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Active Transportation

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Active transportation is any form of human-powered transportation, including walking, cycling, roller-blading, skateboarding and moving with mobility devices. An active transportation network includes sidewalks, multi-use paths, on-road bike lanes and off-road trails.

Have a look as Town staff speak about funding and cycling in Halton Hills:

Types of active transportation

Bike lanes

Bike lanes are typically located on urban cross-section roads (with curb and gutter) to create a physical space in the travelled portion of the roadway that is designed for one-way bicycle travel. Bike lanes are demarcated with pavement markings and signage. For more info see [Bike Lanes](#) and [Bike Safety](#) above.

Sidewalks

Sidewalks are located within the public road right-of-way throughout the urban areas of the Town of Halton Hills. Sidewalks are an important component of the municipal transportation network that provide a safe, healthy and sustainable alternative to using the automobile.

Off-road trails

Municipal off-road trails provide linkages throughout our community and promote opportunity to explore nature in your backyard. In addition to walking many of our trails can accommodate strollers or bicycles. The Bruce Trail is found within the Niagara Escarpment lands and offers over 30km of hiking trails within the Town of Halton Hills. For more information see [Town of Halton Hills trail map](#). In rural areas where there is limited active transportation infrastructure, please consider the safety of all users and share the road.

Multi-use paths

A multi-use trail is a facility that is completely separate from the travelled portion of a roadway, and may take the form of an in-boulevard trail in a public road right-of-way or an off-road multi-use trail within a greenway, abandoned rail corridor, or utility/hydro corridor. These types of trails are typically designed to support the widest range of users including pedestrians, cyclists, in-line skaters and skateboarders where trail surfaces permit such activities. Multi-use trails located in parks primarily serve recreational pedestrians and cyclists but can also be used for commuting.

Bike lanes

What is a bike lane?

- A dedicated space on the road for cyclists.
- In addition to regulatory signs, bike lane symbols are painted on the road along with a solid white line.

Benefits

- Reduces traffic and speeding;
- Promotes alternative mode of transportation;
- Provides identified space for cyclists; and
- Promotes healthy living (active transportation).

Who can use a bike lane?

- All cyclists can use bike lanes.
- EMS and Fire Trucks may cross or occupy a bike lane when responding to an emergency situation.

- Private vehicles under contract to ActiVan Accessible Transit may pick up or drop off members in bike lanes.

Restrictions

- Pedestrians are not to walk in bike lanes. They are to walk on sidewalks, multi-use paths or trails only.
- Any motorized vehicle, including taxis, delivery trucks and motorists are not allowed to park, stop, or drive in bike lanes.

Future plans

- Town staff will monitor the operation of bike lanes and consult with the community.
- The Town of Halton Hills has developed a comprehensive [Cycling Master Plan](#) (2010) to guide the implementation of town-wide cycling infrastructure.

Bicycle safety

- A bicycle is a vehicle under the [Ontario Highway Traffic Act](#).
- Cyclists have the same rights and responsibilities to obey all traffic laws as other road users.
- Cyclists can and will be charged for disobeying traffic laws.
- See [Cycling Related Fines](#) for a list of laws and fines provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation.

Provincial laws

- Any cyclist under the age of 18 MUST wear a helmet.
- A bicycle must have a bell or horn in good working order.
- A bicycle must have at least one brake system on the rear wheel.
- A bicycle must have a white or amber light on the front and a red light or a reflector on the rear from one half hour before sunset to one half hour after sunrise or during inclement weather conditions.

Tips for cyclists

- Obey all traffic rules, signs and signals (including stop signs).

- Use the bike lane the same way a driver uses a lane of traffic.
- Use caution, be aware and respectful of other road users at all times.
- Use hand signals when turning, changing lanes and stopping.
- Stay on the right of the lane; pass on the left side of the lane.
- Safely scan the road behind you.
- See Guide to Safe Cycling provided by the Ontario Ministry of Transportation for more information.
- Ride single file and, where possible, move to the right to allow motorists to pass.

Tips for drivers

- Treat cyclists like any other vehicle.
- When passing a cyclist, drivers are required to maintain a distance of at least 1m, as nearly as practical, between the vehicle and bicycle.
- Use caution, signal, and check for cyclists when crossing a bike lane or turning.
- Scan the road prior to opening doors

Frequently asked questions

1. **What are the benefits of incorporating bike lanes?**

The benefits are reduction of motor vehicle operating speeds (traffic calming), reduces pedestrian crossing distance, promotes alternative mode of transportation, provides identified space for cyclists, connects to existing bike paths/trails and promotes healthy living (active transportation).

2. **What is the Cycling Master Plan?**

The Town of Halton Hills has developed a comprehensive Cycling Master Plan (2010) to guide the Town in implementing a Town-wide cycling network over the next 10 years and beyond. The Cycling Master Plan document was adopted by Council in 2010.

3. **What are Complete Streets?**

A Complete Street is defined as a street that is designed for all ages and abilities, designed for universal access specifically to accommodate safe and comfortable access for pedestrians, cyclists, transit users and drivers.

4. What is Capital Works, and how is bike lane implementation funded?

The projects are funded from a combination of Federal Gas Tax and the Town's Capital Program, which is approved annually by Council.

5. How about bike safety?

Halton Regional Police Service through the North Halton Injury Prevention Committee will undertake a bike safety workshop during the Bike to Market public event. The Town's Traffic division will provide additional bike information, safety tips and discuss the proposed bike lane implementation process.

6. Rules of the road - Highway Traffic Act (HTA):

Bicycles are designated as vehicles under the HTA and as such are required to obey all the same rules and regulations as automobiles when being operated on a public roadway. It is important to note that even when bike lanes are provided, cyclists are not obligated to use them. Should they choose to do so, cyclists are legally permitted to travel with mixed traffic in a standard motor vehicle travel lane.

7. Uncontrolled crosswalks?

Based on the bike lane implementation project, travel lanes for motorized vehicles will be narrowed. Therefore, the conflict area between pedestrians and motor vehicles will be reduced and pedestrian safety improved. Uncontrolled crosswalks will be retrofitted with warning tab signs indicating Pedestrians Wait for Gap message.

8. Is there more school crossing guard information?

School entry and dismissal times managed by each school board are provided on their websites. Staggered dismissal times would benefit traffic distribution and reduce traffic congestion in front of the schools. The Town manages the school crossing guard program. Visit our [crossing_guards_page](#) for more information.

9. Are the bike lanes suitably designed?

Yes, the width of the lanes are designed within acceptable standards ensuring public safety.

10. Is on-street parking affected?

For more information regarding the Town of Halton Hills Uniform Traffic Control By-law No. 1984-0001, our [parking_page](#).

11. How about winter parking?

Halton Hills allows a maximum parking duration of 5 hours, unless otherwise posted. During winter time, overnight parking prohibition is in

effect between 2 a.m. and 6 a.m.

12. What is pavement marking removal?

It is the removal of old paint (water-based) and/or durable paint (plastic).

13. What type of disruption can residents expect?

For a short period of time residents may experience disruption such as noise and dust during the removal of the existing lane markings (during the day) and implementation of the new lane marking (overnight). Certain sections of the road will be inaccessible, but clearly marked.

14. What if road work is delayed?

The Town will hand deliver a notice informing residents of any major delays, next steps, and continue to communicate with the affected homeowner.

15. Where is the future bike lane integration being implemented?

The Town intends to evaluate Argyll Road, a roadway identified in the Town's Cycling Master Plan, for the feasibility of incorporating cycling lanes linking Eight Line, Miller Drive and Mountainview Road.

The Town of Halton Hills

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