

BY-LAWS

10. Active Transportation

In May 2012, County Council approved an Active Transportation Strategy (ATS) which, among other things, clearly articulated the goals and objectives of a County ATS. In summary, these goals and objectives are highlighted as follows:

- (a) Develop County policy and a coordinated approach to active transportation;
- (b) Set measurable goals to guide the development of a safe, sustainable and coordinated active transportation network in Renfrew County;
- (c) Promote and build safe and connected active transportation networks for all residents and visitors to Renfrew County;
- (d) Explore opportunities to raise awareness and support knowledge sharing and events that help County of Renfrew residents to choose safe active transportation options more often; and
- (e) Establish a framework to sustain the active transportation strategy in Renfrew County.

Section 3.0 of the ATS provides the following framework that is to be followed in terms of identifying components of the County's active transportation programs.



Subsequent to approval of the ATS, County Council identified Active Transportation as one of seven corporate priorities in the County's Strategic Plan and Council Priorities 2013-2018. The Strategic Plan identified the following action items within this five-year time period:

- Research best practices and policies;
- Presentation to Standing Committees and Council with respect to long-range plan and policies;
- Develop an education program;
- Develop supporting policies within the County official plan;
- Research/secure funding from provincial/federal governments;
- Consultation with local municipalities regarding long-range program priorities;
- Committee/Council approval of long-range Active Transportation program;
- Approval of base funding requirements for active transportation through budget process.

Many of the initiatives identified above have been or are currently being undertaken by staff. At the January, 2014 Budget Workshop, Council approved 35% (i.e. \$189,274) of the 2013 assessment growth for active transportation initiatives. As noted earlier in this report, prior to the expenditure of any further monies on active transportation, staff is required to develop an active transportation policy for Committee and Council consideration and approval in March, 2014. This report responds to that direction.

Policy Recommendations

As stated in the approved ATS, a comprehensive County ATS should identify active transportation initiatives within the Development & Property, Public Works & Engineering, Emergency Services and Social Services Departments.

Next Steps

The approval of Policy GA-08 will enable staff to phase in the formal implementation of active transportation infrastructure commencing this year. Staff will undertake the following initiatives:

1. Promotion and Education

This is an important component of a successful active transportation program. Working closely with the County's Media Relations/Grants Coordinator, an active transportation education and promotion campaign will be developed by June 2014, to promote the County's active transportation initiatives. These initiatives will solicit public participation and involvement with respect to active transportation.

2. Long-Range Active Transportation Program

Using the evaluation matrix developed by the Physical Activity Network (PAN) subcommittee as a base, a long-range active transportation plan will be developed and presented to Committees and Council for approval. This plan will respect the policies adopted by Council and will reflect a sustainable funding strategy. It is acknowledged that the scope of active transportation infrastructure improvements will be predicated

on funding availability which may have to be increased over time in order to achieve a reasonable infrastructure program.

3. Consultation with Local Municipalities

A comprehensive active transportation program, not only has to be coordinated within the County but, as importantly, the County's active transportation program must be coordinated with that of the local municipalities. Subject to Council's approval of this report and Policy GA-08, it is staff's intention to initiate contact with the appropriate local municipalities to secure an understanding of the active transportation priorities within their municipality. The coordination of active transportation initiatives will influence the timing and prioritization of the County's active transportation program.

Staff will bring back a follow-up report in September/October of this year, highlighting the level of interest for active transportation at the local municipal level.

4. Federal/Provincial Funding

Staff is aware that provincial funding is currently available for active transportation. This funding, however, is limited to program development, promotion and education initiatives, and it does not include funding for capital programs. Staff will pursue active transportation funding opportunities from both senior levels of government.

RESOLUTION NO. HC-CC-14-03-27

Moved by Chair
Seconded by Committee

THAT County Council approve Corporate Policy GA-08 Active Transportation, and adopt a By-law to Amend By-law 59-02 Corporate Policies and Procedures for the County of Renfrew at this session of County Council; AND FURTHER THAT the next steps highlighted in this report be approved.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Janice Visneskie Moore, Chair

And Committee Members: P. Emon, N. Lentz, J. Murphy, R. Rabishaw, T. Stewart, J. Wilson

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