

Appendix B



Appendix B

Public and Staff Consultation Process

A central premise in the development of the Toronto Bike Plan was to actively involve members of the public, staff from City departments, the Toronto Cycling Committee (TCC) and key stakeholders in all phases of the study.

The substantial input received from those who participated in the Toronto Bike Plan was reviewed and taken into consideration in the development of the Plan. The TBP, therefore, is the product of an extensive study and consultation process which the City believes generally reflects the interests of Toronto residents, and at the same time is a direct response to many of the needs and wishes of Toronto cyclists.

The following is a summary of the major public and staff consultation events which took place throughout the project:

August, 1999

The Study began with a Public Attitude Survey which was used to garner the public's views on Cycling in Toronto. Members of the consultant team and City staff met in August to discuss the bicycle survey objectives. This was a telephone survey which would be carried out by a professional marketing firm.

September, 1999

Two meetings of the Education and Safety Subcommittee of the Toronto Cycling Committee were held to plan for activities in the year 2000 and beyond. The objectives of these meetings were to identify areas that the subcommittee should be operating in, review all current programs for effectiveness and sustainability and prioritize areas for future development based on available resources.

The Project Team met with the Toronto Bike Plan Technical Steering Committee for the first time on September 22, 1999 to review the revised work program, schedule and budget.

A TCC meeting was held on September 21, 1999 to review the study objectives, draft work plan and timelines.

October, 1999

The second Technical Steering Committee meeting took place on October 8, 1999 to review the final Cycling Survey questionnaire. Decima was authorized to commence the survey starting the week of October 12, 1999. The strategy for the Fall public workshop was developed.

November, 1999

Cycling tours were held on November 2, 1999 in Districts 1 and 2, and on November 4, 1999 in Districts 3 and 4. Invitations were sent out to a variety of stakeholders including: City staff, politicians, Toronto Cycling Committee members, cyclists, bicycle retailers, representatives from the education and safety sectors, police, transit staff, other community group representatives and the media. These tours provided a relaxed forum for opinions of stakeholders to be aired, and an opportunity to view a sample of existing facilities, as well as potential opportunities and challenges for implementing new bikeways, from the cyclists' perspective.

The third Technical Steering Committee meeting took place on November 9, 1999. Stantec presented a summary of the Cycling Tours and the comments received from participants in each of the Districts. MMM presented some preliminary findings from the survey which Decima had completed.

December, 1999

The first series of Public Workshops were held during the second week of December in each of

four Districts of the City. The purpose of these workshops was to discuss the principles used to guide the development of a bikeway network, to gather information on the existing conditions for cycling in the City and to record public comments on initial candidate routes that should be investigated in subsequent phases of the study.

January, 2000

A TCC meeting was held on January 17, 2000 to discuss the effects of smog on cyclists' health.

February, 2000

The fourth Technical Steering Committee meeting took place on February 8, 2000. The purpose of this meeting was to review the Decima Cycling Survey Final Report and the draft vision statement and bicycle network objectives. The Committee developed the more specific objectives – route selection criteria and approach.

A TCC meeting was held on February 14, 2000 to examine bike parking issues and objectives.

March, 2000 – May, 2000

The TBP was displayed to the public during the Toronto International Bicycle Show at the CNE (March 3-5, 2000).

The draft report, Plan structure, network objectives and evaluation process were reviewed by the TCC during a meeting on March 20, 2000. The Decima Cycling Survey results were presented to the TCC on April 17, 2000.

The project team met with Transportation, Planning and Parks staff from each of the four City Districts to short-list potential routes within their areas. The meetings also provided the opportunity to outline the vision and objectives, as well as the study approach, to each District.

The Cycling and Transit component of the TBP was presented to the TCC on May 15, 2000.

April, 2000 – June, 2000

The study team cycled all proposed routes to evaluate and determine best candidates for network.

June, 2000

ESG met with the City to discuss the Education section of the Toronto Bike Plan.

June, 2000 – July, 2000

Follow-up meetings were held in each of the four Districts with Transportation, Planning and Parks staff to provide an overview of work done since the initial meeting and to review the proposed bikeway network.

The Study Team presented the draft Toronto Bike Plan to the Toronto Cycling Committee on July 17, 2000. Comments were received on the vision, goals and each of the “spokes”.

The Study Team met with the Toronto Cycling Committee and various stakeholders on July 31, 2000 to receive feedback on the draft network plan. The Team presented maps that illustrated the proposed on-street bicycle lanes/routes and off-street routes that form the draft network plan. Input was gathered on specific routes prior to the second series of public workshops.

July, 2000 – November, 2000

Ongoing consultation between study team and District Parks and Transportation staff to refine the proposed network.

September, 2000

The fifth Technical Steering Committee meeting took place on September 13, 2000. The City noted that the proposed network plan had received general support from District Staff,

though some outstanding issues remained to be worked out. The next step would be to prioritize routes in terms of short or long term. The Steering Committee reviewed the Bike Plan's vision statement, primary goal, six component "spokes" and associated objectives in preparation for the second series of public meetings.

The City met with the TTC and GO Transit to review the draft "Links to Transit" component of the Toronto Bike Plan.

The draft Bikeway Network, as well as the goals and objectives for the six key components of the TBP, was presented to the Transportation Services Directors (TNT) during a meeting on September 15, 2000. They were also presented to the Works & Emergency Services (WES) Traffic Operations Managers on September 21, 2000.

The second series of Public Workshops were held during the last week of September, 2000 in each of the four Districts. The purpose of the workshops was to present the components of the TBP, review key objectives for each component, discuss the principles used to guide the development of the network plan, present the draft network plan, obtain public comments on the work completed to that point and outline the next steps in the study. A letter was sent to all workshop participants summarizing their comments and thanking them for their involvement.

October, 2000

The draft Bikeway Network, as well as the goals and objectives for the six key components of the TBP, was presented to the Transportation Planning Section of Urban Development Services (UDS) on October 5, 2000, the WES Senior Management Team on October 12, 2000, and the WES Traffic Planning Managers.

December, 2000

The TCC reviewed public feedback from the four District Open Houses during a meeting on December 4, 2000.

March, 2001

The TBP was displayed to the public during the Toronto International Bicycle Show at the CNE (March 2-4, 2001).

April, 2001

The Bicycle Friendly Streets and Bikeway Network chapters of the Plan were presented to the WES Traffic Operations Managers during a meeting on April 19, 2001. These chapters were also presented to the Roads and Sidewalks Committee on April 24, 2001.

A special Cycling Committee meeting was held on April 30, 2001 to review the draft bike plan with members of the TCC. Each chapter was reviewed on an individual basis, and an opportunity was provided for members to submit their written comments and marked-up reports for consideration as well. TCC comments were incorporated into the draft report where appropriate.

May, 2001

The Project Team met with the Technical Steering Committee for the sixth time on May 2, 2001 to review each chapter individually. Steering Committee comments were incorporated into the final report.

The draft Bike Plan was presented to the Transportation Services Directors (TNT) on May 4, 2001 and the Strategic Transportation Planning Group on May 29, 2001.

June, 2001

A meeting with the TCC was held on June 18, 2001 to review the implementation strategy of the TBP.

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