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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Community Growth and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Community Growth and Economic Development
Report: #2025-CG-3
Date: January 7, 2025

Subject:

Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Annual Report and 2025 Workplan

Recommendation:

That the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Commissioner's Report #2025-CG-3 be received as the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2024 Annual Report;
 - B) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2025 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1, to this Report; and
 - C) That a copy of this Report be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, and the Area Municipalities.
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Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Terms of Reference (ToR) requires the submission of an annual report to the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee summarizing the activities of the previous year. DATC is also required to prepare a proposed Workplan for the coming year and when necessary, recommend substantive revisions to the ToR, for consideration and approval of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee and Council.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Summarize the activities of the DATC from 2024; and
- b. Present the proposed 2025 Work Plan – see Attachment #1.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

2.1 In March 2023, Council considered DATC's membership appointments for the 2023-2026 term ([#Report #2023-P-5](#)).

2.2 In January 2024, Council endorsed the DATC 2024 Workplan through [Report #2024-P-3](#).

3. 2024 Annual Report

3.1 DATC is composed of nine members, including one member of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee. The DATC meets quarterly, with meetings typically held in March, June, October and December.

3.2 At the April 13, 2023 meeting, Ron Lalonde was elected as Chair and Connor Houston as Vice-Chair for the full term of the DATC. The DATC meets quarterly.

3.3 Membership at the end of 2024 was:

- Bob Astley (City of Oshawa);
- Marc Gibbons (Township of Scugog);
- Aisha Heywood (City of Pickering);
- Connor Houston (City of Clarington);
- Kamal Mirani (Township of Brock);
- Ron Lalonde (Town of Whitby);
- Philip Smith (Township of Uxbridge);
- Tanja Van Helsdingen (Town of Ajax);
- Councillor Rick Kerr (Community Growth and Economic Development Committee); and
- Councillor Maleeha Shahid (Community Growth and Economic Development Committee – Alternate).

Major Activities

3.4 The role of the DATC is to advise the Region of Durham on matters related to active transportation across Durham. The Committee also provides input on Regional initiatives, including its Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program and the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP).

3.5 During 2024, DATC fulfilled this role by:

- a. Receiving presentations and engaging in discussions on:
 - Durham Region's Smart Commute Program and Bike Month planning and results;
 - The Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) planning in Durham Region;
 - Regional active transportation data trends; and
 - Durham's Cycling Signage and Wayfinding Strategy.
- b. Providing advice and investigating various Regional issues, including:
 - Advocating for improved cycling safety on Regional cycling routes and infrastructure;
 - Commenting on existing trails, including the development of the Durham Meadoway, the North Durham Trans Canada rail trail and how to improve the overall trail system in Durham; and
 - Learning more about Share the Road Cycling Coalition's Bike Friendly Status and organizing a sub-committee to help prepare an application for status for Durham Region.

4. 2025 Workplan

4.1 The proposed 2025 DATC Workplan (Attachment #1) consists of activities, which are a priority and achievable within the calendar year. These activities are summarized into three categories:

- a. **Sustainability** – Recognize and advance Active Transportation (AT) activities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
- b. **Cycling Safety and Education** – Encouraging public awareness and education on AT matters by providing advice on the identification and implementation of programs such as Vision Zero and Active and Sustainable School Travel; supporting work to help achieve and, if successful, maintain bronze-level Bike Friendly bronze-status for the Region of Durham; support area municipalities not yet designated as Bike Friendly in Durham, in collaboration with the Works Department and other stakeholders;
- c. **Infrastructure** – Supporting the implementation of multi-modal transportation options in the Region of Durham with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the 2017 Durham Transportation Master Plan and the 2021 Regional Cycling Plan; and

- d. **Communication and Advocacy** – Collaborating with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels including the area municipalities, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, conservation authorities, Metrolinx and Health Department to raise Durham’s AT profile, advance wayfinding and signage initiatives and promote a healthy lifestyle.

5. Relationship to Strategic Plan

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

- a. Under Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability’s objective: To protect the environment for the future by demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.

6. Conclusion

6.1 The DATC was active in supporting Regional active transportation initiatives and providing advice to the Region of Durham throughout 2024. Members should be commended for the time and commitment they have invested in the activities of the Committee and in helping to improve active transportation across the Region. Anthony Caruso acted as the Planning and Economic Development Department staff liaison over the course of 2024.

6.2 It is recommended that:

- a. This report be received as DATC’s annual report on its 2024 activities;
- b. The proposed 2025 DATC Workplan be approved (Attachment #1); and
- c. A copy of this report be forwarded to the DATC and Durham’s Area Municipalities.

6.3 Housekeeping changes to the Committee’s ToR to reflect the new name of the Community Growth and Economic Development Committee will be made administratively.

7. Attachments

Attachment #1: 2025 DATC Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Community Growth and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2025 Workplan

Scope of Activities

The following areas of Active Transportation (AT) will act as a guideline for the DATC Committee's work throughout the year. Many of the initiatives are ongoing from year-to-year, but several initiatives cover items that can be substantially achieved in 2025:

Sustainability

1. Recognize and advance AT activities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Region of Durham. Active Transportation Safety and Education.
2. Provide advice on the identification and implementation of programs, which encourage public awareness and education on AT matters, including the achievement of bronze-level Bicycle-Friendly status for the Region of Durham and any area municipalities not yet designated in Durham, in collaboration with the Works Department and other stakeholders.
3. Provide input and support for Active & Sustainable School Travel (ASST) program in some jurisdictions.
4. Promote the use of AT in the Region, especially the important role that it plays in connecting people to transit.
5. Recognize the differing AT needs of commuters and recreational users within the urban and rural areas.

Infrastructure & Policy

6. Continue to advance the Regional Trail Network (RTN) as a key transportation and tourism component of the AT network based on various requests and initiatives in partnership with Planning and Economic Development, Health and Works Department staff and area municipal partners.
7. Support the implementation of multi-modal transportation options in the Region of Durham with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the 2017 Durham Transportation Master Plan and the Regional Cycling Plan 2021.
8. Assist in providing support to the Durham Meadoway as it advances to the Preliminary Design stage, the Cycling Wayfinding and Signage Strategy implementation and input on area municipal Active Transportation Plans.

9. Support the Region with future active transportation grant funding opportunities as they become available – both federal and provincial

Communications and Advocacy

10. Coordinate efforts to advance the shared goals of the various area municipal AT committees.
11. Collaborate with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels, including: Waterfront Regeneration Trust (Great Lakes Waterfront Trail), Smart Mobility Durham, the Active and Sustainable School Travel program, the Durham Meadoway, the Greenbelt Cycling Route, Trans Canada Trail Route across Durham, June Bike Month, and Health Department.
12. Provide advice to Regional Council on legislative matters, programming, and policies from all levels of government related to AT.
13. Identify and advance initiatives to improve communication and collaboration between the Region and existing area municipal Active Transportation Committees.
14. Provide advice on AT matters related to Vision Zero and Complete Streets initiatives, as well as mid-block crossings to improve safety on Regional road infrastructure.
15. Continued discussions with Metrolinx (Major Transit Station Areas policy directive) and the Region's Transit-Oriented Development (TOD) Office with the goal of increasing AT as a viable option to arrive at GO Transit Stations.
16. Support the Region to obtain and then maintain Share the Road Cycling Coalition designation of "Bicycle Friendly Community Status".
17. Provide input to Regional staff on the development of a Region-wide cycling map viewer, and support updates to Regional Trail Network and Durham Trails mapping.
18. Develop a logo for the DATC.

2025 Meeting Dates

- March 6, 2025
- June 12, 2025
- September 11, 2025
- December 11, 2025