

APPENDIX 'I'

Draft Pedestrian & Cycling Charters



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Pedestrian Charter for Huron County

Walking is the oldest and most universal form of travel, as well as an important form of exercise and recreation. Every daily trip taken by an individual involves walking whether it is alone or in combination with other modes of transportation such as taking a shuttle, a taxi, driving or cycling. Therefore, having access to high-quality pedestrian facilities is very important. When properly designed and implemented, pedestrian facilities can provide residents with a safe, convenient and comfortable means of getting to and from their destinations.

To ensure walking is a safe, connected, comfortable and convenient mode of travel, Huron County along with its towns, villages and hamlets respects the following principles:

Accessibility

Walking is a free and direct means of accessing local goods, services, and community amenities and public transit for people of all ages and abilities.

Equity

Walking is the only mode of travel that is universally affordable and allows all residents including children, youth and the elderly to travel independently and safely in a well planned environment.

Health and Well-being

Walking promotes healthy living by enhancing physical and mental health and the overall personal well-being of community members.

Environmental Sustainability

Walking relies on human power and has negligible environmental impact. Rural communities which support active transportation decrease auto-dependency and environmental impacts associated with driving.

Personal and Community Safety

An environment where people feel safe and comfortable walking increases community safety for all.

Community Cohesion and Vitality

Walking encourages social interaction through face-to-face encounters and facilitates local economic vitality.

In order to create environments that support walking in our County's towns, villages, hamlets and rural areas, Huron County will:

- Support all residents and visitors in their right to have safe, convenient, direct and comfortable walking conditions;
- Provide environments that encourage people to walk for utility, recreation and exercise;
- Support and encourage the planning, design and development of compact, human-scale and mixed-use environments that meet the needs of pedestrians;

- Develop and maintain infrastructure that provides pedestrians with safe and convenient passages along streets and more importantly at intersections;
- Ensure that residents' access to basic community amenities and services does not depend on car ownership;
- Provide outreach programs that educate local residents about the social, economic, environmental and health benefits of walking as a form of travel, exercise and recreation;
- Set policies that reduce conflict between all users of the public right-of-way including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers;
- Promote laws and regulations that support and respect the unique needs of pedestrians;
- Advocate for improving provincial and federal regulatory and funding frameworks that affect our ability to make the county more pedestrian friendly;
- Work with individual citizens, community groups and agencies, businesses and other levels of government to achieve these goals.

An environment that encourages and facilitates active transportation supports overall community vitality. It provides accessibility and connectivity for all residents regardless of income level or age; it decreases car dependency leading to active living and cleaner air; it supports green tourism and economic growth; and it increases safety and encourages social interaction among residents. All of these things lead to vibrant, liveable urban and rural communities.

Cycling Charter for the Huron County

Cycling is a healthy and efficient form of travel that can be used for a variety of purposes such as pleasure (recreational cycling activities), business (courier services, travelling to and from work/meetings), and simply getting around. A properly designed and implemented cycling facility not only will provide residents with a safe, convenient and comfortable means of getting to and from their destinations, but also an easy and enjoyable form of exercise.

To ensure cycling is a safe, connected, comfortable and convenient mode of both urban and rural travel, Huron County, along with its seven local municipalities (Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh, Bluewater, Goderich, Huron East, Morris-Turnberry, North Huron, and South Huron) respects the following principles:

Accessibility

After purchasing a bicycle, cycling is free and provides a direct means of accessing local goods, services, community amenities and public transit for people of all ages and abilities.

Equity

Cycling is affordable and allows all residents including children, youth and the elderly to travel independently and safely in a well planned environment.

Health and Well-being

Cycling promotes healthy living by enhancing physical and mental health and the overall personal well-being of community members.

Environmental Sustainability

Cycling relies on human power and has negligible environmental impact. Urban or rural environments which support cycling decrease auto-dependency and environmental impacts associated with driving.

Personal and Community Safety

An environment where people feel safe and comfortable cycling increases community safety for all.

Community Cohesion and Vitality

Cycling encourages social interaction through face-to-face encounters and facilitates local economic vitality.

In order to create an urban and rural environment that supports cycling across our County, Huron County, with its local area municipalities will:

- Support all residents and visitors in their right to have safe, convenient, direct and comfortable cycling conditions;
- Provide an urban environment within the public right-of-way and in public parks that encourages people to bike for utility and recreation;
- Support and encourage the planning, design and development of compact, human-scale and mixed-use urban environments in both public and private spaces that meet the needs of cyclists;
- Develop and maintain infrastructure that provides cyclists with safe and convenient passages along street corridors and more importantly at intersections;

- Ensure that residents' access to basic community amenities and services does not depend on car ownership;
- Provide outreach programs that educate local residents about the social, economic, environmental and health benefits of cycling as a form of travel, exercise and recreation;
- Set policies that reduce conflict between all users of the public right-of-way including pedestrians, cyclists and drivers;
- Promote laws and regulations that support and respect the unique needs of cyclists;
- Advocate for improving provincial and federal regulatory and funding frameworks that affect our ability to make Huron County more bicycle friendly;
- Work with individual citizens, community groups and agencies, businesses and other levels of government to achieve these goals.

An environment that encourages and facilitates cycling as a transportation choice, supports overall community vitality. It provides accessibility and connectivity for all residents regardless of age or ability; it decreases car dependency leading to active living and cleaner air; it supports green tourism and economic growth; and it increases safety and encourages social interaction among residents. All of these things lead to vibrant, liveable urban and rural communities.

Please note that the Cycling Charter for Huron County was developed based on charters from other Regions and municipalities throughout Ontario such as the Regional Municipality of Waterloo, the City of Toronto, and the Town of Halton Hills. This document is a preliminary draft and is meant to be a base from which the AT Committee can build a future AT or pedestrian charter.