



Grey County Cycling & Trails Master Plan

County Council – Committee of the Whole

Thursday October 22nd, 2020

About the Cycling and Trails Master Plan

The master plan was developed in three phases:

| Phase 1 | Phase 2 | Phase 3 |
|---|--|--|
| Reviewed existing conditions to understand the current context of cycling and trails within the County. | Built upon existing conditions to identify a network of cycling routes and multi-use trails. | Drafted the master plan report and established recommendations to help support implementation. |

Key outcomes for each phase include:

| | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Vision and goals | Cycling and trails network | Implementation strategy |
|------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|



Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan

- 23 recommendations for implementation.
- **6 of the 23** recommendations have been highlighted for focus during the 2021 budget process.

What has been done since February?

February 27, 2020 Presented the draft Cycling and Trails Master Plan to County Council ([here](#))

March 12, 2020 Hosted a public information center and launched an online platform to collect public input

July – August, 2020 County staff made three presentations at the request of local municipalities and local municipal committees

March 13 – August 14, 2020 30-day review period (extended due to COVID-19)

August – October, 2020 Updated master plan to address comments received

Input on the draft master plan

Several written submissions, emails and on-line comments were collected. All comments and feedback were reviewed and incorporated into the final plan.

- Trails organizations including the Bruce Trail Conservancy clubs and Kolapore Wilderness Trails Association provided extensive comments relating to the **level of focus on the on-road cycling and comparatively less amount of detail presented for off-road trails** in the draft plan.
- **Map edits** and **corrections to facility types** were provided.
- Comments were received regarding the **importance of safety and education** within the plan, and separating cycling from roads with high truck traffic.
- Issues around **liability** when a cycling route is designated and signed where raised.
- Ensuring **accessibility** is considered for trail development was raised.

Changes to the draft master plan

Following the public review period, all comments were reviewed and discussed with the Steering Committee. Key changes to the revised master plan report include:

- A **Foreword** section was added at the beginning of the report to clarify the scope and intent of the plan, and specifically that the plan does focus on on-road cycling and off-road trails where cycling is permitted.
- Clear language to note the importance of **existing off-road nature and wilderness trail networks** (e.g. Bruce Trail) and that County staff will continue to work with partners to implement / improve off-road trails in the County.
- Revised recommendation to **establish 2 separate committees**: One On-Road Cycling Committee and a separate Off-Road Trails Committee. Both would support the implementation of the Cycling and Trails Master Plan.

Network philosophy

The preferred cycling and trails network is **not intended to be prescriptive**. It is meant to **inform future decision-making** that can help **improve opportunities** for cycling and trail projects in the County.

The focus of the cycling and trails network within the **next 10 years** is to align with the County's capital plan and achieve efficiencies where possible.

Coordination with capital projects

- Coordination with large scale infrastructure projects identified in the County's current capital plan (2020-2029).

Quick wins

- Quick wins (such as signed routes) to enhance connectivity and complete a gap between two existing routes.

Enhancing the County's cycling loops

- Low investment projects that enhance one or more of the County's promoted cycling loops.



Map 2a Grey County

Preferred Cycling and Trails Network

Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan | October 2020

Legend

Draft Network

- | Existing | Proposed | |
|----------|----------|---|
| | | Paved Shoulder ¹ |
| | | N/A Partially Paved Shoulder |
| | | Signed Route |
| | | Off-road Trail ² |
| | | Edge Line |
| | | Bike Lane |
| | | Buffered Bike Lane |
| | | Buffered Paved Shoulder |
| | | In-boulevard Pathway |
| | | Potential Crossing ³ Enhancement |

Key Destinations

- Beach
- Bike Shop / Rental
- Scenic Lookout
- Waterfall
- Tourist Information
- Trail Access Point (Parking)
- County Forest Access Point

Regional Trail Systems

- -
- Bruce Trail
Other Regional Route⁴

Transportation Features

- -
 -
 -
 -
- Provincial Road
County Road
Municipal Road (paved)
Municipal Road (gravel)
Connection to Surrounding Municipality
Refer to list below for description of connections

Land Use Features

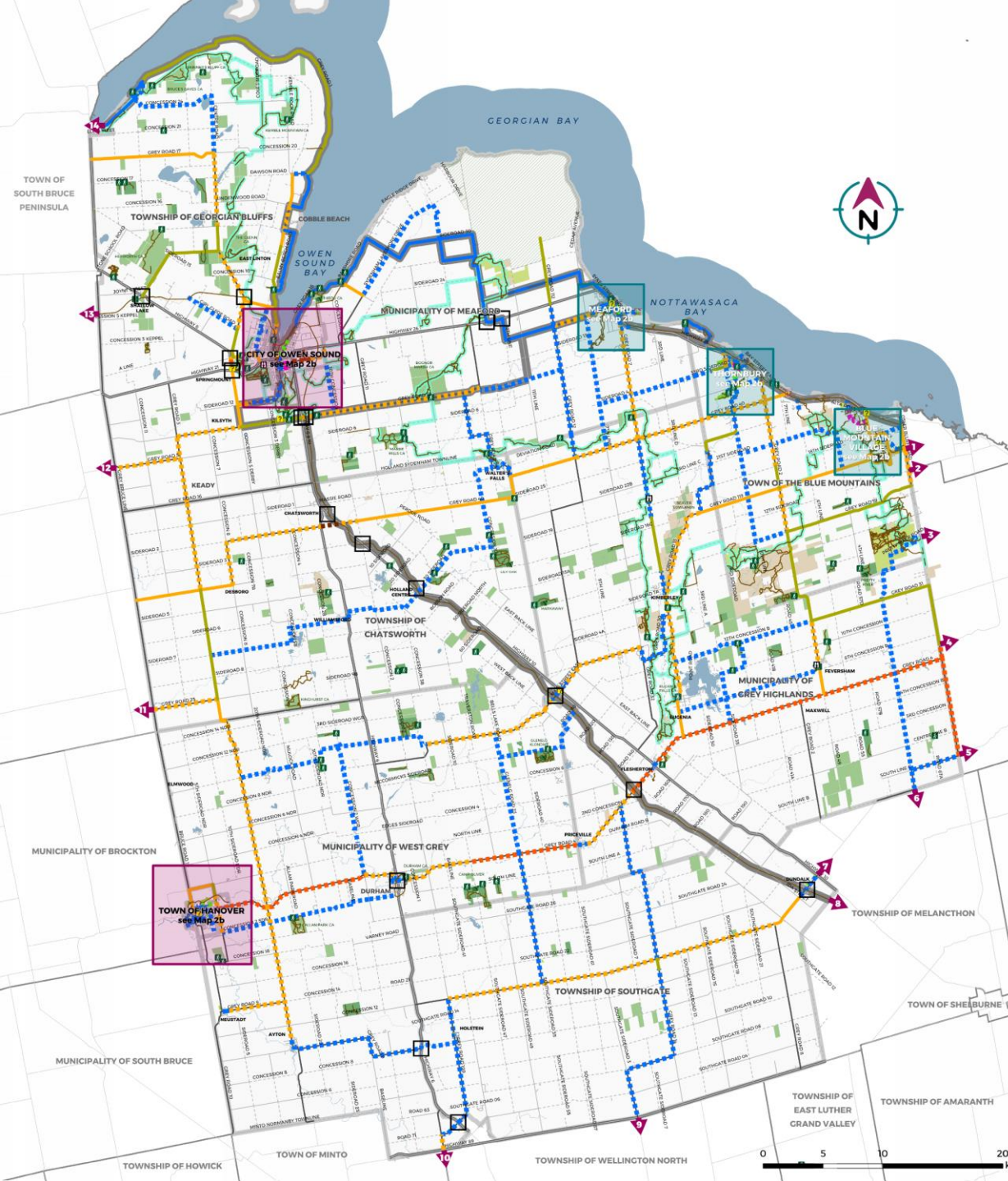
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- Provincial Park
Crown Land
County Forest
Conservation Authority Land
Municipal Park
School
Hospital
Waterbody
Municipal Boundary

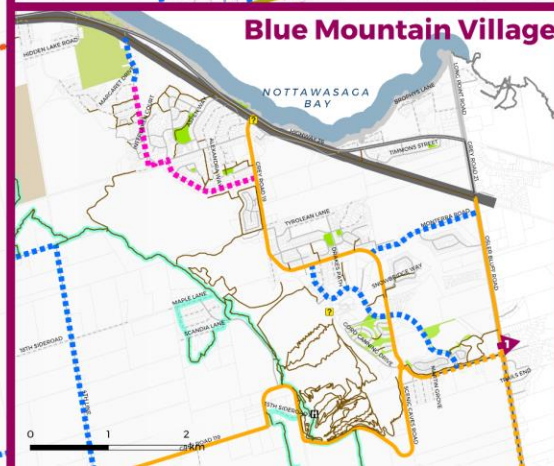
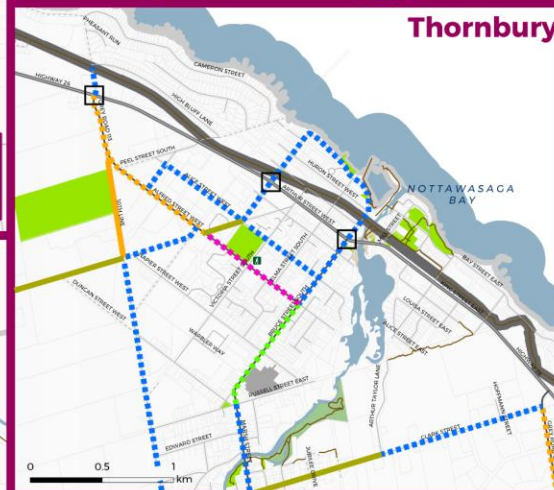
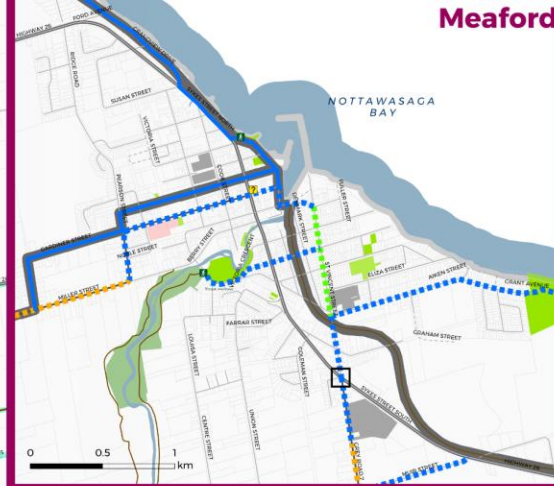
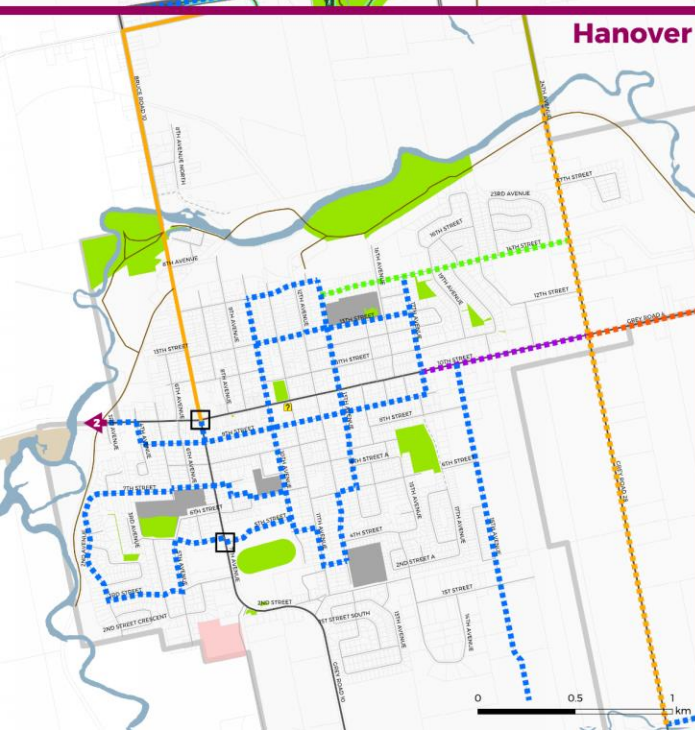
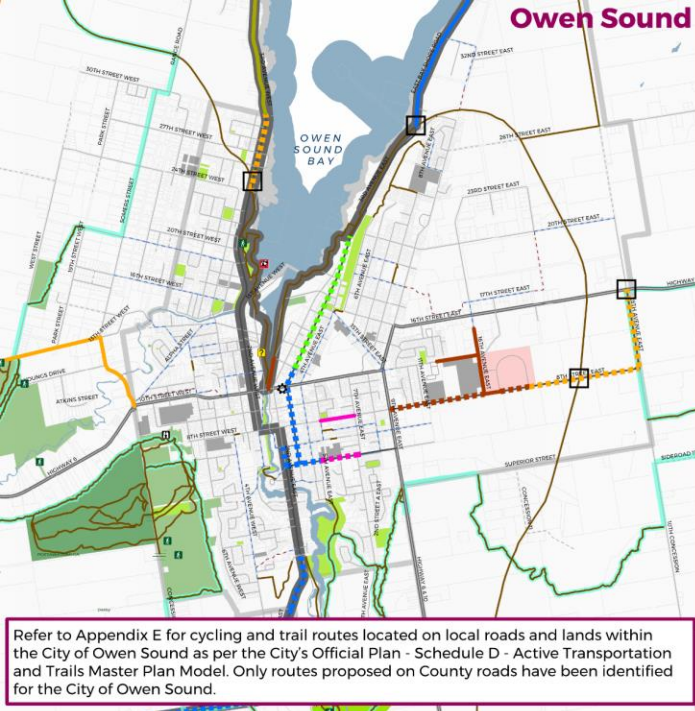
Notes:

- Includes locations where a paved shoulder is proposed along roads with an existing partial paved shoulder (e.g. partial paved shoulder is 12 metres or less).
 - Includes routes intended for multi-use purposes including walking, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing and equestrian use.
 - Potential crossing enhancements have been identified where a route crosses a difficult location (e.g. areas with sightline constraints due to road geometry and roads with high operating speeds and high traffic volume) as well as locations where a proposed route crosses a regional trail system, such as the Grey County CP Rail Trail.
 - Includes the CP Rail Trail, Waterfront Trail, Georgian Bay Cycling Route and the Province-wide Cycling Network.
- Refer to Appendix E for cycling and trail routes located on local roads and lands within the City of Owen Sound as per the City's Official Plan - Schedule D - Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan Model.

Connections to Surrounding Municipalities

- 1-5 proposed on-road route (Simcoe County TMP 2014)
- 6-7 proposed paved shoulder (Dufferin County AT Master Plan 2010)
- 8 proposed off-road trail (Dufferin County AT Master Plan 2010)
- 9 to Arthur, Wellington County
- 10 to Minto, Wellington County
- 11 to Chesley, Bruce County
- 12 to Tara, Bruce County
- 13 to Park Head, Bruce County
- 14 to Warton, Bruce County





Map 2b Built-up Areas

Preferred Cycling and Trails Network

Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan | October 2020

Legend

Draft Network

| Existing | Proposed | |
|----------|----------|---|
| | | Paved Shoulder ¹ |
| | | N/A Partially Paved Shoulder |
| | | Signed Route |
| | | Off-road Trail ² |
| | | Edge Line |
| N/A | | Bike Lane |
| N/A | | Buffered Bike Lane |
| N/A | | Buffered Paved Shoulder |
| | | In-boulevard Pathway |
| | | Potential Crossing ³ Enhancement |

Key Destinations

- Beach
- Bike Shop / Rental
- Scenic Lookout
- Waterfall
- Tourist Information
- Trail Access Point (Parking)
- County Forest Access Point

Regional Trail Systems

-
-

Transportation Features

-
-
-
-

Land Use Features

-
-
-
-
-
-
-
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-

Notes:

- Includes locations where a paved shoulder is proposed along roads with an existing partial paved shoulder (e.g. partial paved shoulder is 1.2 metres or less).
- Includes routes intended for multi-use purposes including walking, hiking, cycling, cross-country skiing and equestrian use.
- Potential crossing enhancements have been identified where a route crosses a difficult location (e.g. areas with sightline constraints due to road geometry and roads with high operating speeds and high traffic volume) as well as locations where a proposed route crosses a regional trail system, such as the Grey County CP Rail Trail.
- Includes the CP Rail Trail, Georgian Bay Cycling Route and the Province-wide Cycling Network.

Refer to Appendix E for cycling and trail routes located on local roads and lands within the City of Owen Sound as per the City's Official Plan - Schedule D - Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan Model.

Connections to Surrounding Municipalities

- proposed on-road route (Simcoe County TMP 2014)
- to Walkerton, Bruce County



The proposed network

733 km
proposed facilities



paved shoulders
236.7 km



signed routes
423.6 km



off-road trails
1.7 km



edge lines
4.5 km



bike lanes
(including buffers)
4.8 km



buffered paved
shoulders
60.5 km




in-boulevard
pathways
1.4 km

Implementing the plan

The proposed phasing plan is meant to be **flexible** and **adapt** to future changes, new opportunities and available resources at the time of implementation. The phasing plan **does not imply a commitment to monies or schedule** of projects.

| Facility Type | Short Term (km) 2020-2029 | Long Term (km) 2030 and beyond |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Paved Shoulders | 120.3 | 116.4 |
| Signed Routes | 249.2 | 174.4 |
| Off Road Trails | 0 | 1.7 |
| Edge Lines | 3.2 | 1.3 |
| Bike Lanes | 0.8 | 3.1 |
| Buffered Bike Lanes | 0.9 | 0 |
| Buffered Paved Shoulders | 0 | 60.5 |
| In-boulevard Pathways | 0 | 1.7 |
| Total | 374.4 | 358.9 |



County staff are encouraged to seek opportunities (where feasible) to advance long-term projects as part of scheduled capital works through future annual budget reviews to achieve cost savings.

The phasing breakdown is intended to be reviewed on an annual basis to ensure that it remains relevant, aligns with planned capital projects and County priorities.



Map 3a Grey County

Proposed Phasing

Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan | October 2020

Legend

Cycling and Trails Network

Existing Proposed

- On-road Route
- Off-road Route

Proposed Phasing

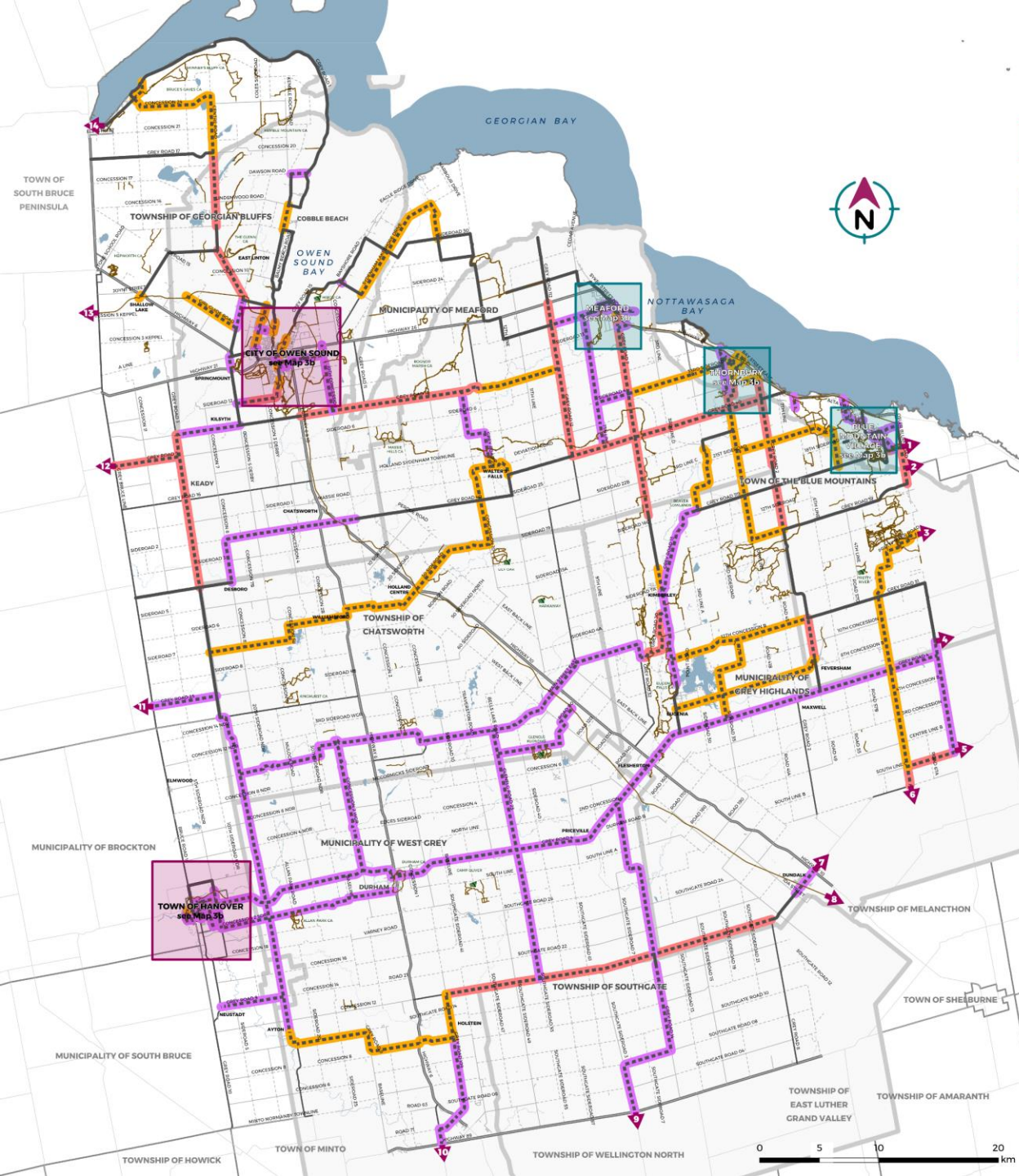
- Phase 1 (Capital Projects 2020 - 2029)
- Phase 1 (Additional Projects 2020 - 2029)
- Phase 2 (Long-term Future Projects)

Transportation Features

- Provincial Road
- County Road
- Municipal Road (paved)
- Municipal Road (gravel)

Land Use Features

- Waterbody
- Municipal Boundary

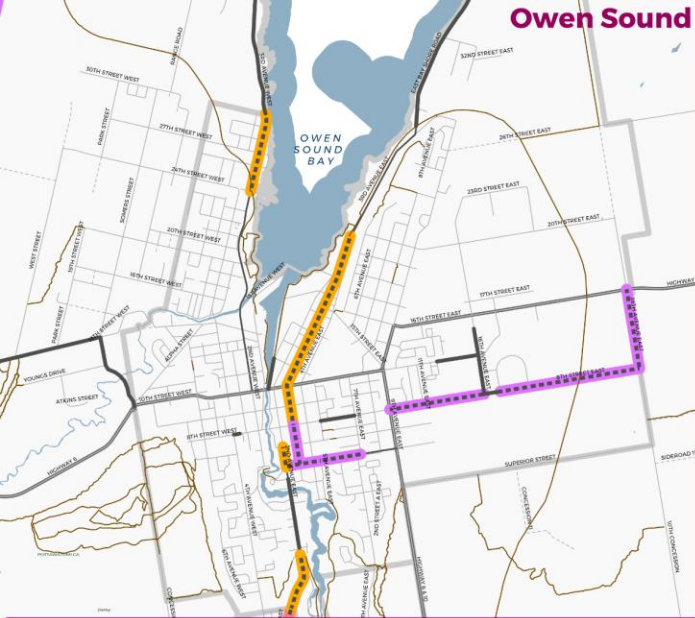


Notes:

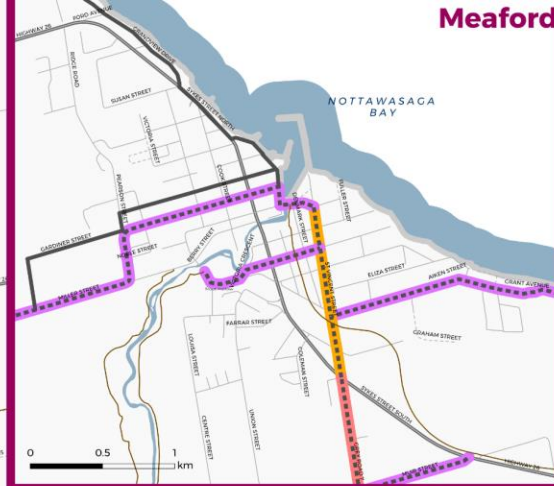
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Connections to Surrounding Municipalities

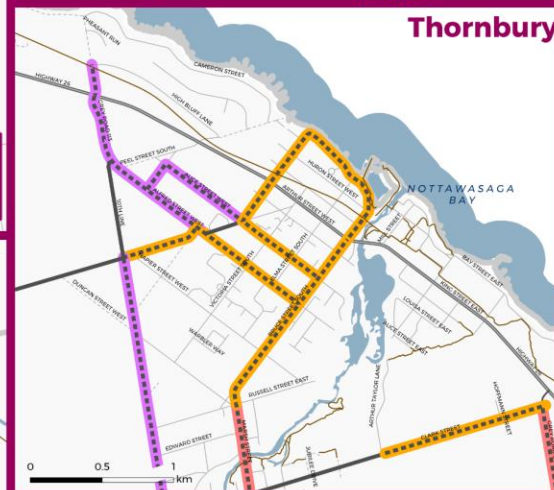
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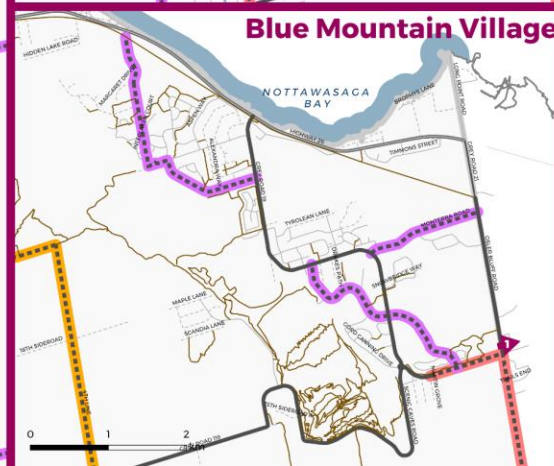
Owen Sound



Meaford

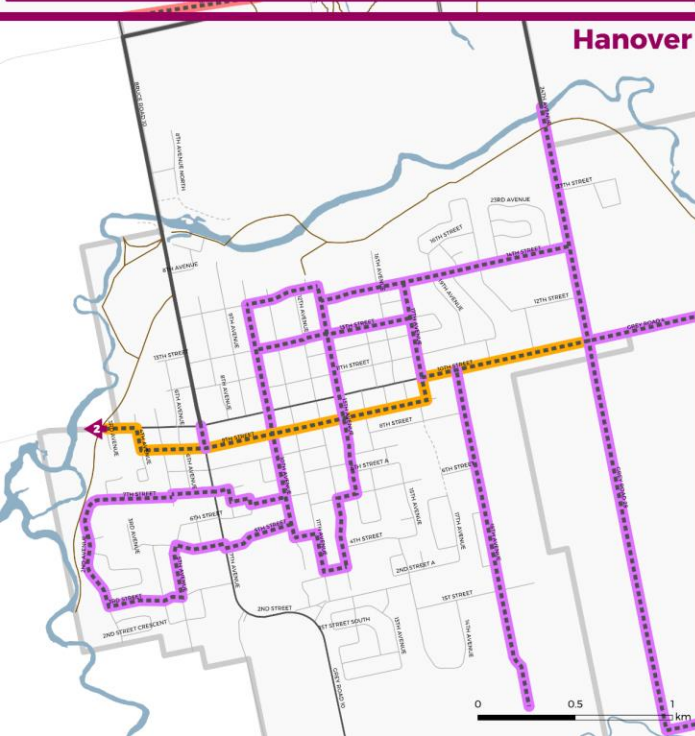


Thornbury



Blue Mountain Village

Refer to Appendix E for cycling and trail routes located on local roads and lands within the City of Owen Sound as per the City's Official Plan - Schedule D - Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan Model. Only routes proposed on County roads have been identified for the City of Owen Sound.



Hanover

Map 3b Built-up Areas

Proposed Phasing

Grey County Cycling and Trails Master Plan | October 2020

Legend

Cycling and Trails Network

| Existing | Proposed | |
|----------|----------|----------------|
| | | On-road Route |
| | | Off-road Route |

Proposed Phasing

- Phase 1 (Capital Projects 2020 - 2029)
- Phase 1 (Additional Projects 2020 - 2029)
- Phase 2 (Long-term Future Projects)

Transportation Features

- Provincial Road
- County Road
- Municipal Road (paved)
- Municipal Road (gravel)

Land Use Features

- Waterbody
- Municipal Boundary



Notes:

Refer to Appendix E for cycling and trail routes located on local roads and lands within the City of Owen Sound as per the City's Official Plan - Schedule D - Active Transportation and Trails Master Plan Model.

Connections to Surrounding Municipalities

- 1 proposed on-road route (Simcoe County TMP 2014)
- 2 to Walkerton, Bruce County

Implementing the plan

The focus for implementation is the short term (first 10 years):

\$3.5 million for 374 km over 10 years

=

\$3.1 million for projects that align with the County's current capital plan in the short term.

+

\$400,000 for other projects identified through the study process for the short term.

It is important for the County to seek a **diverse range of funding sources**. External funding is an effective way to **reduce the County's costs** and can be an opportunity to strengthen partnerships for the implementation of the plan.

- Provincial and federal grants
- Development charges
- External sources such as service clubs, corporate funds and private donations

Supporting Implementation

Committee

It is recommended the County establish 2 committees: **an On-Road Cycling Committee and an Off-Road Trails Committee**. These committees are being suggested by staff to be working groups, which would be less formal and would focus more on networking with partners to work on common issues, projects and sharing information, with periodic reporting back to council.

Collaboration

Partners are essential to share ideas and resources for infrastructure and programming.

- County departments
- Member municipalities
- Conservation authorities
- Proposed committees
- Public Health Unit
- County committees
- RTO7
- Province of Ontario
- School boards
- OPP
- Local businesses
- Local clubs
- Advocacy groups

Funding

Adequate funding to ensure cycling and trails projects can be implemented in a **fiscally responsible manner** or constructed **in conjunction with other large-scale infrastructure projects**.

Supporting Implementation

The Cycling and Trails Master Plan includes 23 recommendations. Of these 23,

6 recommendations are being brought forward for proposed immediate and short term action.

Key Next Steps

1. Formally adopt the Cycling and Trails Master Plan as a policy document;
2. Identify projects as part of the County's annual budget review process for implementation of infrastructure and programming;
3. Continue to engage in consultation and engagement with member municipalities, stakeholders and residents to confirm short-term infrastructure and programming priorities; and
4. Reach out to key stakeholders to formalize partnerships and to facilitate implementation.

6 Priority Recommendations

| No. | Recommendation | Timeframe |
|-----|---|------------|
| 2 | The proposed cycling and trails network illustrated on Maps 2a and 2b should be adopted by County Council to guide future design and implementation. | Immediate |
| 11. | County staff should develop a wayfinding strategy for the cycling and trails network. Building upon a wayfinding strategy, a pilot project can be implemented to test the functionality of the wayfinding system and get feedback from users (refer to section 3.1.4). | Short-Term |
| 12 | The County should review and adopt the appropriate risk management and liability prevention strategies into day-to-day decision making related to cycling and trails planning, design and maintenance. | Immediate |
| 13. | The phasing plan illustrated in Maps 3a and 3b should be adopted by County Council and staff as a guide for the implementation of the cycling and trails network and to inform annual decision-making related to capital and operating budgets. | Immediate |
| 18. | It is recommended that the County establish two committees: a Cycling Committee and an Off-Road Trails Committee. Each committee could include representation from all member municipalities, partners and stakeholder groups to help facilitate a coordinated and collaborative effort for the on-going support of the Cycling and Trails Master Plan. | Immediate |
| 22. | County staff should continue to explore external funding sources and partnerships to help fund implementation of the Cycling and Trails Master Plan. | Immediate |



Thank you!

Questions?

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