

Active Transportation and Traffic Safety Task Force

Final Recommendations

Presented by Anna Pandos and Doug Bowes

Priorities Committee

April 8, 2025

About the Task Force

Comprised of seven public members, one member of Council (Cllr. Tonita) and one alternate member of Council (Cllr. Anderson)

Koreen
Anderson

Doug Bowes

Jamie
Fraleigh

Tracey
Giroux

Leah
Hickman

Jason
Mundy
(Chair)

Anna
Pandos
(Vice Chair)



Supported by Administration representatives from Transportation Engineering and Operations

Mandate of the Task Force

Established by Council Bylaw 15-2023 with a mandate to:

- a) develop a report for Council with advice and opportunities from a community and active transportation user perspective for pedestrian and cyclist safety and functionality; and
- b) advise and support administration to ensure the active transportation user lens is considered as the County implements identified plans, strategies, and priorities to enhance safety while achieving accessibility and transportation goals for all road users through strategic infrastructure and operational improvements.

Development of recommendations

- Task Force met ten times from March 2024 to March 2025
- Provided with information on:
 - Strathcona County's strategic planning documents
 - Current County efforts to support active transportation (AT) and vulnerable road users from several departments: Transportation Engineering and Operations, Planning and Development Services, Recreation, Parks and Culture, Transit and RCMP & Enforcement Services
- The Task Force identified several barriers/concerns related to active transportation and traffic safety in the County
- Developed 21 recommendations to address concerns

Prioritizing the recommendations

| Criteria | Total Score | Scoring Metrics |
|--|-------------|---|
| Potential safety benefit | | Is there strong evidence the recommendation will improve safety for pedestrians/cyclists? 0=weak/no evidence, 1=some evidence, 2=strong evidence |
| Alignment with other ITMP priorities: Connectivity, Accessibility, Efficiency, Economy | | Does the recommendation significantly improve connectivity, accessibility or efficiency for those using active transportation? Does it support industry or economic growth/Tourism? 0=doesn't align with any priorities; 1=aligns with 1-2 priorities; 2= aligns with 3 or 4 priorities |
| Scope of impact | | Does the recommendation have the potential to affect improvements for a relatively large or small amount of active transportation road users (local, regional, provincial)? 0=relatively small group of users, 1=moderately large group of users, 2= large/almost all users on the network |
| Complexity of implementation | | Is implementation of the recommendation complicated by jurisdiction, lack of political support or other factors? 0=high degree of complexity, 1= some complexity, 2= relatively simple implementation |
| Cost of implementation | | What is the cost of implementing the recommendation? 0=high cost to implement, will require significant capital planning, 1= moderate cost to implement but will require additional budget, 2= can likely be implemented using existing resources |

- Rated each recommendation against an agreed upon group of criteria
- Recommendations that scored less than five were not included in the report

Highest priority/short-term recommendations

- Ten recommendations that rated eight or nine on matrix
- Cost/complexity/safety were prioritized on the scale
 - Relatively easy to implement actions that should provide a measurable increase in safety for a lot of road users
 - “Quick wins”

Top three recommendations

1. Reduce residential speed limits to 40 km/h for safety and consistency with other EMR municipalities
2. Create a new position for an Active Transportation Coordinator in the County
3. Develop a dedicated tool for ongoing reporting/tracking issues with active transportation safety concerns to Strathcona County

Highest priority/short-term recommendations

Next three recommendations relate to enabling safe and convenient cycling:

4. Facilitate a study to identify a priority bike lane network for a commuter route
5. Identify, develop and promote rural, recreational cycling routes that are most conducive to safe cycling
6. Provide secure bike storage on site at Strathcona County events

Highest priority/short-term recommendations

Four short-term recommendations relate to education/encouragement:

7. Provide more information on the transit website regarding storage options for bikes and micromobility devices
8. Offer opportunities for people to try out the bike racks and storage options on busses
9. Encourage AT and promote sharing the roads/trails safely to adults/seniors through ongoing and coordinated education/engagement
10. Provide support to local school boards and local schools that are interested in increasing AT

Medium-term recommendations

- 11 recommendations rated from five to seven on the priority matrix.
- Still considered important to action but scored lower on the matrix because they related more to:
 - encouraging AT rather than improving AT safety,
 - impact fewer road users, and/or
 - are more complex/expensive to implement.
- Recommendations are related to infrastructure, advocacy, policies/bylaws, business partnerships and service standards

Medium-term recommendations

Advocacy-related:

15. Advocate with the province through municipal organizations for supportive legislation/driver education and infrastructure for AT

- That the province updates the Traffic Safety Act (TSA) to improve cycling safety
- That the province updates basic driver training messaging on how to share the road safely with cyclists
- That the province plan for and deliver on the creation of AT corridors between municipalities

Conclusion

- Thank you for the opportunity to participate on the Task Force
- We look forward to seeing this plan actioned and hope for Annual Reports to Council on progress
- With the growing population, having an Active Transportation Plan in place will be critical to our economy, safety and quality of life in our community
- The Committee would like to stress the importance of continuing to engage with the community to implement the Active Transportation Plan

Next steps

- Active Transportation Coordinator Role can be actioned in 2025
- Priorities Committee may want to consider referring to Administration to prepare a report back on implementation of the recommendations including costs and timelines

Questions?