

TORONTO STAFF REPORT

June 14, 2006

To: Economic Development and Parks Committee

From: Brenda Librecz, General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation

Subject: Toronto Bikeway Network Projects, Bikeway Network Information System Sign Installation and Bikeway Network Trails
City-Wide

Purpose:

To respond to the request for information regarding Toronto Bikeway Network Projects, Bikeway Network Information System Sign Installation and Bikeway Network Trails that are under the jurisdiction of Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

Financial Implications and Impact Statement:

There are no financial implications resulting from the receipt of this report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that this report be received for information.

Background:

At its meeting of January 31, February 1 and 2, 2006 City Council approved Notice of Motion J(4), regarding Bikeway Network Projects, Bikeway Network Information System Sign Installation and Bikeway Network Trails, directing the General Manager of Parks, Forestry and Recreation to report to the Economic Development and Parks Committee on the following items:

- (1) the plans for implementing the Bikeway Network Information System in Parks, including the trails that are to be signed and the spending that will be allocated to that project from the 'Bikeway Network Expansion' budget items or any other line items;
- (2) the plans for new trails that will form part of the Bikeway Network with information on the trail projects planned and the funding that will be allocated to them, including:

- (a) trail projects funded from the 'Bikeway Network Expansion' budget item;
 - (b) trail projects that are stand-alone service improvements; and
 - (c) trail projects that are part of stand-alone Park improvements;
- (3) the plans for improvements, upgrades or repairs to existing Bikeway Network trails under the Capital Asset Management Program - State of Good Repair (CAMP- SGR) budget, including:
- (a) compilation of the trail audit data for Bikeway Network related trails from the State of Good Repair Audits - Trails and Pathways for the East, West, North and South Districts; and
 - (b) the annual amount budgeted towards addressing State of Good Repair for the Bikeway Network related trails in the years 2006 to 2011;
- (4) the plan for repairs to trails and bridges that are part of the Bikeway Network that suffered storm damage in 2005, including the Wilket Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail bridges, the Humber Trail and any other trails or bridges that were damaged; and
- (5) the status of the development of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation 5-year Capital plan, as it pertains to the Toronto Bike Plan, including plans for Bikeway Network Expansion, stand-alone service or park improvements, repairs and upgrades to trails that are part of the Bikeway Network as part of the CAMP-SGR program, and implementation of the Bikeway Network Information System."

Comments:

- (1) As part of creating a city-wide Bikeway Network, The Toronto Bike Plan (TBP), approved in principle by Council in July 2001, included a recommendation to "develop a bikeway network information system, including maps, signs and information boards as well as publishing appropriate information on the City's website."

Parks, Forestry and Recreation will contribute to the implementation of the Bikeway Network Information System (BNIS) by installing bikeway network route signs along park trails to allow the integration of the on-street route system with trails in parks.

A trail and on-road signage pilot project was implemented in the summer of 2004 to install and evaluate the design and location of Bikeway Signs on the Lower Don Trail and surrounding on-street trail connections (between Cherry Street and Pottery Road). As a result of feedback from this project, a set of distinct sign types has been identified to allow trail users to:

- a) Confirm that the trail they are on is the desired bikeway;
- b) Select the correct direction at an intersection;
- c) Determine the distance travelled and distance still to go;
- d) Identify major destinations and landmarks;

- e) Locate network connections to enable easy changes in destination or routing; and
- f) Follow rules-of-the-trail and etiquette.

While the Toronto Bike Plan Network will ultimately consist of approximately 500 kilometres of bicycle lanes, 250 kilometres of off-road paths and 250 kilometres of signed shared roadways, the implementation of signs for the following park trails is a priority (based on input from the cycling public and the Toronto Cycling Committee), due to their extensive use and important connection to the rest of the bikeway system.

Priority trail systems for signage in 2006 and 2007 are:

- a) Don River Trail
- b) Humber River Trail
- c) Beltline Trail
- d) Taylor Creek Trail; and
- e) Martin Goodman (Waterfront) Trail

The Capital Budget for this project has been identified as follows: 2006- \$0.165 million (approved); 2007- \$0.150 million.

Staff from the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Division are working with Transportation Services (cycling infrastructure) staff to develop the signage program. Once the signage design is finalized and approved, signs will be fabricated by the Parks, Forestry and Recreation Sign Shop and installation will be undertaken by Parks, Forestry and Recreation Technical Services crews. Installation is expected to begin in the summer of 2006 and continue through 2007.

- (2) New trails that will form part of the Bikeway Network to be undertaken in 2006-2011 have been identified in the following budget areas:

- (a) Bikeway Network Expansion' budget (\$0.500 million approved for 2006 and \$0.500 million is proposed for each year from 2007 to 2011):

- i) Viewmount Park pathway (2006)
- ii) East Point Park to new Highland Creek bridge (2006)
- iii) Etobicoke Creek pathway and new bridge to Centennial Park (2006, depending on funds remaining)
- iv) York Beltline extension to Marlee (future)
- v) Mid Humber: Cruickshank Park to Mallaby Park (at St. Phillips bridge) (future)
- vi) West Humber trail access pathways (Highway 27, Martin Grove, Kipling, Islington) (future)
- vii) North Humber Park to Rowntree Mills Park pathway (future)
- viii) Riverdale Park East pathway to connect Hogarth bikeway to existing pathway and bridge over DVP (future); and

- ix) West Humber Trail extension to Claireville Conservation area (with TRCA) (future)
- (b) Trail projects that are stand-alone service improvements:
- i) CP-PS Lead Railpath (\$0.500 million – 2006; \$1.1 million – 2007; \$1.5 million – 2008)
 - ii) CN Leaside Rail-Trail (\$3.5 million – 2011)
 - iii) Toronto Island main road resurfacing (\$0.200 million – 2006; \$0.200 million – 2007)
 - iv) Kay Gardner Beltline – further extension towards Mt. Pleasant
- (c) Trail projects that are part of stand-alone Park improvements:
- i) McCowan District Park (paved trail from Brimley Rd. to Bellamy Rd.)

Staff in Parks, Forestry and Recreation will continue to work with Cycling Infrastructure staff in Transportation Services in the planning and implementation of Toronto Bike Plan projects to help build the proposed network in a co-ordinated manner.

- (3) The plans for improvements, upgrades or repairs to existing Bikeway Network trails under the Capital Asset Management Program - State of Good Repair budget, include:

- (a) 304 Trails and Pathways (T&P) audits were completed in the spring of 2006 across the entire City. The priority for work identified is worst to best. The table below represents an annual budget of \$600,000.00 for T&P - State of Good Repair program over the next ten years that will be reflected in our Capital Budget submission. There is an identified \$48,175,000.00 of Trail and Pathway work that is beyond the shown 10-year plan. The projects identified with the shaded background are also identified as routes within the Toronto Bikeway Network.

District	Ward	Location	Bike Plan	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016
West	5	Home Smith Pk. TP - Road Resurfacing		350									
South	31	Dentonia Park - Connection to Subway		140									
East	36	Sylvan Park/Gates Gully TP		95									
East	44	Glen Rouge Campground TP			160								
West	3	Bloordale Park South TP	TBP		100								
West	3	Neilson Park TP			95								
North	16	Otter Creek Artificial Ice Rink TP			90								
West	5	Berry Road Park TP			80								
East	40	Lynngate Park TP			85								
East	42	John Tabor Park TP				95							
West	6	Etobicoke Creek Parklands TP				345							
North	25	Mike Bela Park TP				80							
West	1	Smithfield Park TP				80							
East	36	Highview Park TP					110						
West	7	Habitant Park TP					80						
East	37	Maryvale Park/Fieldhouse TP					115						
West	5	Wedgewood Park TP					80						

North	9	Chalkfarm Park TP					230						
West	5	Woodford Park TP						90					
West	3	West Deane Park North TP	TBP					365					
West	1	Albion Gardens Park TP						145					
East	44	Rouge Beach Park TP							290				
East	43	Guildwood Park & Guild Inn TP	TBP						350				
East	38	Confederation Park TP								90			
East	44	Lavery Trail Park TP								80			
West	5	Tom Riley (Central) Park TP	TBP							250			
East	42	Burrows Hall Park TP								80			
East	41	Chartwell Park TP								105			
West	13	Ormskirk Park TP									120		
East	43	Rowatson Park TP									80		
East	40	Muirlands Park TP									140		
East	37	Jack Goodlad Park TP	TBP								155		
East	39	Fundy Bay Park TP	TBP								140		
North	34	Anewan Greenbelt TP										80	
East	42	Harvest Moon Park TP										90	
East	44	Tall Pines Park TP										90	
West	6	Etobicoke Valley Park TP	TBP									110	
North	34	Moccasin Trail Park TP	TBP									90	
West	2	Flagstaff Park TP										80	
North	10	Clanton Park TP											115
East	41	Goldhawk Park TP											225
North	15	Flemington Park TP											110
East	43	Cornell Park TP											80
North	24	Skymark Park TP											80

(b) The Parks, Forestry and Recreation annual budget for Trails and Pathways - State of Good Repair work is \$600,000.00.

(4) The plan for repairs to trails and bridges that are part of the Bikeway Network that suffered storm damage in 2005 will be addressed through a storm damage update report. Specifically mentioned in the notice of motion were “Wilket Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail bridges, and the Humber Trail”. Wilket Creek is undergoing a Geomorphic study by Toronto Water to better understand why this reach of the creek constantly suffers damage from most major storms. This study is expected to take one year to complete and will make recommendations for the long-term sustainability of the watershed and trail network within the ravine. Repairs have been made to make the trail system usable on a temporary basis. The Highland Creek Trail is under the jurisdiction of the Toronto Region and Conservation Authority (TRCA). The Highland Creek Bridge is awaiting sign off of the location by the TRCA. Damage to the Humber Trail has been repaired as required.

(5) Action on the above mentioned points are all currently underway by Parks, Forestry and Recreation. Division staff have been meeting regularly with the working committee of the Toronto Bike Network to ensure that the goals and objectives of the Division and the Toronto Bike Network are identified and achievable.

All of this information was presented by Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff to the Toronto Bike Network Committee on the evening of May 15th 2006 in order to ensure accuracy.

Conclusions:

Parks, Forestry and Recreation staff will continue to work closely with the Toronto Bike Network and Transportation Services to help the City achieve the objective of a city-wide integrated network of bike routes.

Contact:

Anne Marra
Director, Parks Development and Infrastructure Management
Tel: 416-394-5723
Fax: 416-394-8935
Email: amarra@toronto.ca

Michael Schreiner
Acting Manager, Construction Management/Capital Projects
Parks Development and Infrastructure Management
Tel: 416-392-8453
Fax: 416-392-3355
Email: mschrein@toronto.ca

Brenda Librecz
General Manager, Parks, Forestry and Recreation