

## **Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP), Town of Pelham**

### **Review of Progress to date**

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown us just how vital our active transportation (AT) networks are to the well-being of Pelham's residents. The safe streets, sidewalks and trails in Pelham are an important factor in the physical and mental health of residents of all ages during this challenging time. All forms of active transportation in a community – walking, cycling, moving with mobility devices – are desirable because they have a positive effect on health, the environment, the local economy and the overall quality of life.

The Town of Pelham has invested considerably in active transportation by embedding AT principles in planning policy, adding sidewalks, bicycle lanes and other AT infrastructure such as benches, bike racks and multi-use pathways and by supporting the PATC and its efforts to advise Council and to promote AT safety and education in the community. The Town of Pelham is the only community in Niagara that has achieved both Walk Friendly and Bicycle Friendly recognition. In addition, the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) was commissioned and approved by Council in 2016, with significant input from the PATC and the community, to guide future planning and investments in AT.

The ATMP requires regular review and assessment 1) to ensure that progress is being made, 2) to reflect changing conditions and requirements, 3) to update short and long-term budget planning and 4) to ensure that milestones are acknowledged and celebrated.

The PATC volunteers, working with staff, agreed to undertake a high-level review of the ATMP in order comment on the progress made to-date and to identify the areas requiring more effort and attention.

The charts which follow provide comments based on this high-level review, as of April 2020. In fact, the ATMP references more than a dozen areas requiring ongoing review. It is important to acknowledge that progress has been achieved in many areas and that there is still much more to do to ensure that our community remains safe for all residents and all road users.

**Respectfully submitted,**

**The Pelham Active Transportation Committee  
June 2020**

## **Recommendation #1: PRIORITIES**

**TOP should prioritize the implementation of active transportation infrastructure, policies, programs and protocols, including easy to implement short-term facilities as well as the integration of active transportation into day to day decision making. This includes winter maintenance, the implementation of walking and cycling routes identifying both commuter and recreational/touring routes and the completion of the 10 priority projects listed below.**

<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>
East Fonthill AT Linkages	In process. Ongoing input required as developments are planned and constructed.
Steve Bauer Trail surface upgrade	Paving of section from Port Robinson Road to Line Avenue, 2020
In-boulevard trail on Station St.	In-process. Completion expected 2023.
Urban signed bicycle routes	None to date. Recommend TOP/PATC strategy session to develop and recommend solutions for all routes, trails
Paved shoulder along Foss Rd	Long term goal. Unlikely.
Signed bike route on River Rd	None to date. Recommend TOP/PATC strategy session
Sidewalk to E.L. Crossley	Completed 2018
Signed route on Maple & Church St.	None to date. Recommend TOP/PATC strategy session
Sharrows at Highway 20 and Pelham St	Not desirable and no longer recommended. Designate alternate routes/options for cyclists
Highway 20 Bike lanes and sharrows	Not desirable and no longer recommended. Designate alternate routes/options for cyclists

## **Recommendation #2: PLANNING**

**TOP should strategically plan for future active transportation improvements and changes by adopting the system, actions and recommendations outlined in the AT Plan and updating policies to reflect AT planning principles. This includes protecting unopened road allowances, using proposed AT Plan maps for multi-year planning and phasing in route improvements and extensions.**

<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>
AT in new development areas	High priority and underway.
AT in established neighbourhoods	Sidewalk gap analysis to be done Neighbourhood Traffic Management Practices drafted and under review
Risk management and liability, ensuring that standards are met, written tracking of monitoring and maintenance, and proper insurance coverage	Pedestrian crossings in school zones are a concern. Asset Management Plan used to track and monitor conditions of roads and trails. Town of Pelham insurance coverage
Integrating with Land-use planning	Yes. Land use policies support AT.

### **Recommendation #3: PROCESS**

**TOP works in a collaborative and coordinated manner to implement active transportation infrastructure, policies and programs. Town staff should work together to establish a process that engages internal and external partners in day to day decision making. This includes updating mapping and the GIS database annually, ensuring design guidelines meet or exceed provincial standards, identifying an annual budget for AT maintenance and investment, exploring external funding opportunities and seeking opportunities for partnerships to execute the AT Plan.**

<b>Priority Actions</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Establishing an implementation process. Implementation process to include preliminary review, feasibility assessment, detailed design, tender and implementation, monitoring and updating of AT Plan.	None to date.
Co-ordination with Municipal Class EA	Yes, this occurs.
Maintenance and Operation, which includes an annual budget for operation and maintenance of AT facilities and capital allocations for future AT improvements.	Annual budget for operation and maintenance, including sidewalk snow clearing and trail maintenance.  Some capital allocations planned.
Monitoring and Evaluation to document what is achieved and what is still to be done, on an annual or semi-annual basis.	2020 PATC/Staff review is first to be done. Staff are encouraged to formalize this process.

#### **Recommendation #4: PROMOTION**

**TOP should continue to promote and educate residents and visitors of the importance of living active and healthy lifestyles and developing complete communities. Staff should work with community partners to identify and implement local program and initiatives that encourage people to be more active for both recreational and day-to-day purposes.**

<b>Priority Action</b>	<b>Progress</b>
Signing: Signage & wayfinding strategy	None to date. Recommend TOP/PATC strategy session to develop a plan
Developing AT Hubs/Staging areas, which include amenities such as restrooms, shade, benches, bike racks	Recommend TOP/PATC strategy session to develop a plan.
Mapping and Promotional tools	Cycling map published in 2018. Both Steve Bauer Trail maps and cycling in Pelham maps require updating.
Design & encourage through network enhancement	Pavement markings at pedestrian intersections and trail crossings to be improved.
Designing and implementing bicycle parking	Bike parking available at all community events. Additional bike racks installed throughout TOP. Designated overnight parking for visitors in Pelham Town Square municipal lot.