



Committee Report

To:	Warden McQueen and Members of Grey County Council
Committee Date:	February 27, 2020
Subject / Report No:	EDTC-CW-06-20
Title:	Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan
Prepared by:	Bryan Plumstead, Pat Hoy, Randy Scherzer
Reviewed by:	
Lower Tier(s) Affected:	All
Status:	Recommendation adopted by Committee as presented per Resolution CW52-20; Endorsed by County Council March 12, 2020 per Resolution CC35-20;

Recommendation

- 1. That Report EDTC-CW-06-20 and the Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan be received; and**
- 2. That the Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan be posted on the County website; and**
- 3. That staff be directed to circulate a link to the draft plan to member municipalities and interested stakeholders, and**
- 4. That following a minimum 30-day period, comments will be reviewed and incorporated into a final plan and brought back to county council along with recommendations for implementation.**

Executive Summary

In 2018, Grey County received funding from the Province of Ontario's Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program to develop a Cycling and Trails Master Plan, along with other projects. The Master Plan was founded on past county projects and initiatives which outlined the need for a long-term guiding document to identify and prioritize opportunities to enhance cycling, trails and other non-motorized forms of recreation and travel within Grey County and its local municipalities.

The draft master plan has been developed with input and involvement from County staff, local municipal staff and elected officials, local stakeholders, tourism representatives, public health officials, residents and decision makers. The plan is informed by existing processes and meant to adapt to future opportunities as a means of advising decision making, communications and coordination among those who will be responsible for its implementation.

The Draft Plan is presented to County Council and the public, and over the next 30 days, input and feedback are sought from the public, stakeholders and member municipalities. All comments and feedback will be reviewed by the consultant and staff and incorporated into a final plan. Staff will also work on an implementation plan and recommendations to bring back to county council.

Background and Discussion

In 2018, Grey County received funding from the Province of Ontario's Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program. The OMCC Program was created to provide funding and support for the implementation of cycling infrastructure and projects across Ontario. As part of the OMCC Program, Grey County received \$530,652 to:

- Develop a Cycling and Trails Master Plan (required);
- Implement 22 kilometers of paved shoulders on County roads; and
- Purchase five bike counters.

In addition to this funding, Grey County partnered with Regional Tourism Organization (RTO) 7: BruceGreySimcoe to provide funds to support the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan. A project steering committee was formed composed of Director of Transportation Services Pat Hoy, Director of Planning Randy Scherzer, Manager of Tourism Bryan Plumstead and Jason Wepler, Heath Promoter, Grey Bruce Health Unit. After a procurement process, the County retained WSP Canada Group Limited (WSP) to undertake the master plan.

The development of the County's Cycling and Trails Master Plan was founded on past projects and initiatives, such as Ontario's Provincial Cycling Strategy (#CycleON – 2013), the County's Transportation Master Plan (2015) Grey County's Official Plan update (Re-colour Grey 2018) and Grey County's Recreational Trails Master Plan (2019.). These plans have outlined the need for a long-term guiding document to identify and prioritize opportunities to enhance cycling, trails and other non-motorized forms of recreation and travel within Grey County and its local municipalities.

What is a Master Plan?

A master plan is a long-range planning document that recommends infrastructure improvements to guide future growth and development for the area in study. Master plans can provide a broad framework to help establish the needs and rationale for specific projects in a municipality.

A robust public and stakeholder input process through consultation and engagement is a critical component when developing a master plan. Providing multiple opportunities for citizens and stakeholders to discuss and provide feedback on the future of their community can foster public buy-in, build support and ensure the recommendations included in a master plan reflect the needs and trends of the area and its residents.

A master plan is not a commitment to projects; it should be used as a tool to inform decision making, budgeting and communications. To clearly set the expectations for the Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan, the following assumptions should be reviewed and taken into consideration:

What **the plan is**:

- A long-range blueprint;
- A tool to facilitate implementation;
- A communications tool; and
- A guide for future policies.

What the **plan is not**:

- A schedule of capital projects;
- A feasibility study for specific projects;
- A prescriptive policy document;
- A commitment to costs and funding.

Grey County Cycling & Trails Master Plan (Draft)

At a high-level, the Cycling and Trails Master Plan is intended to reflect the guiding principles and objectives found in policies at all levels of government that support enhanced mobility, increased quality of life and healthy communities.

The master plan has been developed with input and involvement from County staff, local municipal staff and elected officials, local stakeholders, tourism representatives, public health officials, residents and decision makers.

The master plan is informed by existing processes and meant to adapt to future opportunities as a means of advising decision making, communications and coordination among those who will be responsible for its implementation. It is intended to be flexible; as such any future changes to the master plan should be reviewed and

documented by County staff in consultation with local municipal staff, stakeholders and residents.

Cristina Valente and Gregory Hanson of WSP will present an [overview of the plan](#) to County Council.

Chapter 1 – Introduction

Chapter one provides background for the plan, who it is for, how the plan was developed and how the public and stakeholders were involved. Existing initiatives and facilities and routes are detailed, results of the public survey summarized, and the plan principles, vision and objectives outlined.

Chapter 2 – The Network

Four steps were undertaken to create the draft network; existing conditions including routes & trails were catalogued, gaps and candidate routes were evaluated according to a set of criteria, field investigations were done with photography linked to google mapping, selection of network routes and facilities was made using Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18. This resulted in a draft network map with recommended facilities ranging from signage to paved shoulders and other facilities.

Chapter 3 – Network Components

This chapter provides resources on planning, design and implementation of the network and its facilities. This includes facility design, travel lane widths, trail crossings, signage and wayfinding, user types and user trips (eg. commuter, recreational or tourism) and network considerations (partial paved shoulders, road surface and risk management and liability.)

Chapter 4 – Implementing the Plan

Implementation of the Cycling and Trails Master Plan require strategic recommendations that are realistic, consistent with the County's existing processes and flexible enough to respond to future opportunities. These recommendations are not intended to be prescriptive nor commit the County and its member municipalities to future funding or a schedule of projects. Phasing and costing for capital projects for 2020-2029 are given, along with suggestions for programming, partnerships and implementation management. Based on input and feedback from the public and member municipalities, staff will bring back recommendations around an implementation plan and how to prioritize recommendations such as signage.

Next Steps

County staff and WSP Canada are hosting a public information session February 27, 2020 from 11:30 – 1: 30 pm at the Grey County building to review the draft plan with stakeholders and members of the public. Member municipalities will be provided with a link to the draft plan and county staff are available to make presentations to staff and or councils as requested. Comments and feedback are requested within a 30-day review period. All comments and feedback will be reviewed by the consultant and staff and incorporated into a final plan. Staff will also work on an implementation plan and recommendations to bring back to county council.

Legal and Legislated Requirements

The development of the County's Cycling and Trails Master Plan is consistent with Master Plan Approach #1 of the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment (MCEA) process, which considers Phases 1 and 2.

Financial and Resource Implications

Cost of this plan was \$53,000 and was funded by Grey County (\$27,000), OMCC (\$16,000) and RTO7 (\$10,000). Staff from the tourism department, planning, transportation services, and GIS staff in IT all contributed significantly to work with the consultants, and to be available for public consultation and communicate with stakeholders and the public.

Recommendations regarding acceptance and implementation of this plan will be brought back to county council following consultation with member municipalities, stakeholders and the public. Any financial implications of the plan will be included in future budgets for consideration.

Relevant Consultation

- Internal: Economic Development, Tourism and Culture, Planning, Transportation Services, IT
- External Grey Bruce Health Unit (Stakeholders, agencies, member municipalities and interested members of the public have been consulted throughout the preparation of this plan and are invited to provide comments on the Draft Plan for a minimum 30 day period.)

Appendices and Attachments

[Draft Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan](#)

[Appendix A – Policy Summary](#)

[Appendix B – Consultation Summary](#)

[Appendix C – Signage Considerations](#)

[Appendix D – Network Database](#)

[Appendix E – City of Owen Sound Official Plan Schedule D](#)