



Deputation – Council Town of Parry Sound
Tuesday 17 May 2016

Your Worship, Mayor McGarvey, and Councillors, I am here this evening representing Parry Sound Area Active Transportation to address some issues of concern regarding Active Transportation.

We would first like to commend Council for its support for a key component of its 2015-2018 Strategic Plan that being Active Living. In doing so it is supporting the area of our advocacy – the building and maintenance of infrastructure which supports Active Transportation. We now have a bike path along the east side of Forest Street and will have identified bicycle lanes on Emily Street and a portion of William Street when these infrastructure projects are completed.

With respect to a proposal from the Trails Master Plan Steering Committee, we are not in support of a plan to allow all-terrain vehicles on a portion of the Rotary and Algonquin Regiment Fitness Trail as a means of allowing these vehicles to transit the Town of Parry Sound. Adding motorized vehicles to the mix of current users of the trail does not support active healthy living and could be dangerous to pedestrians and cyclists who are likely to be travelling at a slower rate of speed than that of an all-terrain vehicle. The potential for collisions between pedestrians or cyclists and all-terrain vehicles could be high given the nature of the trail being considered as a transit route. The trail on the west side of the Seguin River to the rear of the Parry Sound Curling Club is constricted with some challenging bends for an all-terrain vehicle. We are opposed to the use of the Fitness Trail with respect to this proposal.

Our group recently developed a policy entitled Position Paper – Cycle Friendly Environments which we suggest will be useful in guiding the development of cycling infrastructure in our area. Here are the recommendations contained in the Paper.

Finally, I would like to remind Council of the proposed segregated trail link between the Town of Parry Sound and Nobel Road along Parry Sound Drive. This important project, one of the main goals of the Trails Master Plan, will extend from Mall Drive along Parry Sound Drive, to connect with Nobel Road and eventually Kinsmen Park. The engineering for “The Link” has been completed and some funding is available from a government source so the time would seem appropriate for the Municipality of McDougall and the Town of Parry Sound to make this trail a reality.