

## **STUDY COMMENCEMENT NOTICE**

### **Why is a Bikeways Network Being Planned?**

The Bikeways Plan will provide a variety of safe cycling routes and encourage a more active lifestyle. It will also provide transportation alternatives to the private automobile and thereby decrease reliance on motorized transportation. Overall, it will contribute to the health of our communities. Research from other cities across the country and world has shown that when provided the option, people will choose cycling and other forms of non-motorized travel as part of their daily commute, for shopping and daily life as well as for leisure pursuits.



Photo: Dan Burden

As the network is developed the intention is to plan mainly for bicycle based travel but with an overall focus on accommodating Active Transportation (AT) modes of travel which include all non-motorized, human based forms of transportation such as walking, hiking, in-line skating, cross country skiing and so on.

### **Who is Involved?**

This project has been initiated by a committee comprised of representatives from the Municipality of Colchester, Town of Truro, Village of Bible Hill, Hub Cycle Cycling Club and the Living Earth Council. Involvement of other stakeholder organizations and community input will be key components of development of the Bikeways Plan. The committee has retained the services of Hatch Mott MacDonald for this project.

### **Where Are We Now?**

Elements of a successful cycling plan are already in place across the Colchester Region but a complete and connected plan has yet to be prepared. Having a connected network which is responsive to the needs of both residents and visitors in place will not only create more functional routes for present cyclists but invite new segments of the population to experience the benefits of an active lifestyle. Over the coming weeks, the project team will be reviewing information covering cycling initiatives in the Region as well as health and wellness research from across Canada and beyond. The team will be working to develop cycling and multi-modal connections and to link any draft routing into surrounding areas while providing access to destinations for both residents and visitors.



## Next Steps

Over the summer months the project team will be mapping existing AT facilities as well as various area attractions and barriers to bicycle travel. This will be brought to the public for input and once this input has been integrated into the study process, a candidate cycling routes map and supporting information will be brought to area stakeholders, key municipal officials and other involved groups and organizations for input. At this time, a public community workshop will be held to discuss the draft network and to further refine the network.

Once the draft network has been determined, the project team will move forward with an implementation and policy development strategy that will consider a number of factors to establish cycling facility types for each route. Recommended facility types will include on-road signed only routes, formal bicycle lanes and paved shoulders and will link sections of current off-road trails across the Region with new recommended off-road routes. The design stage of the project will provide a number of on and off-road design options for network links which can then be used by the associated Municipalities to implement the network according to prudent budgetary and physical planning requirements.

## A Final Word

The Bikeways Plan will be completed in the late fall or early winter of 2008. In order to accommodate as much public involvement as possible, both public sessions are tentatively scheduled for after the summer season in September and October. Specific dates and details of the sessions will be made available as the project progresses. Once complete, achieving the full vision of the Plan will then become a longer term initiative of the involved Municipalities and one that will require continued examination of various needs and trends as well as following a phased approach to realization of the complete network.



If you have any questions or wish to add any input into the development of the plan please contact one of the below project team members. We encourage your input and look forward to the completion of this exciting initiative.

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