

Theme: Transportation



Fall time on a rural road in Peterborough County.

Where Are We Now?

The personal vehicle, in large part, remains the dominant method of choice for travel in the Greater Peterborough Area, which can be attributed to the predominantly rural setting of the community. In fact, approximately 67% of Greater Peterborough Area residents travel to work as a lone occupant in a vehicle. Our predominate mode of travel is a significant contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, contributes to road congestion, which impacts our economy and commute times, discourages physical activity, and isolates people from social interaction. This is widely recognized by many as an unsustainable path – one that we must change course on.

Fortunately, the region is home to a dedicated collection of people advocating for reduced reliance on personal vehicles as a means of getting around. This group is actively encouraging the widespread uptake of alternatives such as cycling, walking, public transit, and carpooling. Moreover, there has been a longstanding push in the community to increase connectivity with communities beyond our regional boundaries. This was highlighted in 2009 with the arrival of GO Service and the ongoing support for passenger rail linkages with the Greater Toronto Area.

Where Do We Want to Be in 25 Years?

Our Goal: We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

How Are We Going to Get There?

By following our *Strategic Directions*:

- Provide accessible and complete active transportation opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile.
- Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community.

Priority Actions

- Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update and integrate it to the greatest extent possible with existing and new cycling trails in the County of Peterborough.
- Assess innovative solutions to the mobility challenges facing rural people in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Note: Greater details of the *Priority Actions* are outlined in Appendix A. Additional short- and long-term Actions are offered in the List of Potential Initiatives (Appendix B).

Toolbox Resources

- **Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency** – Use Eco-driver Tips to change your driving habits in a more eco-friendly fashion.
- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area.
- **Green Your Vehicle Fleet** – Green your fleet and reduce emissions that impact climate change and human health by conserving fuel, implementing new technology, changing fleets to alternative fuels where feasible.
- **Green Defensive Driving Course** – Make all your employees better, safer, greener drivers using the Canada Safety Council's Green Defensive Driving Course.

Sustainability in Action

- Workplace Shifting Gears is a month-long competition in the City of Peterborough run annually by Peterborough Green-Up in partnership with the City of Peterborough, Peterborough Moves, the Peterborough County-City Health Unit, Wild Rock Outfitters, and Transport Canada. The campaign encourages people to walk, bike, take transit, and/or share a ride to work, or to work from home. In 2011, Shifting Gears had its best year yet with 1,250 people from more than 100 workplaces participating in the competition.
- Rail, a more energy efficient means of transporting goods than by truck, remains a prominent fixture in the Township of Havelock-Belmont-Methuen. With nepheline syenite being mined in Nephton and Blue Mountain, freight trains remain the method of choice for delivering this mineral to market.

THEME: TRANSPORTATION (A)

Goal

We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

Strategic Direction Supported

Provide accessible and complete *active transportation* opportunities that are attractive alternatives to the private automobile.

Priority Action

Complete the proposed Short-Term Cycling Network as outlined in the City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update and integrate it to the greatest extent possible with existing and new cycling trails in the County of Peterborough.

Description

As concerns escalate over fossil fuel consumption leading to resource depletion and a warming climate, a growing number of community members have returned to employing more active modes of transportation, such as cycling, as a means of getting around efficiently. The City of Peterborough's Comprehensive Transportation Plan Update identifies a Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network that would provide for a much more extensive cycling network within the City by 2021, with linkages to the County of Peterborough. Completion of this project would increase the ease and safety of getting around by bicycle in Peterborough, and in turn increase the likelihood of community members turning to alternatives to the private automobile.

Results from this action will support strategies under the following additional Themes:

- Energy
- Climate Change
- Healthy Communities

Activities

- Prioritize project completion as outlined in the Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network
- Implement Proposed Short-Term Cycling Network

Toolbox Resources

- **Peterborough's Short-Term Cycling Network** – City Staff report with implementation recommendation
- **Reducing Vehicle Use / Improving Vehicle Efficiency** – Use Eco-driver Tips to change your driving habits in a more eco-friendly fashion
- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area

- **Green Defensive Driving Course** – Make all your employees better, safer, greener drivers using the Canada Safety Council’s Green Defensive Driving Course

Potential Lead and Coordination

- City of Peterborough

Potential Partners

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • County of Peterborough • First Nations • Peterborough & the Kawarthas Tourism • Peterborough Bicycle Advisory Committee | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peterborough County-City Health Unit • Peterborough Green-Up • Townships • Transition Town Peterborough |
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Measure of Success

- Kilometres of bike lanes developed
- Participants in Shifting Gears

THEME: TRANSPORTATION (B)

Goal

We will have an accessible transportation network that places priority on active and efficient modes of transportation.

Strategic Direction Supported

Enhance public transportation that is accessible, affordable, efficient, and effective to support the needs of the community.

Priority Action

Assess innovative solutions to the mobility challenges facing people in the Greater Peterborough Area.

Description

For some in rural communities, accessing the amenities required in day-to-day life presents a significant challenge. For example, the Current Conditions report (Appendix E) identifies the difficulty of low income rural residents obtaining access health care and training opportunities. While GO services are available as well as Greyhound coach services in some parts of the County, transit amenities (such as Peterborough Transit) can only be found in the City of Peterborough. More and more, rural communities are turning to innovative solutions to address the mobility concerns of their residents. This project proposes to assess the mobility challenges faced by Greater Peterborough Area residents, and propose innovative, cost-effective solutions for addressing them.

Activities

- Form a working group to assess the mobility challenges for those in the Greater Peterborough Area and to consider innovative solutions for addressing these challenges such as transit, car sharing, community-supported (i.e., volunteer) ride programs, etc.
- Make accessible transportation a consideration for all new developments

Toolbox Resources

- **Community Wide/Rural Public Transit** – Implement a public transit system that links smaller, more rural communities around Greater Peterborough Area
- **Establishing a Working Group** – an addendum to the Toolbox which provides information and terms of reference for the establishment of a working group

Potential Lead and Coordination

- County of Peterborough

Potential Partners

- City of Kawartha Lakes Transit
- City of Peterborough Social Services Division
- Coach Canada
- Community Opportunity and Innovation Network
- City of Peterborough/Peterborough Transit
- First Nations
- Greyhound Canada
- GO Transit
- Peterborough Green-Up
- Peterborough Social Planning Council
- Service Clubs
- Townships
- United Way Member Agencies

Measures of Success

- Feasibility of solutions explored and assessed
- Increase in mobility of residents