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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-P-5
Date: January 9, 2024

Subject:

Durham Region's Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends:

That this report be received by Council for information.

Report:

1. Purpose

1.1 The purpose of this report is to outline the progress made in implementing the Region's active transportation infrastructure initiatives. It also highlights the ways in which the Regional Cycling Plan is currently being implemented. Attachment #1 to this report is the "Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023" which provides a more comprehensive overview of the various activities and accomplishment in an easy-to-read, graphic-rich format.

2. Background

2.1 The Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) was updated in 2021. It 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). It considers the unique trip types and preferences of those that live, work, and play within Durham Region. The RCP identifies a Primary Cycling Network (PCN) and the phased implementation of 162 km of cycling facilities to be installed along the PCN by 2031, specifically along roads that are under the Region's jurisdiction.

3. Summary of Progress on Implementing Primary Cycling Network Facilities and Supportive Infrastructure in 2022-2023

3.1 Throughout 2022 and 2023, the Region has upgraded a series of existing routes and added several new cycling facilities to provide increased separation between cyclists and other road users 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 At the end of 2022, 21 km of the new short-term PCN routes had been completed/constructed (see Figure 1). This amount exceeds the 8.5 km per year originally projected to be completed when the updated RCP was adopted by Council in 2021.

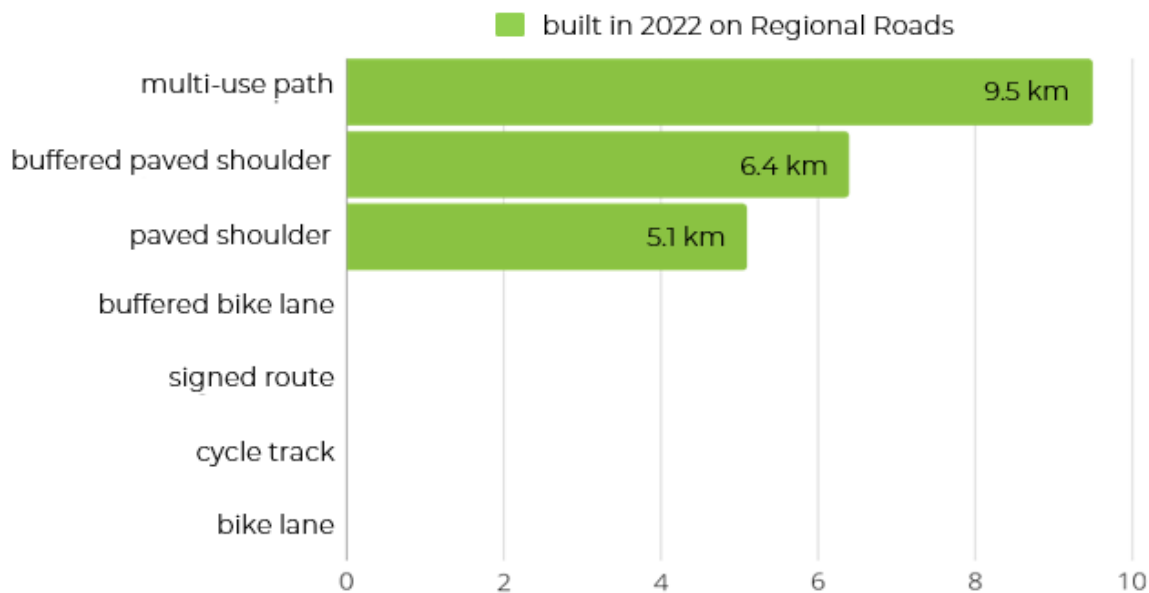


Figure 1 – Kilometres of short term PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional Roads in 2022

3.3 In addition to the 21 km of completed/constructed cycling facilities, the Region has the following projects in the cycling 'pipeline':

- a. 19.5 km of cycling facilities with construction funding approved in the 2023 transportation capital plan are to be implemented as part of Regional roads construction projects; and

- b. 3.5 km of standalone infill cycling facilities have been initiated for detailed design in 2023.
- 3.4 The Region consistently reviews and updates proposed routes on an ongoing, annual basis to help with accelerating the implementation of the network. Through this approach, some segments identified in the RCP have been advanced ahead of their proposed long-term phasing through other initiatives and additional funding received through the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program.
- a. For example, a 0.84 km portion of the proposed protected corridor segment from Ritson Road and Wilson Road in Oshawa is now anticipated to be completed between 2028-2032, significantly earlier than its originally anticipated timeline.

4. Summary of Progress on Implementing Supportive Cycling Infrastructure in 2022-2023

- 4.1 The Region has installed cycling counters across the Region and conducts counts annually during the summer for a one-week interval during peak cycling season, which helps staff better understand the volume of network users and helps determine locations for connectivity improvements.
- A weekly total of 400,492 cyclist counts was recorded during a one-week interval in the summer of 2023 based on counter data collected at 296 locations across Durham.
- 4.2 The Region has installed 39 bicycle traffic signals and crossrides as well as 26 leading pedestrian interval signals at select signalized intersections within Durham, to help make it safer and easier for people to walk and bike.

5. Other Active Transportation Achievements

- 5.1 In addition to expanding the cycling network, progress has been made on 20 of the 35 actions identified in the RCP (see Attachment #1). The following are some key achievements:
- a. Creating an e-scooter by-law and hosting an e-mobility demo at Regional Headquarters where members of the public, regional staff, and other key stakeholders could try e-scooters and e-bikes firsthand.

- b. Securing \$100,000 in grant funding from the Federal Active Transportation Fund (ATF) to initiate a Durham Cycling Wayfinding Signage Strategy and Bicycle Parking Guideline.
- c. Delivery of education campaigns for safe cycling and promotion of active transportation through the Smart Mobility Durham program and Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) programs.
- d. Developing an internal interactive Active Transportation map viewer to help track and monitor progress.
- e. Incorporating costs for stand-alone (infill) cycling infrastructure into the Region's Works annual capital budget.
- f. 367,314 social media impressions were made through Regional social media posts about cycling and active transportation programs, initiatives and infrastructure between 2022-2023, demonstrating how the Region continues to expand awareness of sustainable transportation options and the benefits of active transportation.
- g. Procuring 7 iconic bike racks to install across the Region between 2021-2023, demonstrating the Region's commitment to cycling through the provision of high-quality, secure end of trip facilities (pictures of these bike racks are contained in Attachment #1).

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 2024.
- 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 Planning staff will be working with a consultant to initiate the development of bicycle parking guidelines beginning in Q3 of 2024.
- 6.4 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.

8. Relationship to Strategic Plan

8.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:

- a. Environmental Sustainability 1.5 – Expands sustainable and active transportation by increasing accessibility and availability of cycling facilities and promoting cycling as a healthy mode of transportation that can help reduce CO₂ emissions and carbon footprint through education and encouragement initiatives.
- b. Economic Prosperity 3.3 – Enhances communication and transportation networks to better connect people and move goods more efficiently by promoting the use of active transportation options for commuting, errands and tourism purposes as well as the benefits that cycling has on the local economy. It also assists in placemaking and the creation of healthy, complete, sustainable communities.
- c. Service Excellence 5.1 – Optimizes resources and partnerships to deliver exceptional quality services and value by working more closely with all key stakeholders to deliver cycling infrastructure and programs that benefit all residents.

9. Conclusion

9.1 This report helps demonstrate the progress that the Region 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, and 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 2022-2023

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



The Regional Municipality of Durham

Active Transportation Progress Report 2022-2023



Active Transportation Progress Report

Purpose

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



8%

Percentage of AM peak trips made in Durham using active modes of transportation



\$100,000

Federal grant funding awarded to support cycling strategy implementation



22

of Leading Pedestrian Interval Signals installed between 2022 and 2023

Active Transportation – Snapshot



21

of km of new cycling routes added to the Region's Primary Cycling Network (PCN) in 2022



\$ 540,000

of dollars allocated by the Region in 2023 to advance shovel-readiness of cycling network infill projects to help fill in gaps in the network



367,314

of impressions made through Regional social media posts about cycling and active transportation programs and infrastructure between 2022-2023

Increasing Cycling 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 implemented to help improve comfort and safety along key active transportation routes.



Increasing Cycling Mode Share

The Region conducts cycling counts over a one-week period at 296 stations across the Region. Conducting these counts along key cycling routes and intersections helps us better understand the volume of network users and help determine locations for connectivity improvements.

Figure 1 provides a snapshot of average daily cycling counts captured through the 2023 summer count conducted over a one-week period at 10 counter locations.

As set out in the Durham Transportation Master Plan, the Region has a target of 10% of Durham residents walking and cycling and 20% using public transit by 2031. Based on the recent Transportation Tomorrow Survey (TTS) data, the Region is on track for achieving its active mode share target.

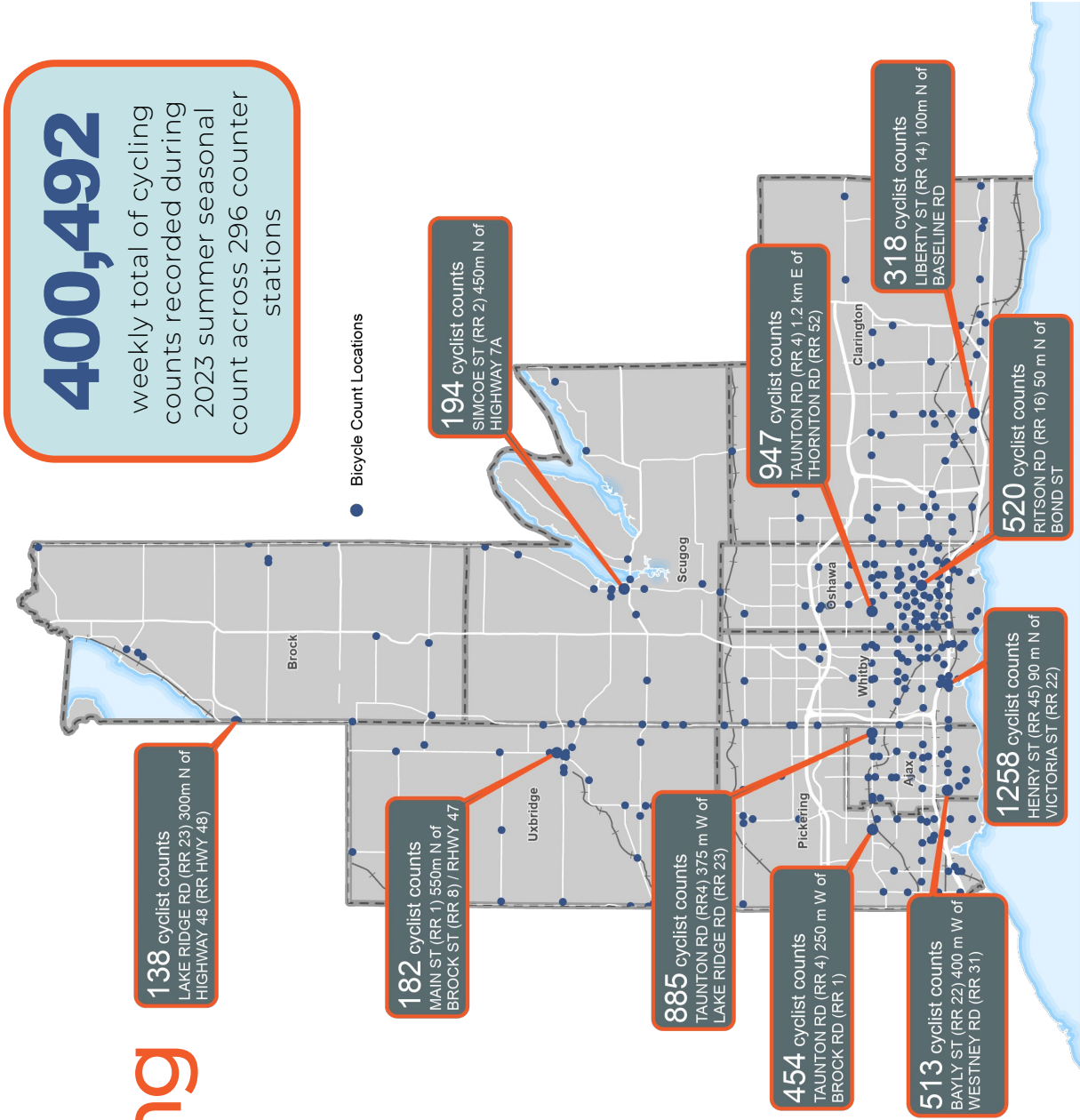
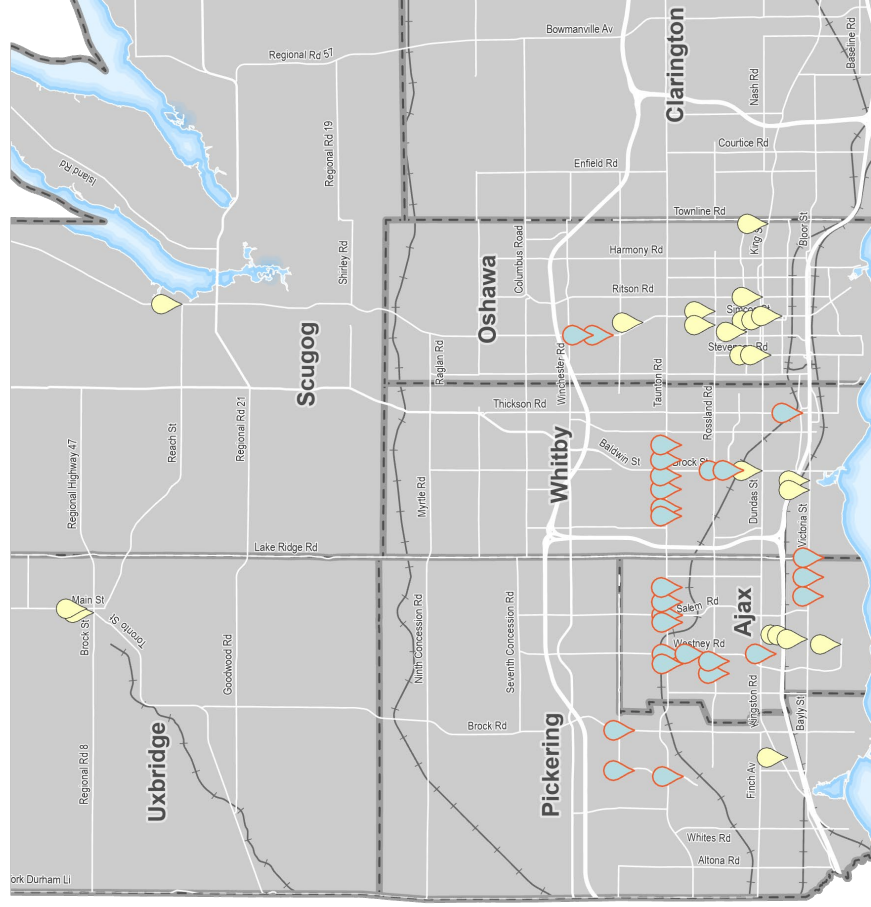


Figure 1: Summary of average daily cyclist counts collected through Regional bike count locations during a one-week period during summer 2023.

Increasing Cycling Safety and Connectivity

The Region has installed 38 bicycle traffic signals and 26 leading pedestrian interval signals at key signalized intersections within the Region to help make it safer and easier for people to walk and bike throughout the region. **Figure 2** provides a snapshot of key locations where additional signals have been added to the network between 2022-2023.



Leading Pedestrian Interval Signals

The Region has installed 22 leading pedestrian interval signals on Regional roads to improve safety for pedestrians between 2022 and 2023.

Crossriders

The Region has installed 27 bicycle traffic signals and crossriders across key signalized intersections between 2022 and 2023 in Durham to improve connectivity and safety for cyclists.

Bicycle Traffic Signals

Figure 2: Summary of leading pedestrian interval signals, bicycle traffic signals and crossriders added to the network between 2022-2023.

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

Impact

Status

1. 21 km of new cycling routes on Regional roads constructed and added to the PCN

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

Achieved

-
2. 19.5 km of cycling facilities with construction funding approved in the 2023 transportation capital plan to be implemented as part of Regional roads construction projects

Supports the implementation of cycling infrastructure on Regional Roads

In Progress

-
3. 3.5 km of standalone infill cycling facilities has been initiated for detailed design in 2023

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

1. Secured \$100,000 from Federal grant to initiate Wayfinding and Bicycle Parking Strategies

Accelerates implementation of cycling supportive strategies

Achieved

2. Installed 26 leading pedestrian interval signals between 2020-2023

Enhances safety and comfort for cyclists of all ages and abilities

In Progress

3. 5,526 engaged through active transportation educational messaging between 2022-2023

Improves education and awareness of cycling safety, infrastructure and services

Achieved

4. Developing an internal interactive AT map to help track and monitor progress

Ensures transparency and improves consistency in monitoring and evaluation of RCP implementation

In Progress

Measuring Progress

Other Activities Achieved

Impact

Status

5. Added cycling infill projects as a separate line item in annual capital budget

Ensures transparency and improves consistency in monitoring and evaluation of RCP implementation

Achieved

6. Created 2 Active Transportation staff positions in works and planning

Supports monitoring, evaluating and implementation of RCP

Achieved

7. Procured 7 iconic bike racks to install across the Region

Demonstrates commitment to cycling through the provision of secure end of trip facilities

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

Currently the Region has built 21 km of cycling facilities across Durham in 2022 and is making progress on implementing a variety of cycling projects in 2023. The Region has implemented cycling facilities with a range of separation to help support safe and comfortable use of the cycling network for a variety of ages and abilities, as shown in **Figure 3**.

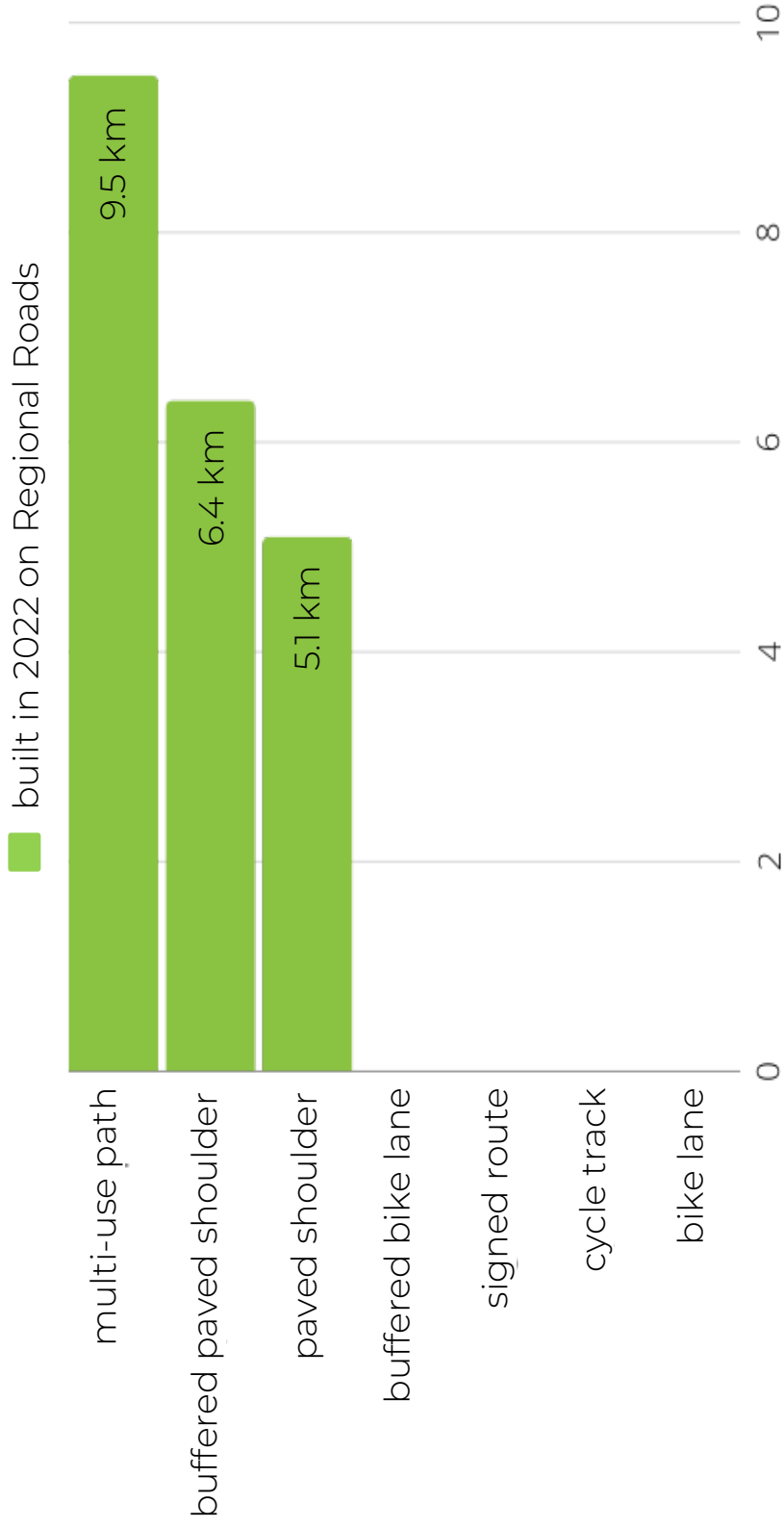


Figure 3: Kilometres (km) of short term PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional Roads 2022

Growing the Network

The RCP has proposed 162 km of cycling facilities within the next 10 years. This includes MUPs and other cycling facilities that fall within the paved portion of the Regional road right of way across all eight municipalities. **Figure 4** showcases the distribution of cycling infrastructure on Regional roads by area municipality that has been built in 2022 and is planned within the next 10 years.

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

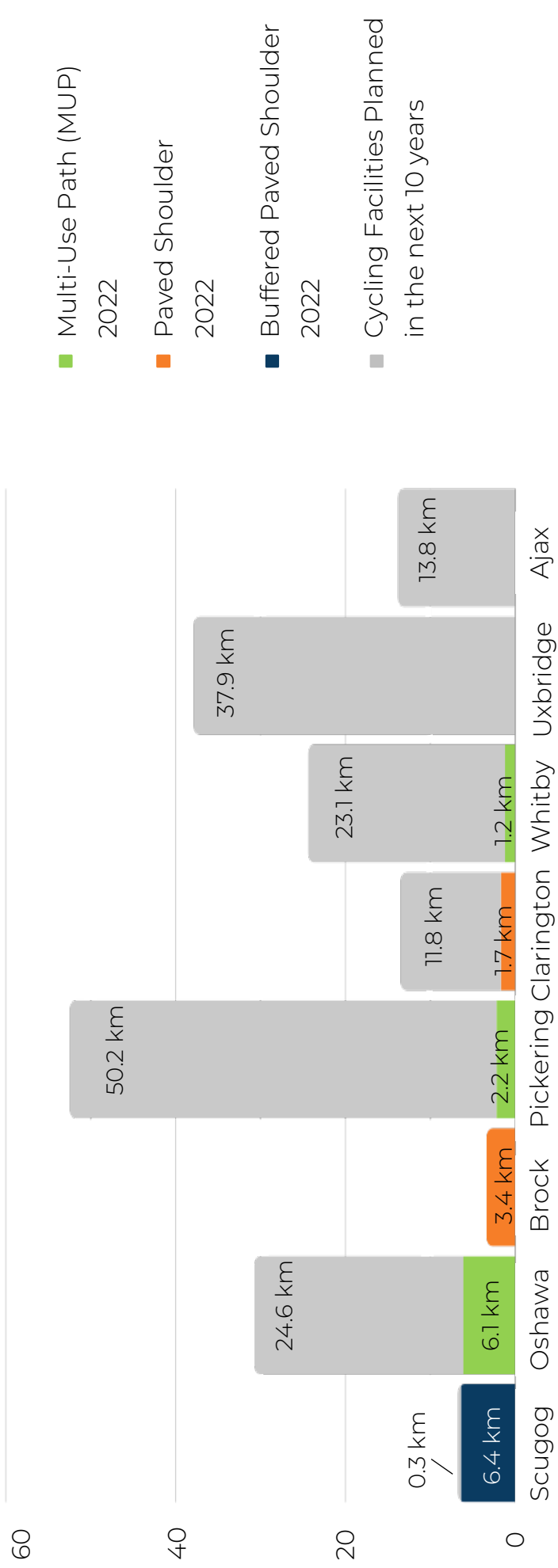


Figure 4: Kilometres (km) of short-term cycling facilities planned and built by municipality

Growing the Network

The Region has upgraded a series of existing routes and added a number of new cycling facilities and amenities throughout 2022. Below is a snapshot of three locations where additional facilities or upgrades have been added to help improve connectivity and comfort for a range of ages and abilities. Increasing dedicated cycling facilities can help further support the Region’s Vision Zero goals.



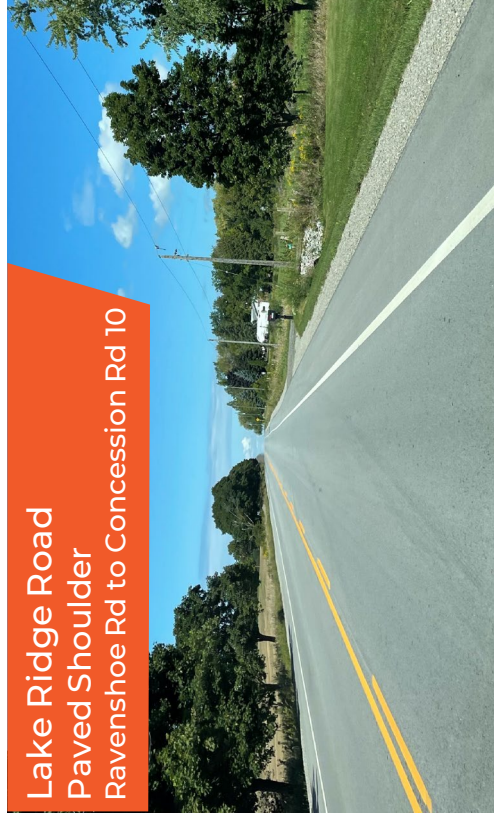
Simcoe Street
Multi-Use Pathway (MUP)
Conlin Rd to Winchester Rd

- Key Details:**
- 1.6 km
 - 2022 completed
 - Physical separation between cyclists/ pedestrians and motorists to support comfort and safety for all ages and abilities
 - Bi-directional lanes for easy passing and connectivity



Taunton Rd
Permanent Eco-Counter
Taunton Rd at Salem Rd

- Key Details:**
- Permanent counter
 - 2023 completed
 - Designed to distinguish between pedestrians and cyclists using infrared sensors and inductive loop technology
 - Can count large groups on high-traffic MUPs
 - 2 installed in the region



Lake Ridge Road
Paved Shoulder
Ravenshoe Rd to Concession Rd 10

- Key Details:**
- 3.4 km
 - Line markings
 - Dedicated facility for cyclists that provides some separation between vehicles and cyclists to help reduce conflicts
 - Provides smoother surface for increased comfort for cyclists

Enhancing Education and Awareness

This section provides an overview of key initiatives, campaigns and tools the Region implemented between 2022 and 2023 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.



**Pedal for Patients
Charity Bike Ride Event
May 28, 2023**

- Partnered with Lakeridge Health Foundation to host a charity bike ride to raise funds for cancer care
- Promoted physical activity and showcase cycling infrastructure and routes

Key Features:

- 97 km
- 96 riders
- \$97,317 raised



**E-Mobility Demo
Regional Headquarters
June 15, 2022**

- Opportunity to learn about e-scooter and e-bike devices, rules, regulations and safety tips outlined in the new [Regional Electric Kick Scooter By-law](#)
- Attendees could experience e-mobility devices firsthand

Key Features:

- 50+ attendees
- 3 vendors
- 1 day event



**Bike Month
Educational Campaign
June 2023**

Key Features:

- 1 month
- 221 attendees
- 739 km cycled

- Increased awareness of and education safe cycling practices
- Provided a series of interactive events to encourage people to bike more during June

Active Transportation – Map Viewer

Helps staff to...



Track

the number of kms of planned and existing cycling routes



Review

gaps and phasing to refine implementation schedules



Confirm

facility types and help identify annual priorities for implementation



Monitor

and update cycling project progress

Showcases...



Routes and Facilities



Crossrides and Signals



Bicycle Counters



Repair Stands


Expanding Policy Guidance

A variety of active transportation related policies, plans and strategies are being developed to respond to Durham-specific challenges and further enhance the overall experience of the cycling and active transportation Region-wide. This section highlights new active transportation policies initiated since the adoption of the RCP.



Expanding Policy Guidance

The Region is also developing new studies and strategies to help advance active transportation goals. Below is a summary of three projects the Region is undertaking to help improve the experience of active transportation within Durham.



Durham Meadowway Visioning Study

- 2023**
- 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 Signage Strategy

- 2023**
- Enhance Wayfinding
 - Coordinated approach
 - Distinct look and feel
- 2023***
- Identifies new signage system along PCN
 - Provides well-designed, intuitive, and cohesive wayfinding
 - Helps make it easier for residents and visitors to navigate Durham by bike



Bicycle Parking Guidelines

- 2023***
- Enhance quality of amenities
 - Supports a range of trip types
- Identifies best practices in providing bicycle parking facilities**
- Improves quality of bicycle parking facilities
 - Supports with developing guidance for implementing secure bicycle parking

Note: Funding has been received through the Federal Active Transportation Fund and an agreement is in place to support the initiation of the Bicycle Parking Guidelines. Development of these guidelines will be initiated in 2024.

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



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