

Planning for Active Transportation in Haliburton County

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Presentation Overview

- Introductions
- Learning objectives
- Our community today
- How did we get here? Strategies
- Benefits
- Lessons Learned



Learning Objectives

Identify ways for municipalities to build partnerships with the community to promote and encourage active transportation.

Explore strategies that will demonstrate how the built form can support and influence healthy activity in communities.



County of Haliburton





Land Use and Infrastructure Planning Framework

PROVINCIAL POLICY



COUNTY OFFICIAL PLAN



DYSART ET AL OFFICIAL PLAN

Communities in Action Committee (CIA)

Works to create healthy active communities by:

Developing partnerships with multiple sectors in order to build knowledge and capacity around active transportation

Promoting the benefits of active transportation

Advocating for policies and investments that result in communities designed to support and encourage active transportation

Doing research in order to develop an evidence-base for rural active transportation planning and implementation



Some examples of what the CIA has done

- Developed AT plans for Haliburton and Minden – funding, research, engaging community, working with consultant
- Created Walk, Bike and Be Active maps
- Hosted workshops for community and municipal staff and councillors
- Education and encouragement activities
- Provided input on official plan reviews
- Promote “Park the Car and Get Moving” message
- Evaluation of impact
- Present at conferences and webinars, participate in case studies, write articles

Building the Case for AT

- Increase levels of physical activity
- Improve population health
- Improve safety and accessibility
- Health equity and social inclusion
- Quality of life
- Economic development
- Contributes to four pillars of Sustainability:
Economic, Social, Environment, Cultural
- Provincial planning direction

What does our community look like today?



Minden – downtown streetscape



Minden - Riverwalk





**County Roads –
paved shoulders**



Haliburton – streetscape phase 1

York St before, 2008



Figure 2 Area 2: York Street

Haliburton – downtown



Library

Food bank

Gallery

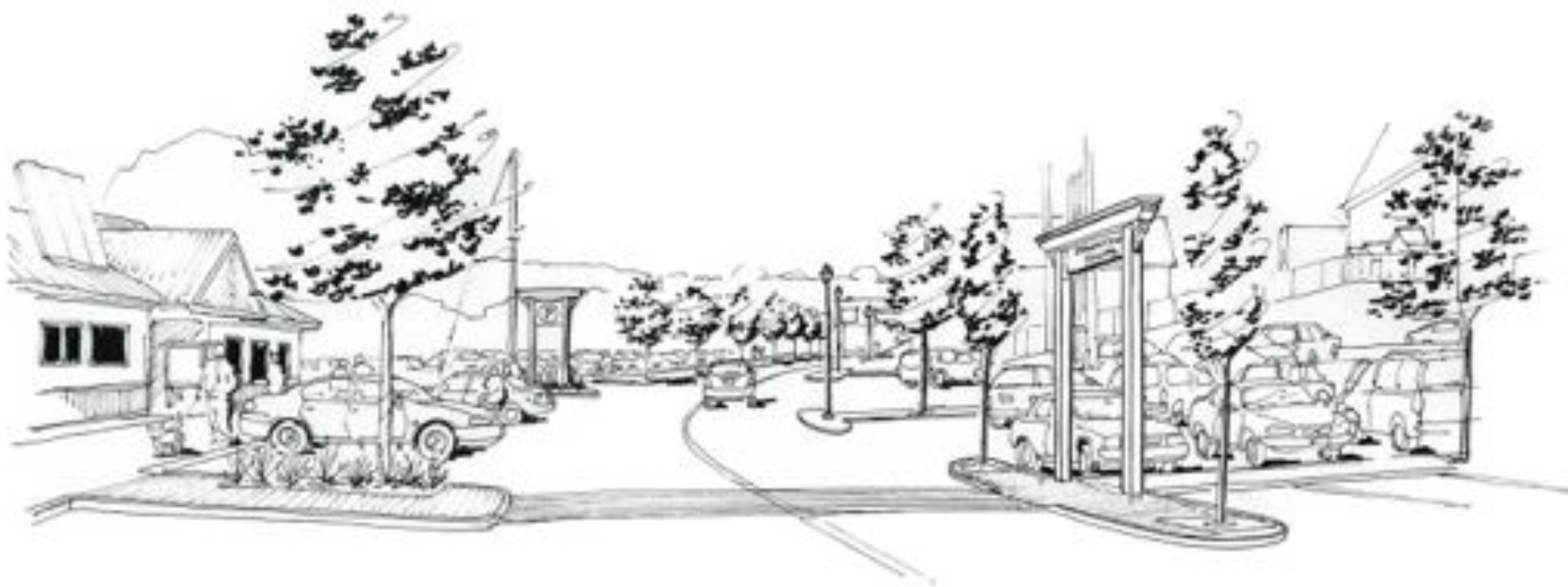


FIG. 4 Area 2: York Street



YORK STREET: PROPOSED STREETSCAPE

DOWNTOWN HALIBURTON STREETSCAPE IMPROVEMENT PLAN



Before...



During...



Done!

York St, 2013



Haliburton – Highland St.





How did we get here?



Our Strategies

- Evaluation
- Building partnerships
- Research and planning
- Influencing policy
- Community education and awareness raising

Strategy: Evaluation

- Inventory: policy and infrastructure changes
- Survey: asked residents about their AT awareness and behaviour
- Observational Study: manual counts of people walking and cycling
- Key Informant Interviews

Strategy: Building Partnerships

Partnerships are key to addressing capacity issues that exist in rural communities.

Key Partners for AT in Haliburton County:

- County & Municipalities
- HKPR District Health Unit
- Haliburton County Development Corporation
- OPP
- U-Links Centre for Community-Based Research
- Community groups (trails, age-friendly)
- Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition
- Business community

Partnering with Municipalities

Why? Raise awareness about the role they play in creating a healthy, active community that encourages active transportation.

How?

- Communicating the benefits through regular reports, updates and delegations to council, sharing meeting minutes
- Staff – community liaison
- Learn about each others' priorities
- Hosting workshops and events and inviting councillors and staff
- Hosting community walkabouts
- On-going conversation, not a “one-off”

Results: CIA as a credible resource

“...to have them as an independent body to provide the municipal and county levels with direction and to highlight best practices and bring resources to the table is very effective.”

“The CIA has been the main reason for us incorporating active transportation into our planning in the village.”

“The CIA has been a great partner for council and for lobbying other levels of government. Lots of projects would not have been put into place if it weren’t for them.”

Strategy: Research and Planning

Build a strong, evidence-based case, and develop tools and resources.

How?

- Developing active transportation plans for Haliburton and Minden
- Conducting community-based research to identify AT needs, concerns, challenges
- Helping create a vision – illustrations

Strategy: Influencing Policy

What the CIA did:

- Active Communities Charter to council
- Participated in Official Plan reviews

Official Plans at county and local level all now include language to support healthy, active communities in general and AT specifically.



Results: Policy Changes

The County Official Plan provides broad policy direction:

“Land use patterns and development should promote energy efficiency, improved air quality, and allow for compact development that is designed in such a way to support and encourage active transportation...” (*County of Haliburton Official Plan, 2010, 2.3.5.3*)

The Dysart et al Official Plan, 2010 more specific policy direction:

Section 2.2.4: “Promotion of Recreation Opportunities”

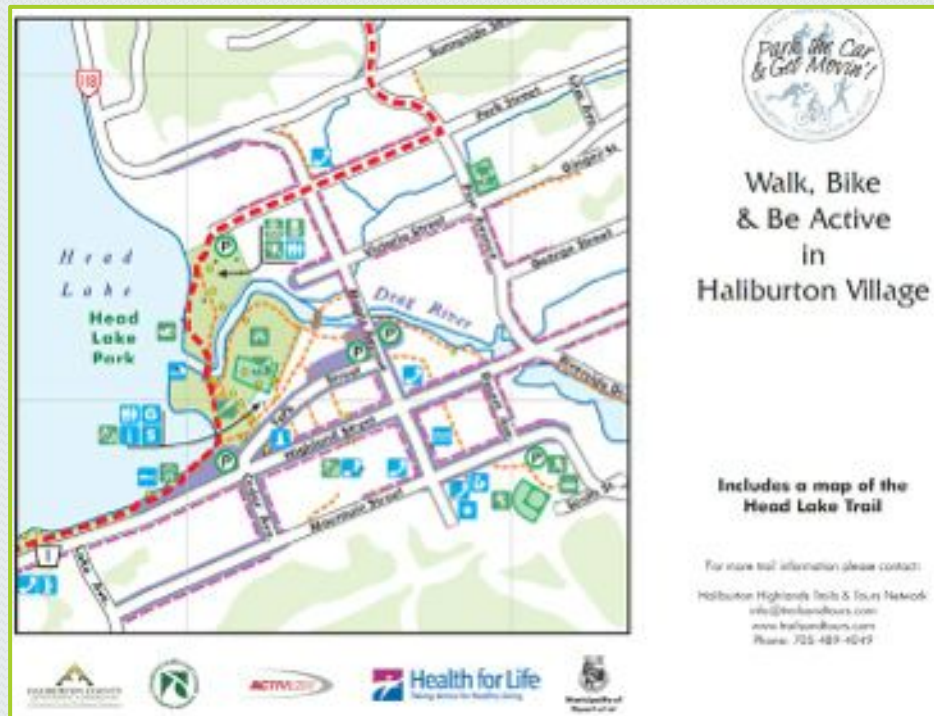
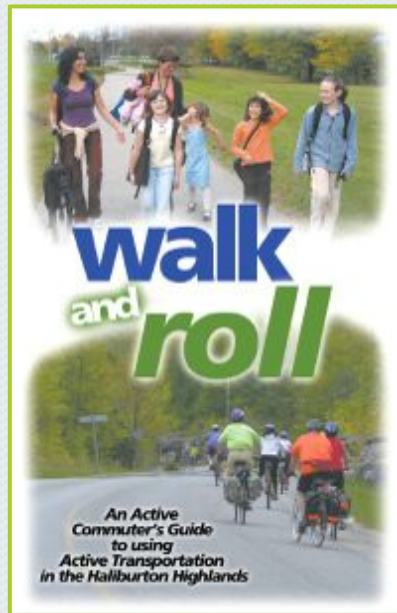
Section 2.2.7: “Promotion of Liveable Settlements”

Section 3.2.2.3: “Municipal Roads”

Section 4.1: “Settlement Patterns”

Section 4.8: “Active Transportation and Recreation Trails”

Strategy: Community Education & Awareness Raising



Results: Increased Awareness

“I think that there is more awareness of trails and the desire to use them.”

“People now have a place to go to walk and they may even go further than they did before. Just having the infrastructure gets people out.”

“The increased use of York St. is huge! There are also more people cycling around town generally, especially to the college.”

“As a driver it is very helpful to have the Share the Road signs as reminders to look out for (and share the road with) cyclists.”

Results: AT activity

Average number of people using AT based on 3 hours of observation.

Minden

Invergordon Ave.		Pritchard Lane		Water St.	
2007	2012	2007	2012	2007	2012
10	21	7	24	5	75

Haliburton

Highland St.		York St.		Courtesy Crossing	
2005	2012	2005	2012	2005	2012
146	277	106	135	55	56

Results in a Cultural Shift

“Politicians are more aware of the needs and impacts of cyclists and pedestrians now.”

“(My role..) has been to ensure that we are all thinking about active transportation when making decisions regarding roads and sidewalks.”

“It’s become part of the fabric of the community. We are at this point right now where you can see that threads of active transportation are there.”

Benefits of Collaborative Planning for AT

- Increases municipal capacity
- Taps into community expertise
- Provides additional funding opportunities
- Achieves multiple goals and priorities
- Provides grassroots forum for community to participate and engage in planning
- More inclusive
- Everyone (community and politicians) becomes more aware of needs and impacts of cyclists and pedestrians
- Becomes part of community 'fabric'

Lessons Learned

- Need AT Committee
- Know your community
- Find champions
- Public health is a key partner
- Once isn't enough
- Many factors contribute to increasing AT activity
- Elections!

Concluding thoughts?
Questions?



Thank You!

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