



Bicycles on Sidewalks By-Law Amendment



Public Participation Meeting
September 10, 2012

Background

- Current by-law does not allow bicycles of any kind on the sidewalk, making it illegal for kids & youth to bike on sidewalks.
- Municipal Council directed the Civic Administration to review the Streets By-Law (S1) related to bicycles on sidewalks
- Proposed by-law amendments intended to encourage minors to cycle and to recognize cycling as a method of active transportation.

Current By-Law

2.12 Motor vehicle - bicycle - on sidewalk - exceptions

No person shall, without lawful authority, either by himself or by permitting others, operate a motor vehicle or bicycle along a sidewalk. This section shall not apply to a person who,

- (a) operates an Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Device due to a disability along a sidewalk;
- (b) operates a motor vehicle or bicycle across that portion of a sidewalk which intersects with a lawful private entrance;
or
- (c) operates a bicycle on that portion of a sidewalk which connects a bicycle path with a roadway.

CSCP Advisory Committee Proposal

- Expand exemptions to allow children under 14 to ride on the sidewalk with wheels less than 50 cm in size
- Also allow an adult to accompany the child on the sidewalk



Staff Considerations

- Enforceable?
 - Most other Ontario municipalities base their restrictions solely on wheel size
 - Children don't typically carry ID
 - Under the HTA cyclists are not required to carry ID
- Other sidewalk users, including vulnerable users

Staff Proposal – Round 1

- Bicycles with wheel diameter $< 61\text{cm}$ on the sidewalk while ridden by a minor (under 18)
- This age cut-off would be easier to enforce





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Public Comments – Key Themes

- Some argued all cyclists should be allowed on the sidewalk, most thought children should be able to, and very few agreed with 18
- More education is needed for cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians.
- Motorized bicycles must be kept off the sidewalk.

New Proposed By-Law Amendment

- Under 14 with a wheel diameter under 61cm allowed to ride on sidewalk
- Pedestrians maintain the right of way



Rationale

- Balance between safety of vulnerable users and encouraging children to cycle
- Transition between elementary and high school
- Educational



Education

- Build awareness of the by-law change
- Rules of riding on the sidewalk





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Questions?



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