



POLICY NO. 73

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION POLICY

1. Purpose

The Municipality of the District of Barrington believes that Active Transportation includes any form of human powered movement. The most common modes are walking and biking but can also include jogging, skateboarding, and the use of motorized personal mobility devices, such as powered wheelchairs or medical scooters. An Active Transportation Policy would help ensure the safety, inclusivity and diversity of our communities.

2. Guiding Principles

The following guiding principles form the foundation of this policy:

- a) When real or perceived safety barriers are removed, people can make an easy and safe choice to be active.
- b) People will embrace the social and health benefits of AT. We recognize walking and cycling are social pursuits that enable people to interact. We recognize that AT builds stronger bodies and healthy minds.
- c) Our citizens will benefit economically from AT. We will create new opportunities to enhance and build infrastructure, and host visitors. Building healthier communities will decrease healthcare costs.
- d) Parents and children of school communities are particularly vital in re-building a culture that embraces AT.

3. Goals

The goals of an active transportation network: 1) Is to improve citizen's accessibility and mobility regardless of age, ability, or socio-economic status; 2) To enhance the safety of our communities; 3) and to minimize the impact of transportation activities on our natural environment.

Achieving a well connected and comprehensive active transportation network/policy will enhance the promotion of physical activity as a means to improve the health of residents, and will improve social and environmental conditions in ways that invite families, businesses and workers to access this network to promote physical activity as well contribute to economic and tourism development.

Walking and biking amenities are a critical component of the success and vitality of communities which include our residential neighborhoods, commercial districts, schools, and recreation areas. In addition, the Municipality recognizes that streets are an important part of public space and play a major role in establishing the image and identity of our communities. They provide a key framework for current and future development.

4. Policy Statements

1. The Municipality recognizes that active transportation infrastructure includes, but is not limited to: sidewalks, gravel shoulders, paved shoulders, bike lanes, safe crossings, multi-use trails, non-motorized trails, and end of trip facilities (e.g. bike racks).
2. The Municipality recognizes that active transportation programs, promotion, and facility investments are an integral component to integrating AT into our lifestyle, which can have a profound impact on our mental and physical health (e.g. reduction in rates of anxiety and impacts of heart disease, diabetes, obesity).
3. The Municipality should consider the specific active transportation needs of people of all ages, and abilities (children, youth, seniors, and disabled populations) in all street design, trail, public space, and bikeway projects.
4. Active transportation infrastructure should be incorporated into existing roads, as opportunities arise, or needs dictate.
5. Active transportation solutions should be considered in the initial phases of all new projects. The Municipality recognizes that integrating appropriate infrastructure into the initial design of street projects and public spaces avoids the expense of retrofits later.
6. The Municipality should annually review active transportation improvement opportunities as part of the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and/or operations budgeting process.
7. The Municipality should establish an infrastructure maintenance program to ensure AT infrastructure will be kept in good repair, remain accessible, provide safe passage, improve visibility, and be upgraded as warranted.
8. The Municipality should encourage and support provincial and regional programs and initiatives that: 1) advance the promotion, 2) support for active transportation and 3) the impact it has on citizen's lifestyles.
9. The Municipality should continue to communicate and champion the benefits of active transportation to it's citizens, developers, planners and schools.

Approved by Council November 27, 2017