

## Active and Sustainable Transportation



*City of Bathurst Bike Rack Program (2008) - Bathurst Sustainable Development*

Bathurst Sustainable Development and the City of Bathurst are partnering to implement the **Bathurst Bike Rack Program** as part of the City of Bathurst Sustainable Transportation Action Plan (STAP). The high quality racks, placed along transportation, employment and shopping corridors, encourage citizens to cycle more often and also provide the capacity for citizens to participate in cycling by providing safe and secure bicycle parking facilities.

The costs of sprawl and infrastructure are having serious consequences on the limited financial resources, social, environmental and economic well being of Municipalities and its citizens.

- Sprawl increases the burden of road repairs to taxpayers throughout the region.

- Sprawl contributes to tax increases by requiring taxpayers to essentially create additional new roads, schools, and public safety services in rural areas.
- Sprawl burdens taxpayers now and in the future with the cost of aging infrastructure in urban areas.
- Sprawl increases over all transportation and cost of living for citizens living in the community.
- Vast tracts of habitat are lost from the ever expanding roadways.

Huge investments in road expansion projects could be transferred or shared to make real improvements in sustainable modes of transportation including an improved transit service and enhanced active transportation network.

## Benefits of Sustainable Transportation

- Ensuring links between land use and transportation are made will require new ways of retrofitting, designing, and building communities.
- Promoting more sustainable forms of development will significantly increase the quality of life in the communities as well as the environment through better air quality and reduced GHG emissions.
- Governments at all levels should support the implementation of public transit; walking and cycling networks;
- Improved and more efficient sustainable transportation services assist in the revitalization of urban neighbourhoods.
- Incorporating such items as public transit, bike racks, bike storage lockers, bus shelters, bike lanes and trails into a subdivision design not only improves quality of life for the residents but also reduces transportation costs, traffic noise and congestion.
- Statistics Canada studies show that youth are particularly attracted to living in communities where public transit is available.
- Access to affordable sustainable transportation options such as cycling and public transit allow citizens to have a greater participation in active living, greater inclusion and ensures social justice and equality.
- Access to affordable sustainable transportation provides security concerning independent living.
- Access to affordable transportation options allows greater participation in the workforce, community events and provides stimulus to local economies by keeping household transportation costs lower which allows citizens to divert their monthly savings to consumer purchases such as healthier food choices or supporting local events.



## **Pedestrian Access Lanes**

Parking lots are almost always designed specifically for cars. Signage, traffic flows; entrances are designed to create ease of access for cars but lack safe pedestrian access lanes.

### **Pedestrians are at risk of injury in parking lots if:**

- They are elderly and sometimes move slowly.
- They have young children with them.
- They are visually or hearing impaired.
- The pavement is covered in ice.
- The parking lot was designed for cars only
- There is no designated pedestrian lane
- There is no pedestrian crossing signage

### **Pedestrian Access Lanes**

- Municipalities need to ensure that pedestrians can travel safely.
- Commercial and public building development should be required to incorporate designated pedestrian access lanes from curb side to the main entrances of the buildings.
- Pedestrians are at risk of being injured if they have to walk “through” a parking lot to get to a building.
- Ensure visible and appropriate signage is in place to let motorists know that the pedestrian has priority.
- Use textured surface covers for pedestrian lanes.
- Incorporate blended curbs for safe access from varying grads.
- Ensure audible crosswalk signals are available at all pedestrian crossings.

### **Audible Pedestrian Signals**

- People with vision loss rely on the parallel traffic to determine when it's safe to cross at a controlled intersection.
- When they arrive at the corner, they listen to the traffic and when the parallel traffic starts going, they cross in the same direction.
- Certain intersections are very complex and it's very difficult to determine when it's safe to cross. That is when an audible pedestrian signal is required to better and safely determine when it is safe to cross.