



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.

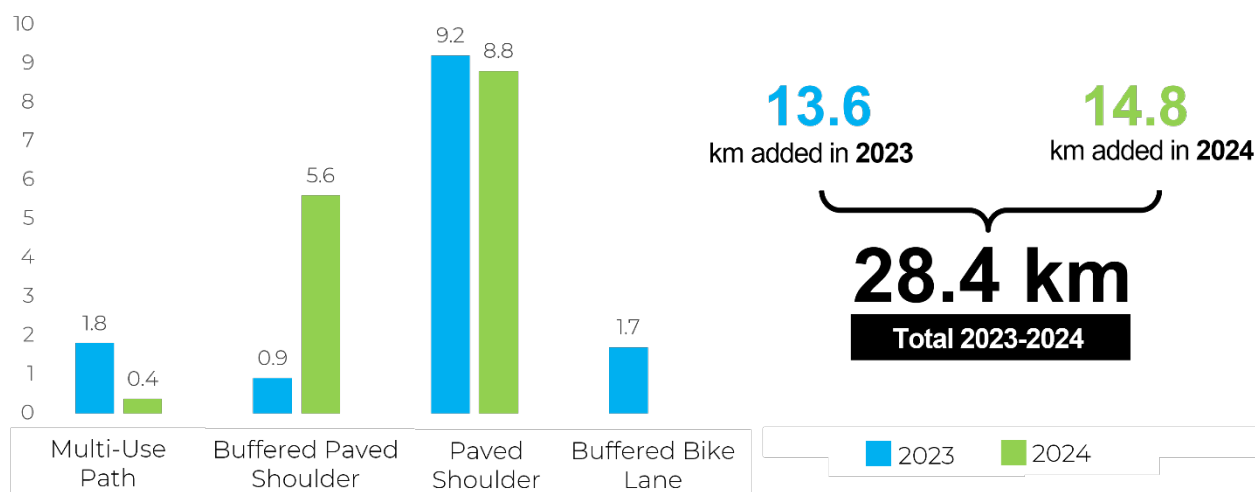


Figure 1 – Kilometres of PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024

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:
- 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.



An illustration at the top of the page shows a family walking in a city. A man in a blue jacket and light blue pants is walking towards the left. A woman in a brown top and dark pants is walking towards the right, holding the hand of a young boy in a yellow shirt and green shorts who is holding a soccer ball. They are walking on a light blue path. In the background, there are stylized city buildings in shades of blue and white, and a few birds are flying in the sky. A large, solid orange vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

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 commitment 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 – 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

An illustration of a person with dark hair wearing a yellow helmet, a teal shirt, and tan pants, riding a blue bicycle. They are in a city setting with stylized blue and white buildings in the background. A thick orange vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

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.

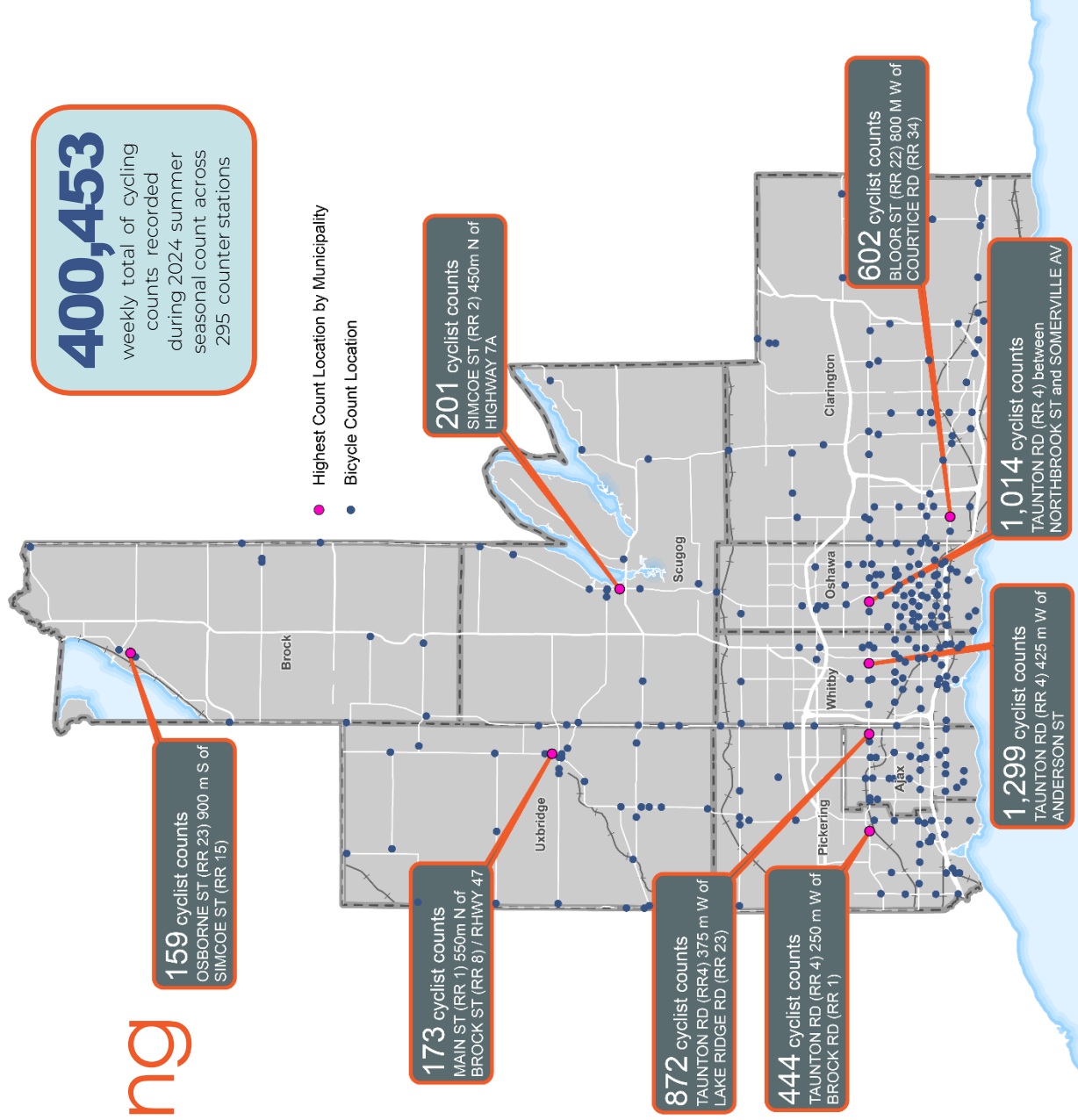


Figure 1: Summary of average daily cyclist counts collected through Regional bike count locations during a one-week period during summer 2024.

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.

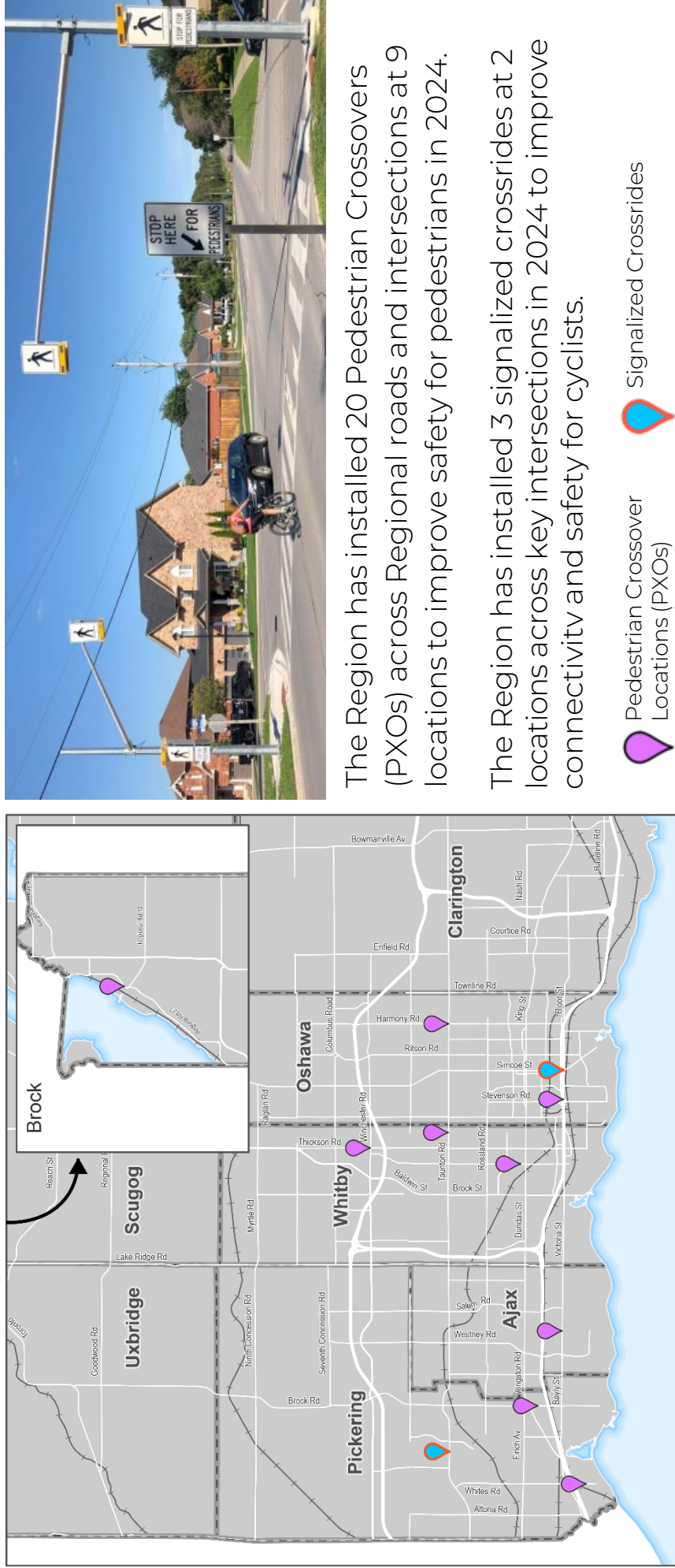


Figure 2: Summary of PXOs and signalized crossrides added to the network in 2024.

An illustration at the top of the page shows a family walking in a city. A man in a blue jacket and light blue pants is walking towards the left. A woman in a grey sweater and dark pants is walking towards the right, holding the hand of a young boy in a yellow shirt and green shorts who is holding a soccer ball. They are walking on a light blue path. In the background, there are stylized city buildings in shades of blue and white, and a few birds flying in the sky. A thick orange vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

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. 28 km of new cycling routes on Regional roads constructed and added to the PCN between 2023-2024	Enhances connectivity and achieves the annual build out rate of 8.5 km* per year	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 complement 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.

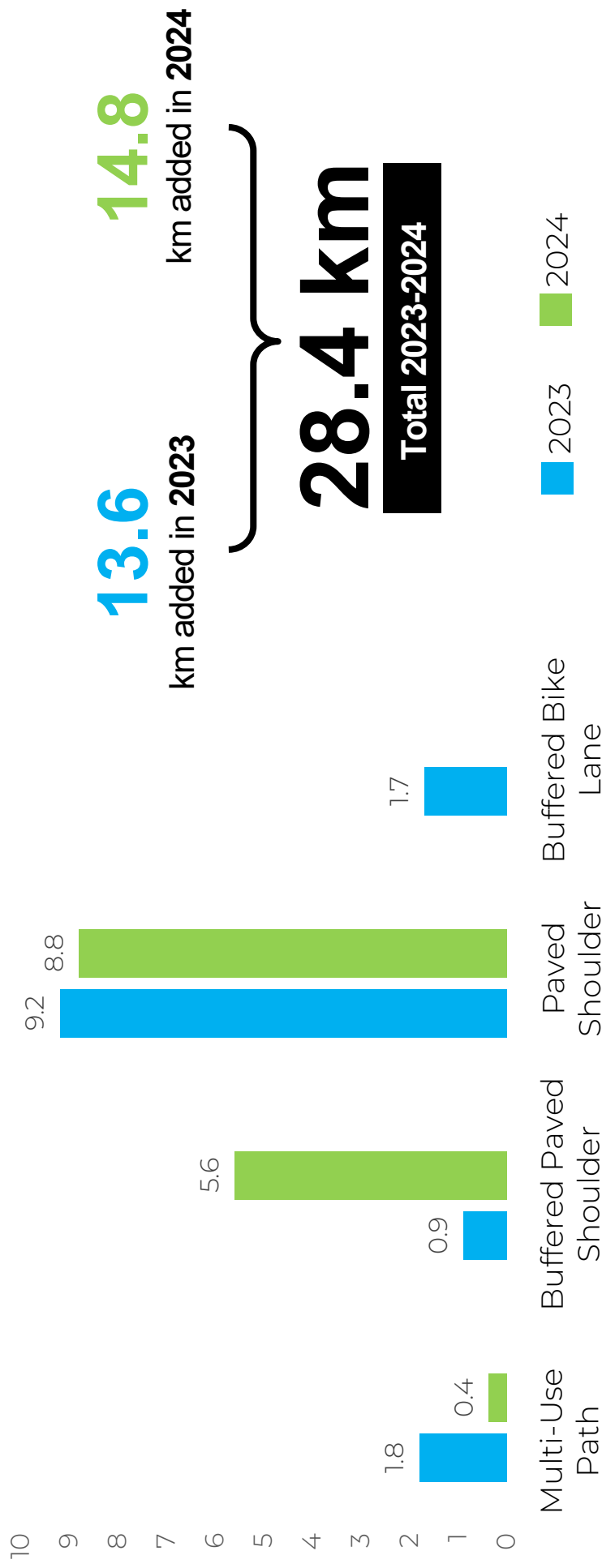


Figure 3: Kilometres (km) of new PCN routes by facility type implemented on Regional roads in 2023 and 2024

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.

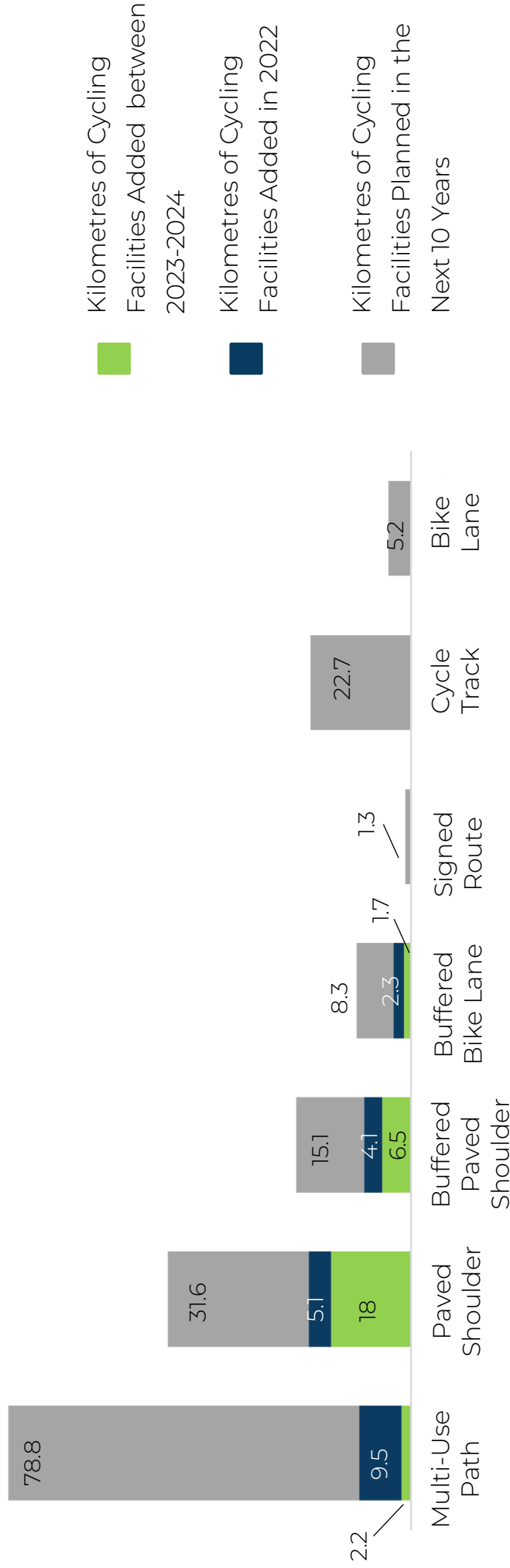


Figure 4: Kilometres (km) of short-term cycling facilities planned and built on Regional Roads between 2022 to 2024.

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

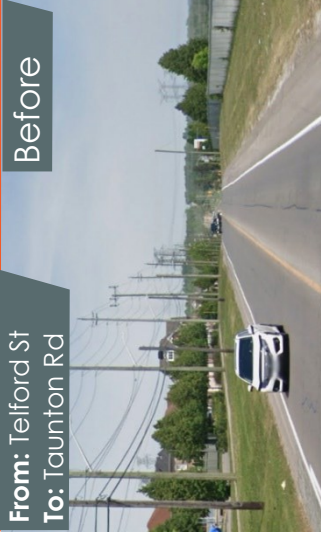
Westney Rd

Ajax, 2023, 1.8 km

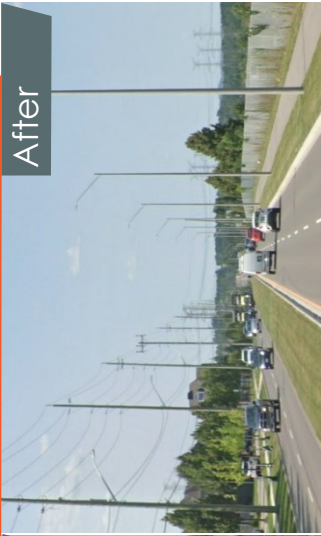
From: Telford St

To: Taunton Rd

Before



After



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

- 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

Clarington 2024, 1.1km

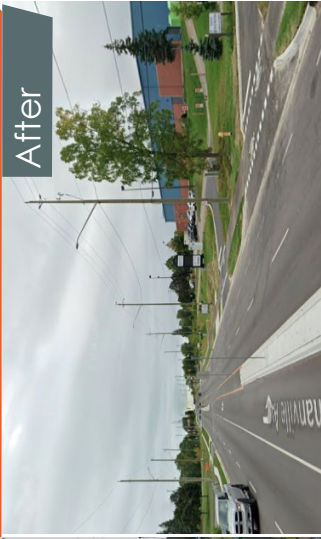
From: 400m North of Stevens Rd

To: 240m west of Bowmanville Ave

Before



After



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

- 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

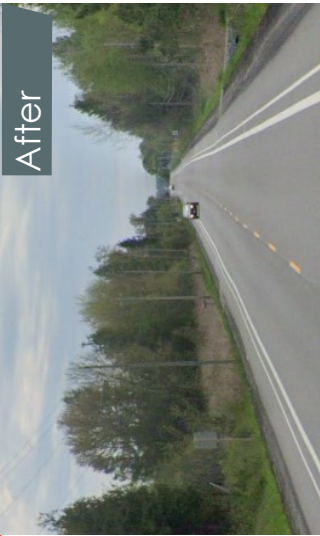
From: Colby Rd

To: 200 m south of Davis Drive

Before



After



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

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

Paved Shoulder

Myrtle Rd

Whitby, 2024, 1.2 km

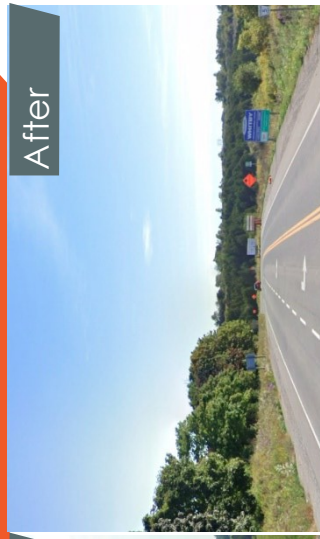
From: Dagmar Rd

To: Limit of Ashburn

Before



After



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

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

An illustration of a person with dark hair wearing a yellow helmet, a teal shirt, and tan pants, riding a blue bicycle. The background shows a stylized city with light blue buildings and a grey road. A thick orange vertical bar is on the left side of the page.

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 tourism experiences 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

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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

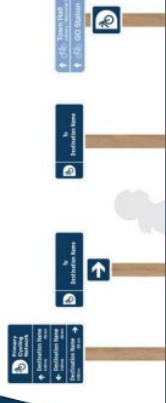
- Provides vision for future planning and implementation of the corridor
- Identifies a high-level route for the multi-use trail
- Identifies different experiences and along the corridor

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

