



Sudbury Cyclists Union

Connecting Greater Sudbury Cyclists

June 6, 2018

City of Greater Sudbury Council
200 Brady Street,
Sudbury, ON
P3A 5P3

Re: Regent St. Crossing and Transportation Demand Management Plan

On June 12, the City of Greater Sudbury will receive a Bicycle Friendly Community Award from the Share the Road Coalition. This prestigious award is indicative of the great strides that we've done together as a community in the last few years. Your support for additional cycling infrastructure and critical active transportation policies has laid a good framework for safe, comfortable, convenient, and connected cycling for residents of all ages in Greater Sudbury. Receiving this award means that Greater Sudbury has been recognized provincially for its support for cycling. It is now part of the 40 other Ontario communities with a Bicycle Friendly Award, and the 3rd in Northern Ontario to get this designation.

In order to keep the momentum going, it is important that we continue to build new infrastructure, link existing infrastructure, and implement and fund policies that support active transportation.

We are extremely happy to see that the Regent Street pedestrian/cyclist crossing was approved by the Operations Committee. This is an important step forward for our community. We are also glad to see that the Transportation Demand Management Plan is being recommended to Council. This plan will provide the framework for important cycling programming and projects in 2018. Please see comments below regarding these two important cycling initiatives.

Regent Street Pedestrian/Cyclist Crossing

The new pedestrian/cyclist Regent Street crossing that was previously approved by the Operations Subcommittee will provide more connectivity and support for safe cycling in our city. This is an extremely important piece of infrastructure that will link two pieces of the Junction Creek Waterway Park trail, and that will allow pedestrians and cyclists of all ages and abilities to safely cross this busy 4-lane arterial road. This trail is used by many local cyclists, including families, for both recreational and commuting purposes. It is also part of the Trans-Canada Trail, and part of the new provincial cycling network that is being implemented by the Government of Ontario.

In April of this year, as part of the province's #CycleON Strategy, the Ministry of Transportation identified the following cycling routes in Northern Ontario: the Lake Huron North Shore provincial cycling route (from Sault Ste. Marie to Greater Sudbury), the Georgian Bay provincial cycling route (around Georgian Bay, including links to Espanola, Greater Sudbury, and Parry Sound), and the Voyageur provincial cycling route (Ottawa to Greater Sudbury). These three routes intersect in our downtown area, and the section of the Junction Creek Waterway Park trail that crosses Regent Street is located on two of these routes.

For more information:

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/safety/province-wide-cycling-network.shtml>

<http://www.mto.gov.on.ca/english/publications/cycle-action-plan.shtml>

The #CycleON Strategy and the now approved provincial cycling route network will mean that Greater Sudbury will be able to take advantage of the cycling tourism economy that is currently developing in Southern Ontario and on Manitoulin Island. An example is the Great Waterfront Trail Adventure, which is sold out every year, and which attracts 250 cyclists from across Canada and around the world. This 7-day cycle tour showcases local attractions and boosts local economies. The cycle tour organizers are tentatively planning on doing the Lake Huron North Shore provincial route next year, and Greater Sudbury will benefit from this opportunity to showcase our great city. <https://waterfronttrail.org/>. If this happens, these cyclists will be using the Regent Street crossing.

In October 2017, the SCU and Rainbow Routes ran a very successful Celebrate by Bike ride, which was funded by an Ontario150 grant. Over 100 cyclists used this section of the Junction Creek Waterway Park trail as part of their ride. This included experienced cyclists, as well as families with small children. As organizers of this event, we had to pay for two police officers and two police cruisers to ensure the safety of these riders crossing Regent Street. This clearly demonstrates the critical need to implement safe crossing infrastructure for this local and provincial cycling route.

If we truly want to become a more cycling-friendly city, making these direct connections are critical to encouraging more people to ride bikes, as taking detours of any kind is often a significant deterrent from people choosing to ride. What we hear from our members is that, like for vehicles, routes need to be direct, safe and convenient.

We thank you for completing this link required for the safety of both local pedestrians and cyclists, and also for the touring cyclists who will visit our city and grow the cycling tourism economy in Greater Sudbury and in Northern Ontario.

Transportation Demand Management Plan

The SCU also supports the proposed Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan. This plan will help drive a culture shift from single-car passenger trips to other modes of transportation, including cycling, by working with community partners to deliver much needed education and other supportive programs. We ask you to approve this plan and the proposed actions that will promote and ensure healthy lifestyles and active transportation in our city.

Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,



Rachelle Niemela

Chair, Sudbury Cyclists Union

<http://sudburycyclistsunion.ca>