



Administrative Report

Office of the Director of Infrastructure Services

To: Warden McNamara and Members of County Council

**From: Jane Mustac, P. Eng.
Director of Infrastructure Services/County Engineer**

Date: Wednesday, January 15, 2020

Subject: CWATS Annual Summary Report

Report #: 2020-0115-IS-R01-JM

Purpose

The purpose of this report is to provide County Council information and recommendations pertaining to the County Wide Active Transportation System (CWATS) Program.

Background

2019 was an extremely busy and productive year for the implementation of the County's active transportation initiatives delivered through the CWATS Program. The 2012 CWATS Active transportation plan includes many topics and important aspects for the implementation of active transportation projects, programs, and infrastructure and as active transportation planning continues to emerge, an update to the master plan has been initiated.

The CWATS Steering Committee Terms of Reference provides the opportunity for the Chair to present an annual report that establishes a strategy for the upcoming year. The Director of Infrastructure Services receives the Chair's report and brings forward recommendations for consideration by County Council.

Included in this year's report from the Committee Chair is the list of 2020 candidate projects as well as a series of recommendations relating to opportunities to advance the building of facilities, enhancing facility types, expanding and sustaining the network. The attached report identifies areas where active transportation planning has become even more sophisticated, particularly as additional research has revealed the strong connections between an individual's health, transportation choices, and the surrounding built environment.

Discussion

The CWATS master plan recommends initiatives, improvements and new infrastructure facilities to support and encourage residents and visitors of all ages and abilities, to encourage walking and cycling as a feasible and attractive way to get around as the County and the local municipalities are working to make cycling safer, convenient, comfortable and fun. A successful active transportation plan should support the specific goals of the community it serves, determined by a thoughtful community input process and careful analysis. Some critical aspects of an active transportation plan are:

- Developing a high-quality network;
- Fostering the culture and appeal of walking and bicycling;
- Defining clear implementation tasks and responsibilities, including resources.

The master plan update, initiated in 2018, will confirm the vision and approach, apply lessons learned, review and integrate the most current best practices of active transportation, and respond to current community trends, emerging design guidelines, supportive legislation and best practices. The update is being completed with collaboration of the CWATS Committee and WSP Consulting.

In order to plan and develop a successful network of well used active transportation facilities, the facilities need to connect to where people are going, and be attractive for use by a majority of the population. The development of an active transportation network is based on a number of inputs: existing conditions; feedback from the public engagement process; and the technical analysis (demand, level of stress and gaps). The active transportation network from each of the local municipalities are also considered as cross border coordination is required to maximize effectiveness of the investment. Together these form the rationale for how the master plan will be further developed.

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To create a community where active transportation is commonplace, the plan does not merely focus on building new infrastructure – there is also a concerted effort to encourage behaviour change and educate residents about how to use that infrastructure in a safe, legal manner.

Governments at every level are coming to realize the benefits of active transportation. The environmental, climate change, health, social and economic benefits of increasing active transportation have also resulted in support for active transportation from diverse interest groups and professions. This broad backing has supported municipalities in their development and implementation of new active transportation plans, policies and programs. The County is fortunate to have a broad coalition of stakeholders working together to make walking, cycling and wheeling more accessible to all residents, which has resulted in some successful programs being developed within the community.

The master plan update will explore how the County and local municipalities can build on those previous successes, capitalize on the strong community that has already unified around active transportation and build new supports to get more people walking & cycling.

The 2020 project list was prioritized by the CWATS Steering Committee and includes planning level cost estimates. Each of the local municipalities have applied to the CWATS Committee with a supporting council resolution identifying their commitment to their share of the funding component of each respective candidate route.

Financial Implications

Funds to support the 2020 CWATS Program is included in the 2020 Infrastructure Services Department budget.

Recommendation

It is recommended that:

County Council approve the 2020 CWATS Infrastructure Program projects as recommended by the CWATS Steering Committee; and

County Council support the continuation of funding and resources for outreach, monitoring, evaluation programs and initiatives as outlined in the annual report 2020-0115-CWATS-R01-KW.

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Respectfully Submitted

Jane Mustac

Originally Signed by

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Concurred With,

Robert Maisonville

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Robert Maisonville, Chief Administrative Officer

Appendix No.	Title of Appendix
A	CWATS Annual Chair Report - 2019