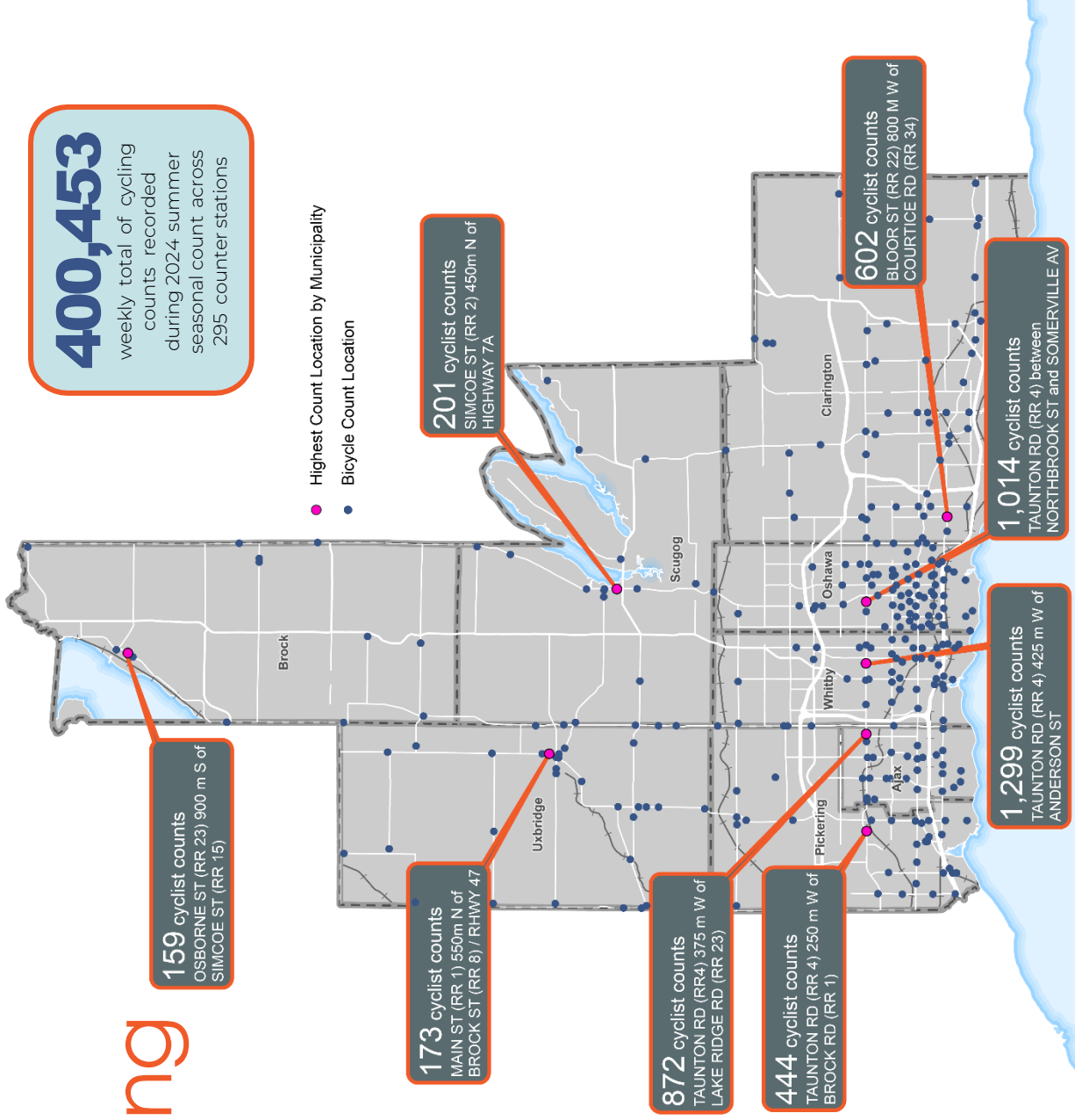
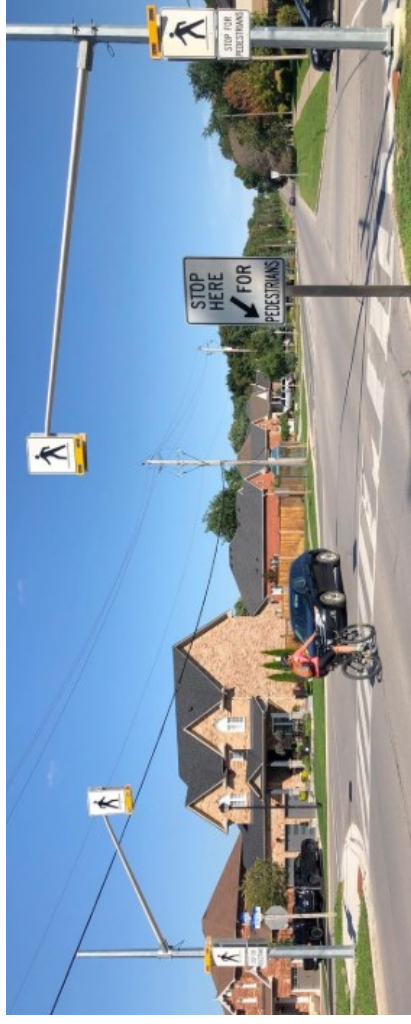
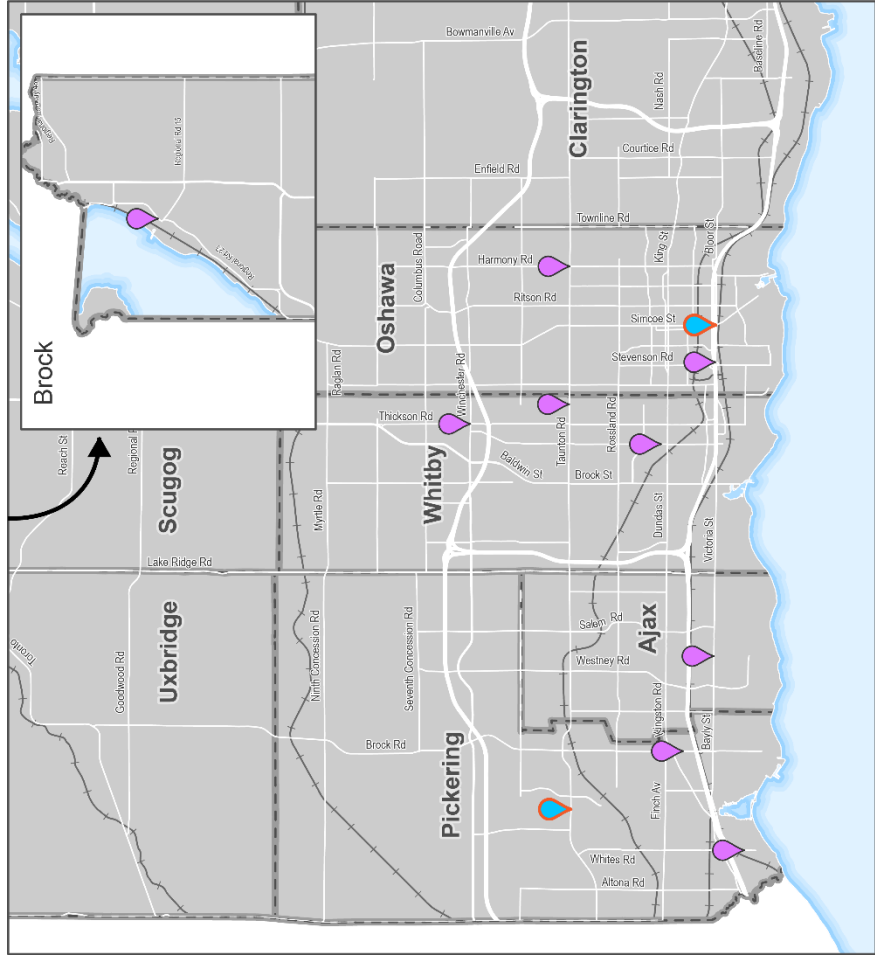


Figure 1: Summary of average daily cyclist counts collected through Regional bike count locations during a one-week period during summer 2024.

Increasing Safety and Connectivity

The Region has installed pedestrian crossovers (PXOs) and signalized crossrides at key Regional intersections to help make it safer for people to walk and bike throughout Durham. Figure 2 provides a snapshot of key locations where new signals and PXOs have been added to the network in 2024.



The Region has installed 20 Pedestrian Crossovers (PXOs) across Regional roads and intersections at 9 locations to improve safety for pedestrians in 2024.

The Region has installed 3 signalized crossrides at 2 locations across key intersections in 2024 to improve connectivity and safety for cyclists.



-  Pedestrian Crossover Locations (PXOs)
-  Signalized Crossrides

Figure 2: Summary of PXOs and signalized crossrides added to the network in 2024.

Measuring Progress

It is important to ensure the Region is consistently monitoring and tracking the status of implementation of the Primary Cycling Network (PCN) routes to ensure we keep pace with implementation targets and phasing timelines identified within the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) and Regional Transportation Master Plan (TMP).

This section provides a summary of how we are progressing on various actions and recommendations identified in the RCP.



Measuring Progress

Measure

1. 28 km of new cycling routes on Regional roads constructed and added to the PCN between 2023-2024

Impact

Enhances connectivity and achieves the annual build out rate of 8.5 km* per year

Status

Achieved

2. Installed 3 signalized crossrides at 2 locations across key intersections in 2024

Improves connectivity and safety for cyclists

Achieved

3. 1.5 km of standalone infill cycling facilities has been initiated for detailed design in 2024

Supports the implementation of cycling infrastructure on Regional Roads

In Progress

Note: 8.5 km was identified in the minutes from the October 13, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting in reference to the [Regional Cycling Plan agenda item 7A](#), when the plan was approved.

Measuring Progress

Other Activities Achieved

Impact

Status

4. Applied to the Federal Active Transportation Fund for 13 km of additional cycling routes to expand the PCN

Accelerates implementation of cycling routes

In Progress

5. Installed 20 Pedestrian Crossovers (PXOs) in 2024 on Regional roads

Enhances safety and comfort for cyclists of all ages and abilities

Achieved

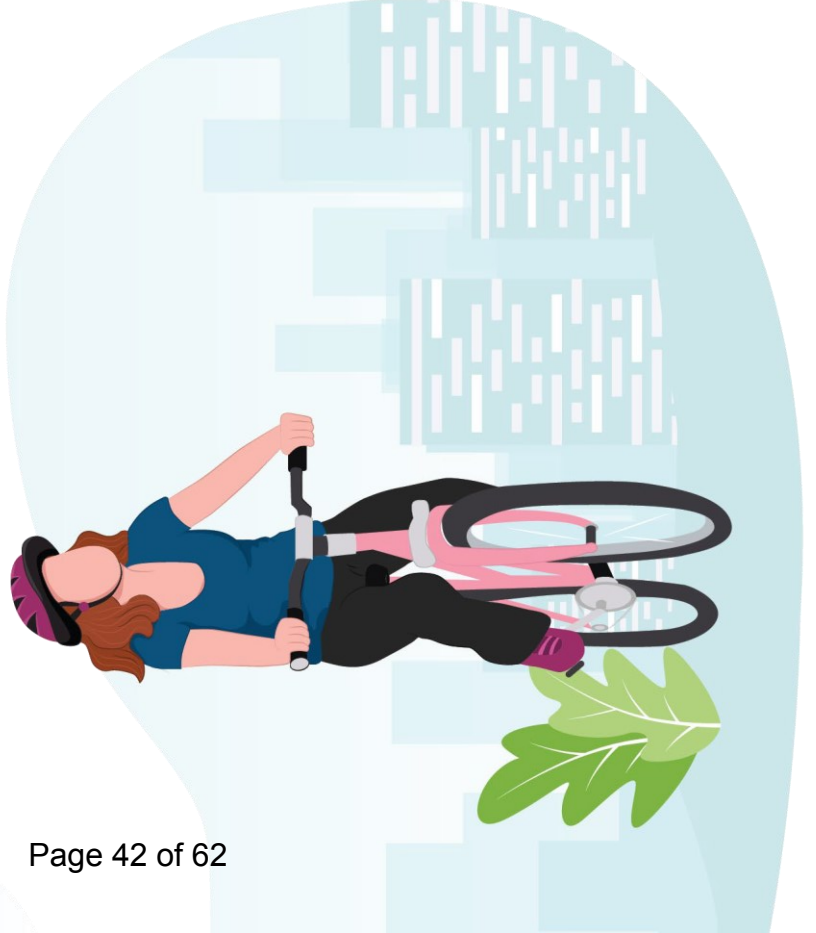
6. 690,358 people engaged through active transportation and vision zero educational messaging campaigns

Improves education and awareness of cycling safety, infrastructure and services

Achieved

Growing the Network

This section provides an overview of how the Region is expanding the Primary Cycling Network (PCN) to support and encourage safe cycling trips throughout the Region. It documents the number of new kilometres of cycling facilities added to the network as well as active transportation enhancements that have been implemented to compliment the network.



Growing the Network

The Region has built over 28 km of cycling facilities across Durham in 2023 and 2024 and is making progress on implementing a variety of cycling projects throughout the cycling network. The Region has implemented cycling facilities to help support safe and comfortable use of the cycling network for a variety of ages and abilities, as shown in Figure 3.

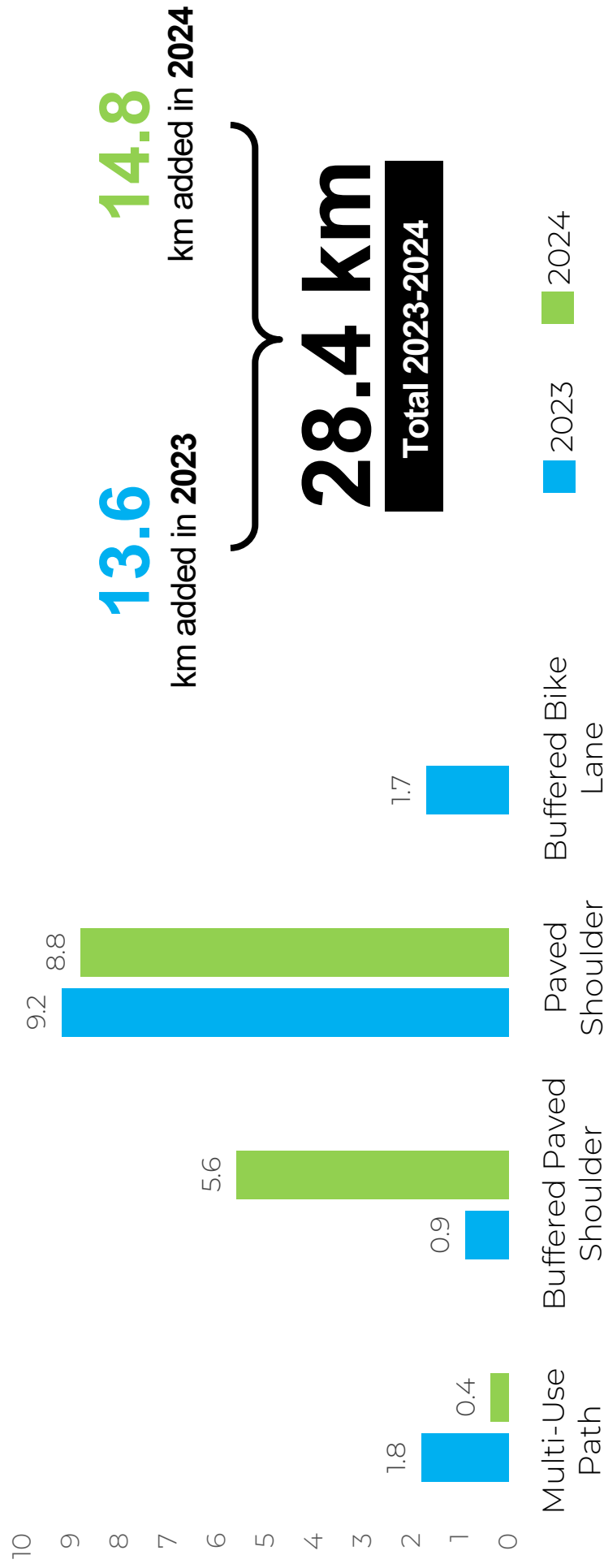


Figure 3: Kilometres (km) of new PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024

Growing the Network

The RCP has proposed 162 km of cycling facilities within the next 10 years. This includes Multi-Use Paths (MUPs) and other cycling facilities that fall within the paved portion of the Regional road right of way across all eight area municipalities. Figure 4 showcases the distribution of cycling infrastructure on Regional roads by facility type that been built between 2022 and 2024, routes completed and is planned within the next 10 years.

There is still a significant amount of the network to be implemented, demonstrating the importance of regularly reviewing the network and looking for additional opportunities and resources to help accelerate cycling routes in Durham.

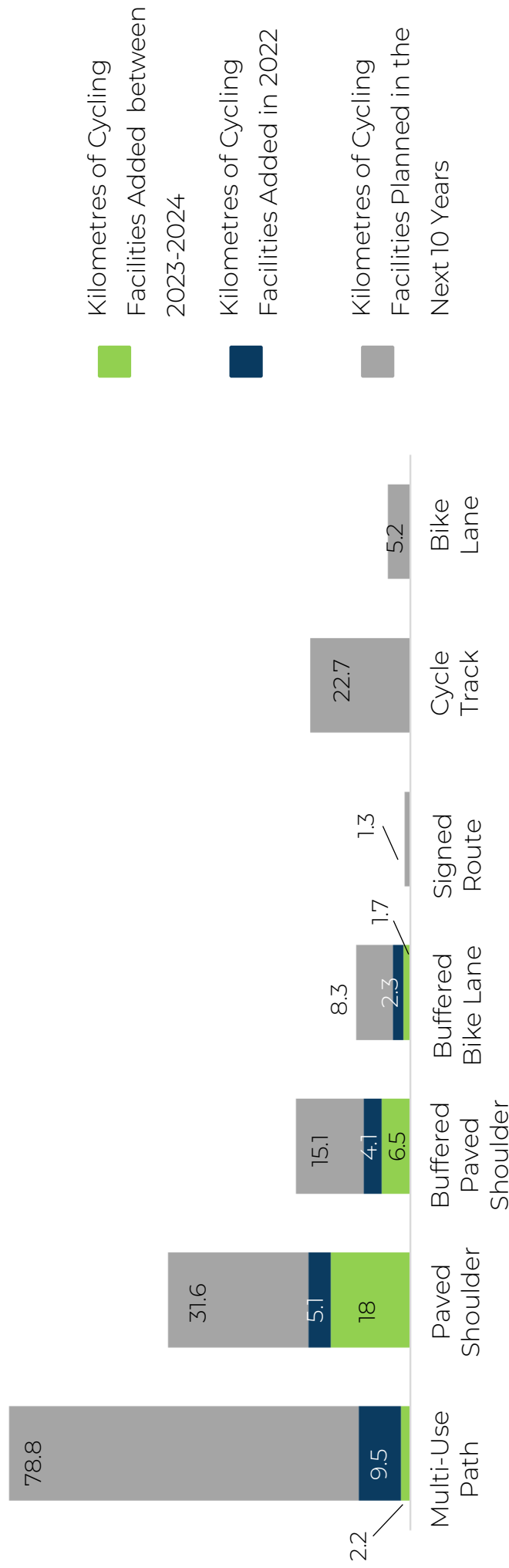


Figure 4: Kilometres (km) of short-term cycling facilities planned and built on Regional Roads between 2022 to 2024.

Growing the Network

The Region has upgraded a series of PCN routes and added 28 km of new active transportation facilities and amenities throughout 2023-2024.

Multi Use Path Westney Rd | Ajax, 2023, 1.8 km

From: Telford St
To: Taunton Rd



Before

- No separation between cars and cyclists
- Single lane of traffic each direction
- Paved shoulder with edge line present
- Sidewalk on east side



After

- Added physically separated paved pathway
- Increased number of travel lanes and provided landscaped buffer
- Enhances comfort and safety for pedestrians

Multi Use Path Bowmanville Ave | Clairington 2024, 1.1km

From: 400m North of Stevens Rd
To: 240m west of Bowmanville Ave



Before

- No separation between cars and cyclists
- Paved shoulder with edge line present on north side
- No facilities for pedestrians



After

- Added physically separated paved pathway
- Added sidewalk on northside
- New pavement markings for increased visibility and safety along driveways

Buffered Paved Shoulder Main St | Uxbridge, 2023, 0.9 km

From: Colby Rd
To: 200 m south of Davis Drive



Before

- No separation between cars and cyclists
- Single lane of traffic each direction
- Gravel shoulder with edgeline on both sides



After

- Upgraded surface type to paved shoulder for increased comfort for high-speed vehicles
- Added painted buffer for increased separation between vehicles and cyclists

Paved Shoulder Myrtle Rd | Whitby, 2024, 1.2 km

From: Dagmar Rd
To: Limit of Ashburn



Before

- No separation between cars and cyclists
- Gravel shoulder with edgeline on both sides



After

- Upgraded surface type to paved shoulder on both sides for increased comfort for high-speed vehicles

Enhancing Education and Awareness

This section provides an overview of key initiatives, campaigns and tools the Region implemented between 2023 and 2024 to promote and encourage active transportation and improve transparency in how the Region is progressing with implementing the PCN and cycling-supportive amenities and features.

Enhancing Education and Awareness

The Region developed a clear set of messages to effectively promote and educate cyclists about cycling in Durham Region to use throughout various cycling-supportive campaigns and programs. Reach and engagement with programs and cycling educational materials has increased annually since the RCP was implemented.



Rural Cycling Loops Launch Event
Promotional Event
September 6, 2024

Key Features:

- 13 routes
- Routes range from 8km to 60km
- Connects cyclists via on-road rural cycling loops to encourage cycling tourism within Durham
- Promotes scenic recreational routes for cyclists of all skill levels



Bike Month Educational Campaign
June 6, 2024

Key Features:

- 30 Bike Month pledges
- 120 attendees
- Hosted Bike to Work Day for the first time since 2019
- Promoted safe cycling throughout the entire month through 3 targeted campaigns



Trail Pop Up
Promotional and Educational Event
September 28, 2024

Key Features:

- 20 attendees
- Partnered with Oshawa Cycling Club on the Waterfront Trail in Whitby
- Increased awareness and education of safe cycling practices

Expanding Policy Guidance

This section provides an overview of policies, studies and guiding documents that were initiated or completed between 2023 and 2024 to support and advance active transportation planning and implementation. Together, these initiatives demonstrate how the Region is progressing towards a more integrated, strategic and community-driven approach to delivering safe and connected active transportation infrastructure and amenities.



Expanding Policy Guidance – Completed

Studies and Projects

Durham Meadowway Visioning Study
Completed in March 2024

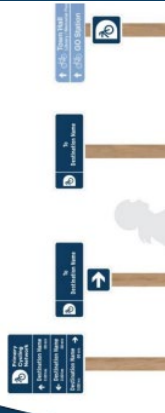
Durham Meadowway Visioning Study
March 2024

- Provides vision for future planning and implementation of the corridor
- Identifies a high-level route for the multi-use trail
- Identifies different experiences and along the corridor

Cycling Wayfinding and Signage Strategy
Completed in November 2024

Cycling Wayfinding and Signage Strategy
Fall 2024

Regional Municipality of Durham



- Identifies new signage system and guidance for the PCN
- Provides well-designed, intuitive and cohesive wayfinding practices
- Helps make it easier for residents and visitors to navigate Durham by bike

Expanding Policy Guidance – Approved

Studies and Projects

Bicycle Parking Guidelines



- Intended to identify best practices and recommendations to improve the quality of bicycle parking facilities throughout the Region
- Will provide guidance on implementing secure bicycle parking for a range of trip types

Durham Meadowway Preliminary Design Study



- Anticipated to begin in 2025 and builds upon the Durham Meadowway Visioning Study
- Advances the design for multi-use path and identifies the locations for gateways, amenities and other features along the route.

Get in Touch

To learn more visit <https://www.durham.ca/en/living-here/transportation.aspx> or contact Transportation Planning staff.

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact us.
Within Durham: 311 or Toll-Free: 1-800-372-1102





The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-EDT-11
Date: June 3, 2025

Subject:

Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Provide an annual update on the activities of the Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association (DFFMA); provide an update on their planned activities; and advise that a DFFMA representative will be appearing as a delegation before the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee at its meeting on June 3, 2025; and
- b. Inform Members of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee that the first week of June each year is Ontario Local Food Week.

2. Background

2.1 The Agriculture and Rural Economic Development section of the Economic Development and Tourism Division works with several local agricultural

organizations, including the DFFMA, to implement programming in support of the agricultural and rural economy in Durham Region.

- 2.2 The Region contributes \$13,500 in core funding annually to the DFFMA through the Division's Annual Business Plan and Budget to support the local agri-food sector.
- 2.3 The DFFMA is a largely volunteer-led and membership-based organization with one part-time coordinator. DFFMA has been promoting the production and consumption of local food in Durham Region for over 30 years.
- 2.4 Established in 1993, the DFFMA has been a leader in the producer-led local food marketing movement in Ontario. Members of Regional Council, businesses, and residents will be familiar with the DFFMA branding; including: the annual "Buy Fresh Buy Local" brochure and maps; directional road signs; and the [DFFMA website](#) promoting its members.
- 2.5 There were 40 DFFMA members in 2024. DFFMA's membership structure has categories for full members, associate members and supporting members. This reflects the evolving interests of consumers in not only local food products but also local food experiences, local beverages, agri-tourism (e.g. sunflower, and lavender farms) and other forms of on-farm diversification.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 [#2025-EDT-3](#) – Growing Agri-Food Durham Annual Report
- 3.2 [#2025-EDT-2](#) – Gather at the Farm 2024 Agri-Food Marketing Campaign
- 3.3 [#2024-EDT-11](#) – Local Food in Durham Region: Durham Farm Fresh Marketing Association Annual Update and Ontario Local Food Week. DFFMA reports to Committee annually.

4. 2024 Review and 2025 Workplan Activities

- 4.1 Throughout 2024, the DFFMA continued to support their members by facilitating joint marketing opportunities through KX-96 radio campaigns to highlight members timed with seasonal products, re-designing their brochure and farm maps, re-designing their website, offering networking and social opportunities for farm members to increase their business-to-business connections and focused on advancing their key priorities including policy reform, funding opportunities, education, member recruitment, and more.

- 4.2 Over the past year, Agriculture and Rural Economic Development Section staff and DFFMA have collaborated to complete several activities that support the agri-food sector:
- a. Supporting the advancement of the joint DFFMA and Durham Farm Connections Rural Economic Development grant workplan activities;
 - b. Hosted an agriculture ambassador volunteer training session with Farm and Food Care in July 2024;
 - c. Gather at the Farm digital marketing campaign to highlight farm product and experiences offered across the region throughout the month of October 2024;
 - d. DFFMA and Durham Tourism jointly hosted two on-farm culinary activation events in June and October 2024;
 - e. Agriculture Economic Development staff gave regular updates and consulted with DFFMA on the Enabling Agriculture-Related and On-Farm Diversified Uses in North Durham project.
- 4.3 Staff continue to engage the DFFMA regularly to advance the implementation of the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan. Plans are underway to collaborate on a selection of culinary activations that highlight local food products in 2025.

5. Ontario Local Food Week – June 2 to 8, 2025

- 5.1 Every year, the first week of June marks Ontario Local Food Week. This is an opportunity to make an intentional effort to shop local and support the local agri-food economy. Buying and supporting local food creates jobs and contributes to economic growth.
- 5.2 Below are some ways to celebrate Ontario Local Food Week in Durham Region:
- a. Purchase from DFFMA members; look for their recognizable road signs on Regional roads, or visit www.durhamfarmfresh.ca and use the interactive farm map to find members across the region;
 - b. Search for local farms across the region by visiting www.investdurham.ca/localfood; and
 - c. Promote Ontario Local Food Week on social media, use the hashtag #LoveONTfood and tag Invest Durham and Durham Farm Fresh.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Environmental Sustainability and Climate Action

- E5. Respect the natural environment, including greenspaces, waterways, and agricultural lands.

b. Resilient Local Economies

- R1. Attract and retain quality employers that strengthen key economic sectors, including energy and technology.
- R2. Support the growth of new business startups and small to medium local businesses.
- R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.
- R4. Protect and strengthen the local agriculture sector and food supply chains.
- R5. Cultivate and promote local arts, culture, quality of place, and tourism that embrace urban excitement and country charm.

6.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.
- b. Process: Continuously improving processes to ensure we are responsive to community needs.
- c. Technology: Keeping pace with technological change to ensure efficient and effective service delivery.

7. Conclusion

7.1 The DFFMA is a long-standing farm organization that continues to promote and enhance the agri-food sector in Durham Region. They serve as a valued partner in implementing the Growing Agri-Food Durham Plan to grow the agri-food industry in Durham.

7.2 As trends in the agri-food industry continue to shift to meet the demands of consumers, the DFFMA continues to offer a collaborative marketing platform and business opportunities for local food producers across the region.

7.3 Staff will continue to work closely with DFFMA to assist in their sustainability plans and encourage consumers to buy fresh and buy local.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Simon Gill, Director of Economic
Development and Tourism

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Nancy Taylor BBA, CPA, CA for
Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer

If this information is required in an accessible format, please contact 1-800-372-1102 ext. 2564



The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Development and Economic Development
Report: #2025-EDT-12
Date: June 3, 2025

Subject:

Spark Centre Annual Update and Metrics Report 2024

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide Committee with an update on the activities of Spark Centre and supply the performance metrics received from Spark Centre in their 2024 Annual General Meeting. Metrics and results in this report noted as “to date” are up to and inclusive of March 31, 2024.

1.2 This report will be accompanied by a delegation from Gary Jarosz, Interim CEO and Kristy Sansom, Spark Centre Director of Operations and Client Success, to provide an update to Committee.

2. Background

2.1 Spark Centre was founded in 2014. Located in Downtown Oshawa, Spark Centre is Durham Region’s local Regional Innovation Centre (RIC). The mandate of RICs is to help Ontario's entrepreneurs and innovators succeed in international markets by helping them work through the challenges of developing their ideas to make them marketable, and attract talent, capital and customers. Spark Centre is mandated to

provide these services to technology entrepreneurs in both Durham Region and Northumberland County.

- 2.2 Spark Centre is funded primarily by the Province of Ontario through the Ministry of Economic Development, Job Creation, and Trade (MEDJCT) and is additionally supported through annual core funding by the City of Oshawa and Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism.
- 2.3 In 2019, Spark Centre established itself as a designate of Canada's Startup Visa Program (SUV) through Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This allows Spark Centre to support the immigration of business founders to establish their companies in Durham Region, which attracts capital, creates jobs, and generates additional gross domestic product (GDP) through the immigration of founders and their families. To date, Spark Centre has landed 118 newcomer businesses and attracted more than \$37 million in capital funds to the region.
- 2.4 In 2022, Spark Centre was awarded \$2.5 million dollars over three years to lead the Durham Regional Technology Development Site (Durham RTDS). This initiative is done in partnership with the Region of Durham, Durham College, and Ontario Tech University. The Durham RTDS advances Durham Region as a centre of excellence for electrification and smart city innovation. This program, which has sites across Ontario, is called the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) and is funded by the Ontario Centre of Innovation (OCI).
- 2.5 In early 2023, Spark Centre became one of only four delivery partners of the ElevateIP Program, a federally funded program to advance the commercialization of intellectual property (IP). This program will support Spark clients as they build their IP portfolios and will provide \$266,632 in funding over a period of three years.
- 2.6 In June 2024 Spark Centre was awarded a \$2 million dollar investment from the Federal Economic Development Agency for Southern Ontario to support the Landing Pad Accelerator Program for Newcomer and Female Entrepreneurs in the Energy, Engineering, and Environment (EN3) sector. This four-year initiative (2024-2028) is designed to support 80 startups (founded by newcomers or females) establishing in eastern Ontario, fostering the creation of 80 jobs, supporting the development of 80 IP assets and will deliver millions in direct investment to eastern Ontario.
- 2.7 Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism has been providing core funding to Spark Centre annually since 2014 through the Region's Annual Business Plan and Budget. Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism provided

\$50,000 in funding to Spark Centre in 2024, and \$50,000 has been included in the 2025 Annual Business Plan and Budget.

- 2.8 The Region of Durham and Spark Centre are parties to a funding agreement, and regular reporting on the activities of Spark Centre to Committee and Council is a requirement of that funding agreement. Spark will appear before Committee to report on inquiries and referrals, affected sectors, investment, employment impact, patents pending and issued, and more generally on Spark's business plans, work plans, and achievements.

3. Previous Reports and Decisions

- 3.1 A Spark Centre update is typically provided annually. The last update was provided in January of 2024 on Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 (FY22, FY23) under report [#2024-EDT-1](#).

4. Full Year 2024 Annual Metrics

- 4.1 Spark Centre reports on their activities through an Annual General Meeting. Durham Region Economic Development and Tourism collects, tracks, and reports the metrics provided by Spark Centre on an annual basis. These annual metrics are below:

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Jobs Created	29	38	51	24	67	57	34	33	36	24	36
Student Placements	37	30	34	0	86	19	15	0	33	17	7
Client Equity Investments	0	27	34	0	23	88	17	23	31	23	10
Active High Potential Clients	20	20	20	66	63	99	32	29	30	33	58
Clients Served (local)	161	184	187	139	124	99	110	86	85	84	61
New Clients	128	164	142	85	205	50	43	21	38	40	35
Clients Helped Since Inception	524	546	785	1001	1027	1077	1120	1141	1179	1219	1254
In-transit Clients (not landed-LOSs issued)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	7	19	68	107	85	123

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Actual Landed Permanent Residency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	4	2	2	3	7	22
Actual Landed Work Permit	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	0	0	14	14	22	38

- 4.2 In FY24 Spark and Synergy Lab had a staff complement of 19 Full Time Employees (FTEs), as well as engagements with external advisors specializing in marketing, finance, commercialization, sales and investment. Spark Centre functions include: Marketing (4 FTEs) – showcasing client products and accomplishments and Eastern Ontario as an innovation destination; delivering the Start-Up Visa Program (2 FTEs) – a program that expedites visas for foreign technology entrepreneurs seeking to relocate to Canada; an Eastern Ontario Innovation Corridor Project (2 FTEs) – an initiative to coordinate programming delivery across eastern Ontario including Kingston and Ottawa; and, delivering client services for Durham-based technology entrepreneurs (6 FTE + external advisors/mentors) – to provide clients with the tools, skills and knowledge necessary to secure venture capital and reach commercialization.
- 4.3 Spark and Synergy Lab are tenants of 2 Simcoe Street in downtown Oshawa. Spark Centre currently has multiple clients renting offices and desk space.
- 4.4 In FY24, Spark Centre added funding programs for commercialization of intellectual property to their services, with funding support from the Federal government dispersed through their collaboration partner Invest Ottawa.
- 4.5 In January 2025, long-time Spark Centre CEO Sherry Colbourne retired from her roles with both Spark Centre and Synergy Lab Inc. As of the date this report was authored, the Board of Directors is currently undertaking a recruitment process for a new Executive Director.
- 4.6 Considerable time and effort has been dedicated to growing the Synergy Lab business, with a mandate to provide market-entry services for a fee to international technology entrepreneurs looking to establish themselves in Canada, in advancement of innovation in Durham and across Eastern Ontario.
- 4.7 The Region has ensured that the Spark Centre funding agreement contains sufficient protections to ensure the Region’s core funding will only be used to

support the core activities of the Spark Centre, and not those of Synergy Lab Inc, and that the terms shall be to the satisfaction of the Regional Solicitor.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

5.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following Strategic Direction(s) and Pathway(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

a. Connected and Vibrant Communities

- C6. Continue to revitalize and transform downtowns into hubs of economic, social, and cultural connection.

b. Resilient Local Economies

- R1. Attract and retain quality employers that strengthen key economic sectors, including energy and technology.
- R2. Support the growth of new business startups and small to medium local businesses.
- R3. Develop, attract, and support a skilled and qualified workforce, including youth and newcomers.

c. Strong Relationships

- S3. Collaborate across local area municipalities, with agencies, non-profits, and community partners to deliver co-ordinated and efficient services.

5.2 This report aligns with/addresses the following Foundation(s) in Durham Region's 2025-2035 Strategic Plan:

- a. People: Making the Region of Durham a great place to work, attracting, and retaining talent.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The Economic Development and Tourism Division partners with organizations in Durham Region that support, engage, and mentor start-up and innovative businesses to support and facilitate the growth of our innovation community.

6.2 Spark Centre, as Durham Region's Regional Innovation Centre, has a mandate to support local, Durham Region-based technology entrepreneurs in reaching commercialization, and to play a central role in Durham's innovation ecosystem.

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Simon Gill, Director of Economic
Development and Tourism

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Nancy Taylor BBA, CPA, CA for
Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer