

Active Transportation Plan

Discussion Paper #1:
Policy Review and Draft Vision Statement Development



City of Temiskaming Shores
Draft November 2021



Temiskaming Shores Active Transportation Plan
Prepared by:

wsp

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1. INTRODUCTION TO THE ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN

Nestled along the shoreline of Lake Temiskaming, the City of Temiskaming Shores has positioned itself as one of Northern Ontario's leading communities with regards to active transportation. Beginning in 2011 with the investments into the first phase of the STATO Trail, the City set itself on a path towards developing a community where access to mobility supports the City's overall goals of providing a "healthy, safe and liveable community"¹. Recognized in 2016 as just the second municipality in Northern Ontario to achieve a Bicycle Friendly Community Designation from the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, the City's support for Active Transportation has only grown in recent years. With new and growing programs to encourage residents of all ages and abilities to get active and with a strong foundation of existing infrastructure, the City is well positioned to become one of Ontario's leading communities for active mobility in the near term.

With this strong foundation in place, the City is creating an Active Transportation Plan (ATP) – a long-range guiding document that will provide the City and its partners with the tools needed to grow both the physical and social infrastructure necessary to support active transportation. This master plan is intended to provide strategic direction for an active transportation network that is equitable and accessible for people of all ages and abilities, and that can facilitate active living within the City in all of its settlement areas. The plan is also intended to provide direction and guidance on emerging trends that can shift the future of transportation within the City such as vision zero, micro-mobility, complete streets and age-friendly design.

An ATP is not a prescriptive document – it does not bind the City to specific investments, nor does it confer authority upon the City to construct projects. It is, for lack of a better term, a roadmap towards a future where every trip made in the City, regardless of whether it is by car, on foot, by bike or using a mobility device feels safe, comfortable and convenient. It communicates the concrete actions that could be taken to achieve that vision and provides the necessary policies and guidelines to ensure that actions taken align with best practices. Through the community engagement process associated with the development of the Plan, it also allows the community to make their voices heard. The Plan provides an ongoing method of building accountability, as it allows the progress made towards implementing the plan to be checked against the goals contained within it. It also provides a valuable baseline – a snapshot of where the City's active transportation programs are in 2021 as the Plan is prepared, which can be a useful reference as the Plan is implemented and the transportation habits of the residents of Temiskaming Shores begin to shift.

This Plan is the most recent document prepared by the City to advance its broader goals of becoming a more liveable, sustainable and prosperous community. It functions best when considered within the broader policy context of both the City and the Province, which help to provide the strategic foundations upon which the finer details of this Plan are built.

¹ City of Temiskaming Shores Official Plan, 2015

2. POLICY REVIEW AND VISION STATEMENT DEVELOPMENT

1.1 POLICY BACKGROUND

The City of Temiskaming Shores' Active Transportation Plan (ATP) aims to build on previous municipal planning documents to ensure that the ATP contributes to the goals and vision previously established by the City. In the past decade, there has been an increase in support for active transportation and recreation from all levels of government. Provincial and municipal governments are working together and establishing policies, research, strategies and initiatives that provide support for investments and improvements in active transportation.

One of the first steps in the process of creating the ATP was developing an understanding of the plans and policies that have helped set the foundation for the Plan, including those that have a direct influence on active transportation planning, design and implementation within Temiskaming Shores. The following is an overview of all plans and policies that were reviewed to inform the Active Transportation Plan.

1.1.1 POLICY REVIEW

PROVINCIAL POLICIES

The Province of Ontario has a robust suite of policies which lend support to active transportation and accessible, universal design. These policy documents provide guidance to local municipalities which can range from suggested actions to legislated requirements. In general, provincial guidance relating to active transportation tends to take the form of suggestions, guidance and support rather than legislative requirements for municipalities.

Policies Reviewed:

- Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (2005)
- Ministry of Transportation Ontario Bikeways Design Manual (2014)
- Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15: Pedestrian Crossings (2016)
- Tour By Bike: Ontario's Cycling Tourism Plan (2017)
- #CycleON Strategy (2013) and Action Plan 2.0 (2018)
- Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways O.Reg.239/02 (2018)
- Provincial Policy Statement (2020)
- Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18: Cycling Facilities (2021 update)

Policy Considerations:

- Increase collaboration between government and industry partners to develop and enhance products and experiences that support cycling tourism (e.g. heritage trails, trail tourism programs), particularly in rural regions of the province. (Ontario's Cycling Tourism Plan, 2017)

- Promote the use of active transportation and transit in and between residential, employment (including commercial and industrial) and institutional uses and other areas (s.1.8.1.b – Provincial Policy Statement).
- Technical and legislative requirements are outlined in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act built environment guidelines and O.Reg.239/02.
- Minimum Maintenance Standards for Municipal Highways sets out the requirements that the City is required to adhere to when designing AODA-compliant facilities and maintaining all highway facilities, including cycling and pedestrian infrastructure. Additional design guidance is provided in Ontario Traffic Manual Book 15 and 18, which provide direction on pedestrian crossing treatments and cycling facilities, respectively.

CITY POLICIES

The ATP will be influenced by policies at the municipal level such as the City's Official Plan, Recreation Master Plan, Age Friendly Community Plan and other planning documents. The City's Official Plan provides the most guidance on future development, as it is a statutory document required under the Planning Act and the Provincial Policy Statement. Policies that have the highest degree of relevance to the ATP are indicated in **bold** below.

Policies Reviewed:

- **Temiskaming Shores Official Plan (2015);**
- **Recreation Master Plan (2020);**
- Municipal Cultural Plan (2013);
- **Age Friendly Community Plan (2016);**
- Municipal Energy Plan (2016); and
- **Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Reduction Plan (2019).**

It is important that the Active Transportation Master Plan's vision aligns with the City's existing policies to ensure all future decisions meet the City's overall vision and reflect the needs of the Temiskaming Shores community. The following sections summarize relevant visions, objectives, and/or purposes of these policy documents and highlight common themes among the documents that were used to develop the draft vision statements for the City's Active Transportation Master Plan.

Table 1: Relevant Policies from Local Policy Documents
*Bolded ideas identify common themes among the documents

POLICY DOCUMENT	RELEVANT VISION(S), OBJECTIVE(S), AND/OR PLAN PURPOSE(S)
OFFICIAL PLAN	<p>Relevant Purpose of the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “A blueprint that reaches out to incorporate the concepts of a healthy community, the building blocks for economic development, and the optimization of its social capital.” <p>Relevant Objectives of the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “To create a unifying force that creates and fosters an identity for the City”;– “To build a City with strong, distinctive and liveable Settlement Areas with a range of housing choices, employment, parks, open space and which provides a range of services and facilities that are accessible by walking, cycling and transit”;– “To build a healthy, safe and liveable community that encourages active living, healthy lifestyles and which integrates planning for a healthy community as a component of the City’s land use planning process”;– “To plan and provide infrastructure that meets current and projected growth needs”;– “To protect resources of provincial interest, public health and safety and the quality of the natural environment through the policies of this Plan and through consultation with Provincial agencies”; and– “To consider the impacts of climate change and measures to support the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions through urban and rural design practices and to encourage and support green infrastructure” (Temiskaming Shores Official Plan, 2015).
RECREATION MASTER PLAN	<p>Relevant Guiding Principles</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Uniquely Temiskaming Shores;– A Dynamic Framework;– Environmentally Sustainable;– Accessible and inclusive;– Fosters partnerships;– Cost effective;– Municipal Budgeting; and– Proactive” (Temiskaming Shores Recreation Master Plan, 2020).
AGE-FRIENDLY COMMUNITY PLAN	<p>Relevant Purpose of the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Increase the quality of life of older adults”; and– “To determine the best, most fiscally responsible way to make Temiskaming Shores as age friendly as possible.” <p>Relevant Vision</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “To promote a diverse, inclusive, accessible, safe and respectful community, that enables independence, health and wellness and full participation at all stages of ageing while celebrating the diversity of our community” (Temiskaming Shores Age-Friendly Community Plan, 2016).
GHG REDUCTION PLAN	<p>– Relevant Purpose of the Plan</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">– “Establish the City of Temiskaming Shores as a leader in reducing our impact on climate change and is designed to build on our previous steps towards environmental sustainability” (Temiskaming Shores GHG Reduction Plan, 2019).

1.2 VISION STATEMENT

The policy review brought forward several key themes surrounding the future of the Temiskaming Shores community and active transportation. These themes were then combined with input received through the consultation process to help guide the development of draft vision statements for the Active Transportation Plan. Based on the existing policy directions from the City and the feedback received throughout the project, the Vision for the ATP is:

Active Transportation in Temiskaming Shores will be safe and accessible and contribute to a healthy, sustainable, and supportive community where people of all ages and abilities can participate.

OBJECTIVES

To support the broad vision statement, a series of more detailed Objectives have also been created based on the City's existing policy directives and the feedback received throughout the process of developing the ATP. The Objectives for the ATP are:

Enhance Safety – Ensure that all trips in Temiskaming Shores, regardless of travel choice, feel safe.

Improve Maintenance – Ensure that existing infrastructure for active transportation is well maintained, providing a high level of service at all times of the year.

Create Connectivity – Connect the City's major population centres and destinations and fill gaps in the City's existing networks

Improve Transportation Equity - Ensure that residents of all ages, abilities and backgrounds can move safely and conveniently through the City using any transportation mode that they choose

Raise Awareness - Leverage the strong sense of community in the City of Temiskaming Shores to develop a culture of care around active transportation

As the recommendations for this plan begin to take shape, the Vision and Objectives will provide an important accountability tool for the project – at each step, we will be checking our proposed next steps against these criteria to ensure that we are meeting the objectives as laid out in the Foundations of the Plan.