

Delegation Text

Region of Durham Recommended Official Plan – May 17 2023

In the section on **Active Transportation**, Envision Durham claims its objective is to “ensure a **safe** network of active transportation facilities.” Its stated policy is “to construct a **safe**, direct, comfortable, attractive and convenient active transportation network “(8.2.3.)

The image presented on P. 195 should reflect this vision and should illustrate exemplary safe, comfortable infrastructure. Ironically, the photo of the young people riding on Lake Driveway in Ajax depicts infrastructure that is **low comfort** and **unsafe**:

1. a key principle of safe, high comfort cycling infrastructure is that cyclists be separated from vehicular traffic – in the picture young cyclists are forced to “share the road”, not only with cars, but also with trucks and buses;
2. in neighbourhoods with low automobile volume, sharing may occur, but cyclist safety standards indicate at speeds of less than 30 kph. Lake Driveway's speed is 40 kph.

Most young people don't ride on Lake Driveway – they use the Waterfront Trail.

By the way, the photographer could have taken the shot around the corner on Harwood Blvd. which has much safer, more comfortable infrastructure. Many cyclists of all ages use it.

So this is a request to replace the image on Page 195 of the document to accurately portray Envision Durham's own objectives and policies. The image chosen should reflect current Canadian design standards of cycling infrastructure - especially relating to safety and comfort of use. I am using the **CAN-BICS**¹ as basis of this request.

Generally, the Region's vision for cycling infrastructure is progressively aspirational. However, the specifics of implementation: timetable, design standards, and priority for completing gaps in the cycling network are absent from the text. So I doubt any of the objectives will be achieved at the regional level in the near future. Prospects are much brighter, however, at the level of my municipality.

Respectfully submitted
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¹ Meghan Winters, PhD (1); Moreno Zanotto, MSc (1); Gregory Butler, MSc (2). *The Canadian Bikeway Comfort and Safety (Can-BICS) Classification System: a common naming convention for cycling infrastructure:* <https://doi.org/10.20495/hpcdp.40.9.04>