

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.



- Give equitable consideration to all modes of transportation.
- Plan to dedicate more resources to active transportation as a whole.
- Review speed limit policies to allow lower speed limits where warranted. The many advantages to slowing down speeds include increased biking because roads aren't so scary, the need for less infrastructure like speed bumps, better air quality and overall improved public safety.
- Review current use of salt and sand and reduce their overall use.

An abundance of studies show that active transportation can help address many of the 21st century transportation issues; from addressing road congestion and building a cost sustainable road network to more importantly, improving our health and building active neighbourhoods for ALL citizens. Rainbow Routes had a vision for Sudbury and the City pledged to have it done by 2015. With dedication and commitment, the SCU envisions Sudbury as a leading example for all Canadian municipalities.

Sincerely,

Sudbury Cyclists Union

Attachments:

- 1 - January 11 2012
Sudbury Cyclists Union Submission
Master Transportation Plan Public Information Session no.1
- 2- January 23 2012
SCU Speech – Special Meeting
City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan
- 3- January 23 2012
SCU Presentation – Special Meeting
City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan

January 23 2012
Planning Department - City of Greater Sudbury



Re- SCU Speech – Special Meeting
City of Greater Sudbury Official Plan

I'm here speaking on behalf of the Sudbury Cyclists Union, a group of more than 250 Sudbury citizens who want to make cycling safer and accessible. Our presentation tonight highlights key items which we would like included in the OP revision to ensure that a sustainable transportation network becomes a reality for this City.

Building a complete active transportation network will require time, effort, money and commitment. But the wheels have been set in motion; the City is undertaking a Transportation Master Study with much emphasis on sustainable transportation and citizen attention to sustainability has never been stronger. The OP has to clearly state that a sustainable transportation network in Sudbury WILL happen, that the City will honour prior pledges to pedestrians and cyclists, and this in the near future, not in 20 years time.

There will be challenges... But most are surmountable with proper attention and discussion. One specific challenge will be to get citizen "buy-in", required in part because active transportation has never been prioritized in the past. The OP needs to acknowledge that sustainability will lead the way, not business interests or road luxuries which we have gotten accustomed to. We must prioritize the transportation network for future generations, the youth, the elders and the growing population of those without cars. Our current transportation system is not sustainable. Through education, citizens need to be informed that changes are inevitable.

Building an active transportation network will cost money. This inevitably happens to any public infrastructure which has, to a certain extent, been neglected and placed low on the priority list. It is, however, an investment that can no longer be delayed. We must look at progress, beyond the initial capital costs as the potential savings are limitless. An active transportation system can help solve the many traffic problems we are facing: congestion, capacity issues, land grid-locks, parking, maintenance, etc. For example, increased active transportation could potentially result in postponing the University/South End link, saving not only millions of dollars but also our natural heritage. this link will create yet additional traffic and will increase road maintenance costs, Students shouldn't be borrowing money for a car and fuel, nor should our hospital be spending limited resources on a parking lot.

So I urge this Council and City staff – Let's set our priorities straight. The OP must be strongly worded to ensure that an active and sustainable network is given immediate priority. It needs to include long-term as well as interim solutions to provide cyclists with safe and healthy bike lanes, bike paths, shared roadways, and appropriate signage. It needs to mandate the implementation of policies that will actively encourage more citizens to cycle. It needs to provide for education and information campaigns that will target the safety of cyclists, pedestrians and motorists. It needs to ensure that Sudbury citizens of all ages and all demographics have the opportunity to live in a healthy environment that includes cycling.

Investing in an active transportation network will bring concrete benefits to Sudbury, including infrastructure and health care costs savings, the attraction of ecotourism opportunities, and the ability to satisfy existing and potential citizens who demand a healthier lifestyle.

We have nothing to lose but a mere fraction of what we spend yearly on our roads. Let's see progress, past our immediate needs, and build wisely with the future in mind. This will ultimately lead to a healthy and sustainable Sudbury for ALL those who make up this City.



Municipal transportation planning has been largely focused on personal motorized vehicles in the past. However, Municipalities from all over including the City of Greater Sudbury, are realizing that the transportation system is more than just cars and trucks. The Master Transportation Study currently being undertaken by this City, which places much emphasis on active transportation, is a leading example and is worth noting.

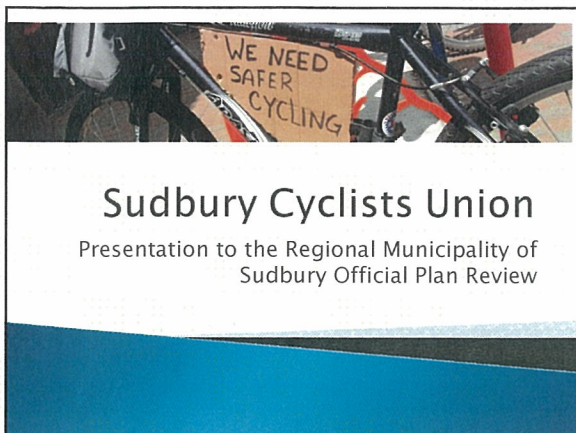
The Sudbury Cyclists Union is a group of more than 250 listed supporters who all have an interest in making cycling safer and more accessible. We would like the following goals and objectives to be included in the Master Transportation Plan:

- The Plan should establish yearly measurable deliverables, including targets, timeframes and budgets on building an active transportation system
- A safe and efficient cycling network should be completed by 2015, consistent with the City's pledge of making Sudbury the most pedestrian and cycling friendly City in Ontario
- Design of city infrastructure projects should have a duty to consult with the Sustainable Mobility Panel and/or others having direct experience with active transportation
- Commitments in developing a transportation culture that will result in healthier lifestyles and enhanced ecotourism opportunities, such as creating active transportation challenges
- A stronger commitment to the Junction Creek Waterway Park
- A complete cycling network which connects citizens to their communities and areas of interest
- Proper signage and direction for cyclists
- Citizen education campaigns that target pedestrians, cyclists and motorists alike
- Police participation in making cycling a safe activity in Sudbury
- Reviewing current use of salt and sand in order to reduce their overall use.
- Reviewing speed limit policies as to not limit posted speed reductions where they are warranted. Likewise, reviewing posted speed limits on busy streets in order to increase driver awareness of their surroundings

An abundance of studies show that active transportation can help address many of the 21st century transportation issues; from addressing road congestion and building a cost sustainable road network to more importantly improving our health and building active neighbourhoods for ALL citizens. Rainbow Routes had a vision for Sudbury to be the most pedestrian and cycling friendly City in Ontario and the City pledged to have it done by 2015. The City needs to dedicate more resources and consideration during policy reviews to active transportation as a whole in order for Sudbury to put itself on the Canadian map as being the most pedestrian and cycling friendly City to live in.

Sincerely,

Sudbury Cyclists Union



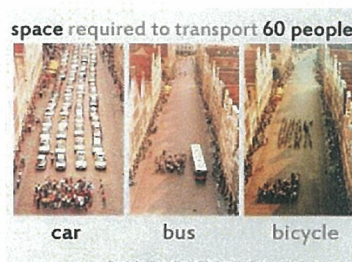
The SCU believes that

- ▶ developing a more safe and accessible cycling infrastructure is a critical goal that must be addressed by the Official Plan
- ▶ cycling is the most cost-effective mode of transportation, which also brings a number of economic, ecological and health-related benefits.
- ▶ developing a quality cycling network addresses a number of objectives in all 5 sections of the Official Plan.

Our Goals for 2012–2015

- ▶ an integrated, sustainable and safe transportation network in Sudbury by 2015
- ▶ long-term and interim solutions, including bike lanes, bike paths, shared roadways, and appropriate signage
- ▶ safer roads for cyclists and motorists alike
- ▶ education campaigns to ensure safe roadways
- ▶ healthier lifestyles for citizens of Sudbury that include a variety of cycling options

Transportation



Benefits to Sudbury

- ▶ infrastructure cost savings to the City and therefore to taxpayers, many of whom are cyclists
- ▶ elimination of many traffic problems
- ▶ a healthier community of citizens with corresponding health care cost savings
- ▶ economic growth opportunities
- ▶ equitable distribution of city tax dollars to all citizens, including those who do not drive cars

Guiding Principles

- ▶ Equitable consideration to all modes of transportation
- ▶ A priority of active transportation and neighbourhood liveability over high speed traffic movement
- ▶ Allocation of more resources to active transportation as a whole

The Official Plan Must Include

- ▶ Concrete goals and objectives to ensure that a safe and efficient walking/cycling network is completed by 2015
- ▶ A long-term priority ranking system AND inclusion of walking/cycling development in all upcoming projects
- ▶ Yearly measurable deliverables
- ▶ For all projects, consultation with the Sustainable Mobility Panel and/or others having direct experience with active transportation

Other Recommendations

- ▶ Public relation campaigns to educate motorists and cyclists
- ▶ Lower speed limit policies
- ▶ Reduction of salt and sand on roads
- ▶ Integration of cycling with public transit

Thank You!

