

January 23, 2012

Official Plan Review
c/o Office of the City Clerk
City of Greater Sudbury
PO Box 5000, Stn. A
Sudbury, ON P3A 5P3



Re- Public Input - City of Greater Official Plan

The City of Greater Sudbury's Official Plan is intended to guide the growth and development of the city over the next 20 years, and therefore drives the development of the municipal infrastructure that is required to serve Sudbury's residents.

The Sudbury Cyclists Union is a group comprising of more than 250 Sudbury residents who have a vested interest in shaping the Official Plan to make cycling safer and accessible.

Along with a number of other community organizations, including the Coalition for a Liveable Sudbury, the Friends of Sudbury Transit, the Sudbury Pedestrian Federation, The Ontario Medical Association, the Ontario Ministry of Health Promotion, the Social Planning Council of Sudbury, the Sudbury & District Health Unit, the Rainbow Routes Association, the Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel, and a number of Sudbury Community Action Networks, the SCU strongly believes that developing a more safe and accessible cycling infrastructure is a critical goal that must be addressed by the Official Plan. Other processes like the recently-released Downtown Sudbury Master Plan and the current input to the Master Transportation Study also highlight the need to invest in cycling infrastructure.

Cycling is the most cost-effective mode of transportation, which also brings a number of economic, ecological and health-related benefits. It is a key component in the Greater Sudbury Healthy Community Strategy, and needs to be entrenched in the Official Plan. Developing a quality cycling network addresses a number of objectives in all 5 sections of the Official Plan.

We offer the following comments and suggestions for consideration in the next Official Plan amendment.

- Establish concrete goals and objectives to ensure that a safe and efficient walking/cycling network is completed by 2015. Difficulties and challenges should not provide an escape route for neglecting or omitting active transportation in our road renewals and construction activities.
- Along with a long-term priority ranking system, also ensure that the City incorporates walking/cycling development in all upcoming projects, opportunities and renewals.
- Establish yearly measurable deliverables in terms of building an active transportation system.
- For all city infrastructure projects, have a duty to consult with the Sustainable Mobility Panel and/or others having direct experience with active transportation. This will help ensure that all options are reviewed and that projects incorporate the most practical standards achievable.
- In project designs, prioritize active transportation and neighbourhood liveability over high speed traffic movement.