

Community Focus Bulletin:

Creating Community Conversations



Prepared by Merriam & Associates

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Our Planning Philosophy:

The Seventh Generation Principle takes its name from the Great Law of the Haudenosaunee, the founding document of the Iroquois Confederacy, the oldest living participatory democracy on Earth. It is based on an ancient Iroquois philosophy that:

“In our every deliberation, we must consider the impact of our decisions on the next seven generations.”

City-wide Transportation Master Plan: Your input is needed

The information is online at <https://www.peterborough.ca/en/news/city-wide-transportation-master-plan.aspx>.

The City of Peterborough has announced it will be conducting a comprehensive review and update of the City-wide Transportation Master Plan. The project will begin in September 2020 and is anticipated to be completed by December 2021.

The goals of the Transportation Master Plan are to:

- Develop a transportation system that supports active transportation, transit, transit demand management and integrate with land use planning to support the growth and economic prosperity of the City;
- Provide connections between the City, regional and provincial transportation systems; Encourage the use of sustainable modes of travel to contribute to healthier communities, active lifestyles, safer streets, and reduced pollution; and
- Support movement of people and goods through an efficient, integrated and multi-modal system that meets the needs of all people.

The City’s press release states: “Public input is essential to the Transportation Master Plan and there will be several consultation and engagement activities hosted to collect feedback and input. Residents, stakeholders, businesses and decision-makers will have an opportunity to shape the development of the plan. “

Public consultation and project progress updates over the course of the study will be available via the study webpage: www.connectptbo.ca/moveptbo. The public can also follow the City's social media for project updates and information.

"We want your input to shape this plan to make sure that it reflects the needs, opinions and interests of those who live, work and play within the City," said Councillor Don Vassiliadis, co-chair of the transportation portfolio.

The Transportation Master Plan will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of Phases 1 and 2 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment which is an approved process under the Environmental Assessment Act.

For additional information, members of the media are invited to contact the undersigned:

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How this plan can benefit from previous community consultations/plans that support the need for a transportation system for a healthier community

1. The city's draft Official Plan released in 2019 states:

- Successful communities are supported by planning public streets, spaces and facilities to be safe, meet the needs of pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and motorists, foster social interaction and facilitate community connectivity.
- The development of the City's transportation system shall be directed to achieve the following objectives:
 - To develop, support and maintain a convenient, accessible, affordable and integrated transportation system that incorporates and accommodates **active transportation**, public transit and vehicular traffic;
 - To encourage the use and development of all modes of transportation, considering such factors as land use, economics, growth and urban form, economic development, affordability and energy conservation, to provide access to services and facilities throughout the City;
 - To plan for a more balanced transportation system which supports and encourages the increased use of public transit, cycling and pedestrian facilities;
 - To have regard for the overall quality of life of all City residents in the provision of transportation services and facilities;
 - To provide a transportation system with appropriate connections between City, regional and provincial transportation systems; and,
 - To implement a transportation system that includes the management of transportation demand within the City, through the application of appropriate, selective Transportation Demand Management (TDM) measures in order to affect how, when and by what mode travel is conducted within the City.
- The City's transportation system will be planned to:
 - Be safe, energy efficient and fully accessible;
 - Offer a balance of transportation choices that reduces reliance upon any single mode and promotes transit and active transportation;
 - Provide connectivity among transportation modes for moving people and goods; and,
 - Address future projected needs within the City in consultation with the County of Peterborough, neighbouring municipalities and other levels of government.
- In terms of Active Transportation this Plan requires that:

- All development contribute to the creation of a 4-season walkable and connected community with multiple destinations within walking or cycling distance of all residents.
- Sidewalks, bike lanes and multi-use trails will connect to the street network and to community amenities and will ensure that corridors between key destinations are fully accessible and support active transportation. The winter maintenance of active transportation facilities will be an important consideration, particularly along routes that connect pedestrians to key destinations such as schools.
- Active transportation routes, such as sidewalks, bike lanes and multi-use trails, will include streetscaping elements that promote pedestrian and cyclist comfort and safety, and are designed to enhance accessibility for all residents, in compliance with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act.

2. Age Friendly Peterborough: 2017 Community Action Plan called for:

1. Affordable and flexible rural transportation options

Rural transportation options help older adults access services, and take part in social activities, supporting them to remain in their community of choice as they age.

2. Improved public transit in the City of Peterborough

Reliable, affordable, accessible, and convenient public transit systems increase older adults' mobility and ability to travel independently in the community.

3. A safe and well-maintained road network

Well-maintained roads with enhanced safety features can support older adults to travel safely and confidently throughout the region.

4. A safe, well-maintained, and connected active transportation network

Active transportation infrastructure supports people to remain active as they age.

5. Adequate, accessible parking

Accessible parking can enable older adults to complete daily tasks, run errands, and easily access services.

6. Complete community design

Communities that include a mix of housing, services, and recreation spaces support older adults to remain in their community of choice as they age. Specifically the plan called for the municipality(s) to:

- Support the creation of enhanced traffic study requirements for subdivision approval processes that address multi-modal transportation.
- Support the co-location of health and social services in integrated community hubs as feasible.

- Advocate for policies that encourage the development of new housing in complete communities that provide for essential services within a 10 minute walk.
- Advocate for the adoption of higher greenfield density targets for serviced settlement areas than currently exist in order to enable the building of complete communities.

3. Sustainable Peterborough’s Community Plan completed in 2012 identified Transportation as one of the 11 theme areas to build and maintain a sustainable community. It’s goal was identified as:

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

Its’ strategic directions for transportation were:

- 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.

4. City of Peterborough’s Community Well-Being Plan in 2019 identified Transportation as one of seven themes for well-being. Specifically the plan stated:

“All residents can get around their community by walking, riding, driving or public transit.”

Further, participants identified:

- Active use of side-walks, bike lanes, and trails (increased/in good repair) is seen as environmentally friendly and promotes a healthy, active lifestyle vs. overuse of cars.
- Public transportation (transit) also valued as it supports youth, students, seniors, those with accessibility needs, and ensures community members can actively participate in community life.
- Improvements recommended include more buses and more / improved routes (i.e. with access to popular destinations). Transportation equity needed for accessibility improvements and more options in rural areas.
- Some community ideas:
 - ✓ ● Transportation – affordable and accessible
 - ✓ ● Active transportation
 - ✓ ● Walking infrastructure (snow removal and lighting etc.)
 - ✓ ● Cycling infrastructure
 - ✓ ● County transit

Questions to pose in developing a Transportation Master Plan:

1. Will this plan identify how a regional bus and train system will be reinstated?
2. How will this support the need to stop urban sprawl?

3. Will there be commitment from municipal government to take innovative steps in developing a plan for heated sidewalks by partnering with the private sector?

For more information about our Community Focus Bulletins or to view past editions go to

<http://www.merriam-associates.com/contact-us>

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