

Submission – Ontario Draft Cycling Strategy

The West Parry Sound Active Transportation Committee is a grassroots group of individuals and organizations. We collaborate with local municipalities and organizations to foster an active transportation culture and improve conditions for walking and cycling. Our initiatives include the development of a Walk and Bike Map, an Active Transportation Charter, and CAN-BIKE programming. We are currently collecting data on local trails and routes toward the development of an area-wide map and Active Transportation Master Plan.

We were very pleased to learn of Ontario's Draft Cycling Strategy. Since many of the potentially prime cycling routes in our area are provincially owned, we are particularly encouraged by the focus on enhancing cycling infrastructure. A supportive environment will be crucial to ensure the safety of current cyclists (as per Ontario's Chief Coroner's report), to increase the number of future cyclists, and ultimately, to reap the many benefits of moving Ontario toward a cleaner, more economical transportation system.

We support the document's emphasis on tourism as we believe our area could greatly benefit by building on the opportunity of cycling tourism. However, we also recognize the potential of cycling as an alternate means of travel for those who choose not to drive or cannot drive because of age, ability or income, and would support increased commitment to cycling as a mode of daily transportation. Regarding infrastructure, we have written previously in support of our MPP Norm Miller's Bill 100 and would certainly applaud a strategy that incorporated requirements to pave shoulders in the resurfacing of certain secondary highways.

We support a well-funded and ambitious Cycling Strategy for Ontario.