

## **Norfolk County Next Steps as identified at Active Transportation Forum – March 2013:**

### ***Annual/ Bi-Annual Active Transportation Network Meeting***

Norfolk County participants (staff and trail development/user groups) outlined the benefits and desire to meet annually as a group to network, update each other on specific initiatives and collaboratively work together on Active Transportation opportunities within the County. It was suggested that the Health Unit could take the lead with support from Healthy Communities Partnership Haldimand Norfolk on this initiative to organize the next Active Transportation Network Meeting.

### ***Development Pre Consultation Meetings***

As part of the Norfolk County development process Planning staff will be introducing, whenever possible, pre-consultation meetings before development applications are submitted (example - Official Plan, Zoning, Subdivision and Site Plan applications) to initiate more complete applications and development turn around. A core group of development review staff will be invited to these pre-consultation meetings to provide comments and direction in their specific area of specialty. It was suggested that the Health Unit be included in pre-consultation meetings to provide an Active Transportation lens in the review of future development proposals.

### ***Development Action Team***

Norfolk County staff initiated a Development Action Team (DAT) which includes management and staff who are devoted to development projects from a variety of Departments and Divisions including Engineering, Community Services, Tourism and Economic Development, Planning, Building, Hydro etc.). This team meets monthly in a private and confidential setting to review and provide an update on the status of the top development projects in the County. As an initiative to get a healthy perspective on Active Transportation within the development process, the Health Unit has now been formally invited to attend these meetings on a regular basis and provide expertise.

### ***Norfolk County Official Plan Review Process***

Norfolk County Community Planning staff will be initiating the mandatory Five-year Official Plan Review process in 2013/2014, in accordance with the *Planning Act*. To kick off this process, the Community Planning Division will be preparing a number of discussion papers on various topics related to land use planning. The topics include, and are not limited to, agriculture, commercial/downtown areas, seasonal/vacation uses, natural heritage, and cultural heritage. The purpose of these papers is to start the discussion about these topics as they relate to Norfolk County and then become the basis for the community consultation process for the Official Plan Review program. It is intended that agencies, staff, members of Council, and members of the Norfolk community have access to these documents in order to start the conversation about the long range land use plan for Norfolk County. It was suggested that Active Transportation also become a topic of research.

### ***Revise/ Update Norfolk County Design Criteria***

Norfolk County Public Works Department – Engineering Division created a document of Norfolk County Design Guidelines in 2012 to assist and guide development standards. These guidelines require updating and a revamp to include various perspectives including Active Transportation. It was suggested that the Norfolk County Design Guidelines be updated and active transportation be included within the document.

### ***Education / Awareness***

As a way of getting the message about Active Transportation out into the community it was suggested that various methods of education and awareness be introduced / expanded and promoted. These initiatives include Active and Safe Routes to School, bicycle rodeos, school programs, information available at trail entrances/ main corridors via brochures or signs, County programs, etc.

### ***Marketing / Promotion Awareness***

Similar to the above, as a way of promoting Active Transportation it was suggested that various methods of marketing and promotion/ awareness should be provided to the general public. This could include social media, maps, County campaigns, etc.

### ***Transportation Master Plan***

As a long term initiative Norfolk County participants recognized the need for an all encompassing Norfolk County Transportation Master Plan. This long term project would require staff time and co-ordination as well as public input. It is the hope that such a document would create a common voice for Active Transportation in Norfolk County and initiate future objectives, goals and plans for implementation.