

TO:	CHAIR AND MEMBERS CIVIC WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 2, 2016
FROM:	JOHN BRAAM, P.ENG. MANAGING DIRECTOR, ENVIRONMENTAL & ENGINEERING SERVICES AND CITY ENGINEER and JOHN M. FLEMING, MCIP, RPP MANAGING DIRECTOR, PLANNING & CITY PLANNER
SUBJECT:	LONDON ON BIKES CYCLING MASTER PLAN STATUS REPORT

RECOMMENDATION

That, on the recommendation of the Managing Director, Environmental & Engineering Services and City Engineer and the Managing Director, Planning & City Planner, the following status report for the *London ON Bikes* Cycling Master Plan **BE RECEIVED** for information.

PREVIOUS REPORTS PERTINENT TO THIS MATTER
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- Civic Works Committee – June 19, 2012 – London 2030 Transportation Master Plan
- January 6, 2015 – Civic Works Committee – London Cycling Master Plan Study Appointment of Consulting Engineer
- June 2, 2015 – Civic Works Committee – London ON Bikes Cycling Master Plan Status Report

2015 - 19 STRATEGIC PLAN

London ON Bikes supports the objectives identified in the Strategic Plan. London ON Bikes contributes to Building a Sustainable City – Convenient and Connected Mobility Choices, by implementing and enhancing safe mobility choices for cyclists. London ON Bikes also plays a role in Strengthening Our Community – Amazing Art, Culture and Recreational Experiences with an investment in parks.

DISCUSSION

Purpose

This report provides a status update on the development of the new Cycling Master Plan through the *London ON Bikes* process.

Context

Continued investment in cycling infrastructure throughout London supports the Official Plan and numerous Council approved master plans. The Official Plan and Smart Moves Transportation Master Plan identify the need to develop a sustainable transportation network that promotes environmentally beneficial transportation choices for all users. The Parks & Recreation Strategic Master Plan and the Thames Valley Corridor Plan places a high priority on expanding and completing gaps in the City's cycling network due to its success in providing low cost, accessible, multi-generational recreation for all Londoners. And both the London Strengthening Neighbourhoods Strategy and the Age Friendly London Action Plan attributes significant value with developing infrastructure that encourages active forms of transportation, while improving connectivity in and between London neighbourhoods.



The benefits of cycling are multi-fold including mental and physical health benefits, economic vitality and tourism spin-offs. Efforts to retain and attract businesses and employees to London include strong links to the quality of life in London and specifically refer to our parks and pathway system. Quality of life issues have been identified as a key factor in retaining recent graduates from Western and Fanshawe in London.

The Thames Valley Parkway and the neighbourhood pathways that link to it are the backbone of the parks system. The addition of pathways that permit increased access and use of parks and open spaces makes our parks system and neighbourhoods safer. The pathway system continues to provide for active-living opportunities for all Londoners, regardless of age and ability.

On-road cycling facilities are being considered by Civic Administration as part of a complete streets approach that represents a transition from road capacity and safety



measures to a more holistic mobility vision that includes vibrancy of the public space.

The development of London ON Bikes is a key next step to further progress the cycling culture that has been growing in London. London ON Bikes will guide future efforts on infrastructure, programs and policies to make London a more bicycle-friendly city.



Community Engagement

Receiving ideas and suggestions from people interested in cycling is key to the success of this plan. The project team has been using both conventional and unconventional techniques to engage Londoners. Efforts have been made to take the project outreach to where Londoners are versus solely the traditional approach of public meetings and open houses. This includes venues where people interested in cycling may congregate as well as general-interest attractions.



SHIFT, our Rapid Transit Initiative is also the subject of broad outreach efforts. Given synergies between the project themes and teams, engagement efforts are being coordinated to engage Londoners in a single discussions on multiple topics. To date, London ON Bikes has reached out at over two dozen public events in 2015, including:

- London Home Builders Association Lifestyle Home Show
- London Spring Home and Garden Show;
- London Tweed Ride;
- London Bicycle Festival;
- Dundas Street Festival;
- Gathering on the Green;
- London Rib Festival;
- SunFest Summer Festival;
- Home County Music and Art Festival;
- Western Fair; and,
- Public Information Centre at the Central Library.



Additionally, the London ON Bikes team has provided guest presentations at events hosted by groups including London Cycle Link, London Cycle Club, Canadian Institute of Transportation Engineers, Canadian Association of Retired People the Age Friendly London Network, London Strengthening Neighbourhoods and Nature London. The London Youth Advisory Council also provided a report with cycling focussed ideas from the youth of London.

Council's advisory committees have also been interested in the project. Presentations have been made to the following advisory committees:

- Cycling Advisory Committee (CAC)
- Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
- Environment and Ecological Advisory Committee (EEPAC)
- London Diversity and Race Relations Advisory Committee (LDRRAC)
- Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC)
- Advisory Committee on the Environment (ACE)

The Cycling Advisory Committee has been particularly active. The committee has dedicated a subcommittee to the project and has provided input into the Master Plan process at several points in the study development.

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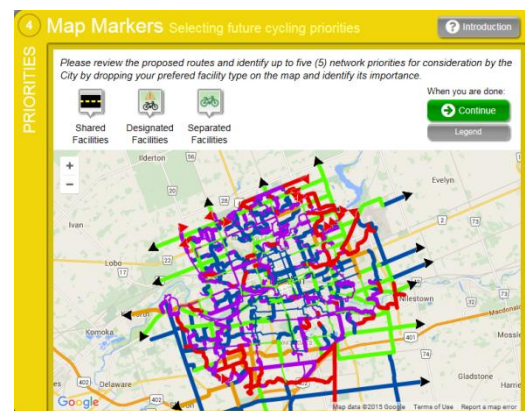
The London ON Bikes team has engaged with interested local partner groups including the Middlesex London Health Unit, London Health Sciences Centre, London Police, Western University, Fanshawe College and adjacent municipalities.

The project team is striving to learn lessons from other municipalities and experts in the field. Recently the City hosted an Operations and Risk Workshop with representation from the City of Hamilton, City of Toronto, County of Middlesex, Ontario Good Roads Association, Share the Road Coalition, London Police and private legal counsel.

Website

Many interested Londoners have provided feedback and suggestions via the website

www.londONbikes.ca. The website has hosted two surveys, a map-based comment tool, a Map My Ride© ride-tracking app and other interactive features.



Accomplishments to Date

The development of the new Cycling Master Plan is well underway by the project team that includes members of Environmental and Engineering Services and Planning. The team has:

1. Prepared maps of existing and previously proposed conditions;
2. Identified a network of new cycling routes for future implementation;
3. Identified preliminary cycling route facility types using provincial design guidance;
4. Engaged Operations staff to collectively consider design features and operation methods to improve 12-month facility functionality;
5. Prepared a discussion paper to engage Londoners on cycling on sidewalks; and,
6. Gathered input on bicycle parking.

The next steps planned to complete the Master Plan process include:

1. Identifying synergies for network improvements with other capital construction programs;
2. Costing and prioritization of infrastructure improvements;
3. Identification of education and awareness programs;
4. Identification of transportation demand management priorities;
5. Compilation of an easy-to-read report; and,
6. Presentation of the new Master Plan to Civic Works Committee.

The new Master Plan will be presented to Civic Works Committee upon its completion in the spring of 2016. Subject to Council approval, the document would subsequently be made available for public review and comment.

What Improvements Are Happening Now?

London has a long history of providing the supports necessary to make cycling in the city enjoyable. Cycling infrastructure such as in-boulevard paths and the Thames



Valley Parkway, have been built since the 1980s. The current cycling infrastructure network is a combination of on-road lanes, in-boulevard paths and open space pathways that forms a network over 300 km long.

Staff have not been waiting for the completion of the new Master Plan to implement additional improvements as the 2005 Cycling Master Plan serves as a solid foundation for the current work. Civic administration has been implementing improvements on an ongoing basis. In 2015, the following improvements were made:

- 22 lane-kilometres of on-road cycle lanes were constructed including:

Hyde Park Road	Oxford Street to CPR
Ridout Street / Upper Queens Street / Nixon Avenue	Base Line Road to Southdale Road
Egerton Street	Homan Street to Thames River
Riverside Drive	Beaverbrook Avenue to Wonderland Road
White Oaks Road	Southdale Road to Exeter Road
Oxford Street West	Sanitorium Road to Commissioners Road West
Wonderland Road North	Eagletrace Drive to Sunningdale Road
Trafalgar Street	Highbury Avenue to Ash Street
Colborne Street	Grey Street to Nixon Street
Second Street	Dixie Street to Dundas Street

- Implementation of a new Thames Valley Parkway underpass at Highbury Avenue at the north branch of Thames River;
- New recreational pathway pedestrian underpass incorporated into the Gore Road Bridge replacement project in Kiwanis Park;
- Implementation of 900 m of new and upgraded recreational pathway in Hastings Park;
- Implementation of 'bike destination' amenities in Ed Blake Park, Medway Park, Springbank Gardens, Kiwanis Park and at the Forks of the Thames;
- Implementation and assumption of approximately 2,200 m of new recreational pathway associated with growth areas and new subdivision development; and,
- Completion of the Kiwanis Park / CNR Multi-Use Pathway Crossing Environmental Assessment (EA) and commencement of detailed design.



In addition, several promotion, education and cycling culture initiatives were started/completed in 2015, including:

- Purchase and installation of bike racks to continue to add to the bike lock up network;
- Reprint and distribution of existing Bike Map (due to popular demand);
- Design and release of a 'tear-away' Bike Map consistent with maps used in the tourism industry;

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- Completion of the Give Active Transportation a Go! campaign in partnership with the Middlesex-London Health Unit. This campaign encouraged employees at five workplaces to try walking, cycling and taking transit to work;
- Discussion of secure bike parking in the downtown area and the use of bike corrals;
- City staff support for community cycling events, including Grickle Grass Festival, London Tweed Ride, Gathering on the Green, Dundas Street Festival, Big Bike Giveaway, and the Southwest Challenge;
- Development and discussion of cycling destinations in key areas of London to support local cyclists and businesses, including exploring the relationship with tourism;
- Co-hosted an Ontario By Bike Cycling Tourism Workshop, geared at local businesses; and,
- Cycling safety information shared at several events, including the Bicycle Festival, Gathering on the Green, and the Western Fair.

The following projects are proposed for 2016:

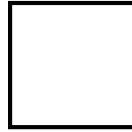
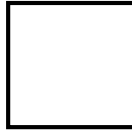
- Construction of new on-road cycling lanes on:

Cheapside Street	McNay to Highbury Avenue
Commissioners Road West	Wonderland Road to Viscount Ave
Riverside Drive	Woodward Avenue Intersection
Trafalgar Street	Ash Street to Oak Street (with sharrows from Oak Street to Egerton Street)
Fanshawe College Boulevard/Sanford Street	Oxford Street to Huron Street
Bruce Street	Ridout Street to Wharncliffe Road
Ridgewood Crescent	Southcrest to Greenwood

- Construction of new on-road buffered cycle lanes on:

Sarnia Road	Wonderland Road to Sleightholme Avenue
Fanshawe Park Road East	Adelaide Street to Mclean Drive

- Implementation and assumption of 1300 metres of new Thames Valley Parkway in the Victoria on the River Subdivision, South Branch of the Thames River;
- Extension of Stoney Creek Pathway System east to Stackhouse Avenue;
- Completion of a key connection along the Stoney Creek Pathway at Adelaide Street North as part of the Fanshawe Park Road East construction;
- Implementation of approximately 3,500 metres of new recreational pathway associated with growth areas and new subdivision development;
- Completion of the Thames Valley Parkway North Branch Connection Environmental Assessment and commencement of detailed design;
- Completion of the Richmond Street Multi-Use Pathway Crossing EA;
- Initiate detailed design for a new TVP pedestrian underpass at Hamilton Road, South Branch; and,
- Initiate detailed design for extension of the TVP into the Old Victoria Hospital Lands on the South Branch.



The design of on-road cycling facilities in 2016 road reconstruction projects have been modified as possible to reflect the draft recommendations of the Master Plan. The design of the Fanshawe Park Road East and Sarnia Road Widening projects was modified to include bicycle lane buffers for added cyclist safety and comfort. The treatment of these buffers will initially be via pavement markings with consideration of additional delineation in the future in conjunction with operational/maintenance considerations.



The Province of Ontario is beginning to fund municipal cycling infrastructure. The Kiwanis Park / CNR Multi-Use Pathway Crossing Project was submitted in an application for provincial funding through the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program. The Ministry of Transportation is currently reviewing project applications. This project is planned for construction in 2017 subject to approvals.

In addition, the following promotion, education and cycling culture initiatives are planned for 2016:

- Celebrate cycling and the approval of the Cycling Master Plan with events planned. Watch for details coming soon;
- Introduce two bike corrals in on-street parking spots in two central areas;
- Install four bike fix-it stations in four locations across the city that are easily accessible to cyclists;
- Install more bike racks on public property;
- Test bike lockers downtown for long-term employee parking needs;
- Improve five parks throughout London to make them more of a bike-friendly destination, by adding facilities cyclists need. Increase actions with bike friendly destinations across London to enhance locations and opportunities;
- Launch London Bike History plaques, three plaques describing the history of cycling in London, installed along the main branch of the TVP;
- Redesign the Bike & Walk Map, taking into account all the public feedback received in 2014 and 2015; and,
- Present cycling safety and information in new, more user-friendly ways, both online and through partner organizations.

CONCLUSION

The London ON Bikes Cycling Master Plan development is progressing well. The new Master Plan will provide the guidance required to transition London from a good cycling city to a great one.

The Community Engagement efforts have been extensive and have resulted in a very good level of feedback. Many Londoners are keen to cycle and have opinions on what improvements would encourage this. This input has guided the Master Plan.

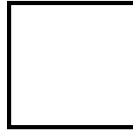
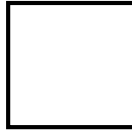
The final phases of the Master Plan creation are underway and will be presented to Civic Works Committee in the spring of 2016.

Cycling improvements and programs continue throughout the city and are not waiting upon completion of the Master Plan.

Acknowledgements

This report was prepared with input from Jeff Bruin and Andrew Macpherson, Environmental and Parks Planning and Allison Miller, Environmental Programs.

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2016 Planned New Cycling Infrastructure

