

To: COUNCIL

Meeting Date: 5/30/2023

Subject: **Progress Report: Transportation Master Plan and Cycling Master Plan**

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Report No.: 23-235-CD

File No.: C11

Wards Affected: All Wards

RECOMMENDATION(S):

THAT Report 23-235-CD Progress Report: Transportation Master Plan and Cycling Master Plan be received;

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

Purpose

- The purpose of this report is to provide an update on the progress of two master plans; Moving Cambridge: Transportation Master Plan (2019) and Bike Your City: Cycling Master Plan (2020).
- Both Plans are intended to have fulsome updates every five (5) and four (4) years respectively.

Key Findings

- Two-thirds of the Transportation Master Plan (TMP) action items are in progress or have been completed.
- Half of the Cycling Master Plan (CMP) action items are in progress or have been completed including significant progress towards the recommended 15 km of new network facilities by 2025:
 - 14.1 km of new network facilities have been built since 2020, with 7.7 km on City roads and 6.4 km on Regional roads.

- Another 13.1 km of new network between City and Region is currently in various stages of planning and design.

Financial Implications

- There are no financial implications associated with this report.

STRATEGIC ALIGNMENT:

Strategic Action; or

Core Service

Objective(s): GETTING AROUND - Emphasize connectivity and active transportation choices to help people travel in and beyond the city without a car

Strategic Action: Promote and develop more transportation options

Program: Not Applicable

Core Service: Not Applicable

Promoting various modes of transportation options is a key action of the City's Strategic Plan 2020-2023 and the core goals of the TMP and CMP. Both plans look at moving people rather than cars and focus on a sustainable transportation network.

BACKGROUND:

Moving Cambridge: Transportation Master Plan (2019)

Moving Cambridge is the City's Transportation Master Plan (TMP) to support the movement of people and goods within and through Cambridge to the year 2041. Moving Cambridge defines and prioritizes a transportation system that supports all travel modes – walking, cycling, transit and autos, and reduces dependency on single occupant vehicle trips. It responds to the City's vision, direction, and goals to support efficient movement of people and goods within Cambridge.

This is the City's first Transportation Master Plan. The TMP is both a policy document and a tool to guide the City's investment in transportation initiatives that support growth and help shape Cambridge towards its vision. The TMP also provides the need, justification, and preliminary planning for City investments such as road improvements and expansion of the walking and cycling network. Policies cover a diverse range of topics including traffic safety, maintenance, parking and coordinating transportation with the Region of Waterloo.

Bike Your City: Cycling Master Plan (2020)

The Cycling Master Plan guides the City's investments in cycling over the next 20 years. The plan establishes a vision and goals to improve cycling and outlines a series of strategies and actions based on five themes. The strategies and actions provide holistic guidance regarding improvements to policies, standards, infrastructure, and programming to ensure that cycling is a comfortable and convenient choice for everyone. Through the Cycling Master Plan and promoting cycling, Cambridge can work to reduce automobile dependence and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, increase physical activity to improve health and wellbeing, increase social connections, and reduce infrastructure demands. The CMP reflects evolving trends and best practices in bicycle planning and design and has an explicit focus on creating a cycling network that is comfortable for everyone.

ANALYSIS:

Monitoring and Evaluation

Establishing regular monitoring and evaluation of the plans provides a measure towards success, communicates progress, and can identify areas of improvement based on changing conditions, usage, patterns, and trends. Monitoring and reporting is also essential to ensure that the Plans are implemented as intended and to determine how the Plan's are tracking to achieving their goals. By monitoring results, the City is able to make more informed decisions on where to commit future resources for maximum return on investment with the Plans.

Both Master Plans were prepared with feedback from a steering committee, project team, consultants, advisory committees, the general public, stakeholders and external agencies. This feedback helped formulate the Vision and Goals of each Plan which further informed recommended themes and action items. It should be noted that the Plans are guiding documents and that action items may fluctuate or change over time based on priorities, changes in reconstruction timelines, emerging trends, grant funding opportunities and many other variables. Some examples of changes to action items include:

- Hespeler Bridge and Hespeler Trail: Originally identified as a long-term priority, grant funding and redevelopment potential in the area moved the projects from long-term to short-term (CMP)
- Elgin St N reconstruction: Originally proposed as Painted Bicycle Lanes in the CMP, a AAA multi-use trail ended up being the preferred option for the road cross section due to variables such as property constraints, hydro relocations, and costs (CMP)

- A bikeshare system was recommended, however emerging trends have shown that e-bikes and e-scooters are now the preferred choice for shared mobility and companies are no longer operating with just conventional bicycles. Micromobility (e-scooters) were not contemplated in the plans (TMP and CMP)

Cycling Master Plan (2020)

Within the CMP, a 5 Year Action Plan was developed that recommended implementing 15 km of cycling facilities by 2025. As of May 2023, the City has constructed 7.7 km of facilities on City owned roads. The City and Region also has a number of projects under various stages of planning and design over the next couple of years that would add another 13.1 km of network facilities (City and Region). It should be noted that based on the funding scenarios in the CMP, it would take approximately 30-40 years to implement the entire proposed network.

Transportation Master Plan (2019)

Many items within the TMP are ongoing projects that require continual work and updating, however the City has made some progress or completed two-thirds of the action items.

Some key deliverables of the TMP included the need for a more holistic view of the transportation system that integrated a balance of all transportation modes, which resulted in the recruitment of dedicated staff to Transportation Demand Management (TDM) and a Cycling Master Plan (2020). The Plan also put a strong emphasis on Traffic Safety and Traffic Calming, resulting in an improved Speed Management Program along with a public dashboard for transparency and information sharing. In an effort to divert truck traffic around the city a new Regional Road was constructed in 2022, McQueen Shaver Blvd (formerly south boundary road). This new road was also built with a multi-use trail—demonstrating a balanced user approach. Lastly, and most recently the City completed a 40km/hr neighbourhood pilot, where Council approved the expansion of 40 km/hr neighbourhoods throughout the City and speed limit reduction to 30 km/hr in school zones. The reduction of speed limits across the City is just one way to address speeding concerns within the City.

While COVID-19 may have slowed initial progress towards the implementation of the plans, it also provided the opportunity to pilot initiatives such as Slow Streets, Shared Streets and Separated Bike Lanes due to the temporary reduction in car usage.

A summary of accomplishments achieved through the TMP can be found in Appendix A and for the CMP in Appendix B of this report. A full list of action items for the TMP and CMP can be found on the City's website: <https://www.cambridge.ca/en/learn-about/Master-Plans.aspx>

EXISTING POLICY / BY-LAW(S):

The Transportation Master Plan was endorsed by Council in May 2019

The Bike Your City: Cycling Master Plan was endorsed by Council in October 2020.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

PUBLIC VALUE:**Transparency:**

Through the approval of the TMP and CMP, it is recognized that the City has an active role to play in becoming a more sustainable city which demonstrates strong leadership. Monitoring and evaluating the progress of the Plans also provides public transparency of priorities and funding.

ADVISORY COMMITTEE INPUT:

N/A

PUBLIC INPUT:

Posted publicly as part of the report process.

INTERNAL / EXTERNAL CONSULTATION:

There was no internal/external consultation undertaken.

CONCLUSION:

The City has made some good progress towards the goals identified in the TMP and CMP. Both plans support and promote several municipal policies and plans with similar goals such as the Official Plan and the City's Strategic Plan, and the growing concept of 15-minute neighbourhoods. Trends in transportation are continually changing, which have already been seen since the implementation of the TMP (2019) and CMP (2020). Monitoring, evaluating and updating these Plans not only ensures that the City continues to make informed decisions on where to commit resources, but also provides public transparency and accountability.

REPORT IMPACTS:

Agreement: **No**

By-law: **No**

Budget Amendment: **No**

Policy: **No**

APPROVALS:

This report has gone through the appropriate workflow and has been reviewed and or approved by the following as required:

Director

Deputy City Manager

Chief Financial Officer

City Solicitor

City Manager

ATTACHMENTS:

1. 23-235-CD Appendix A –Transportation Master Plan: Progress Update 2023
2. 23-235-CD Appendix B – Cycling Master Plan: Progress Update 2023