



Introduction

The Sustainable Transportation in Toronto directory was first co-produced by Detour Publications and the City of Toronto in 1994 and there has since been considerable demand for more copies to be printed. The 1999 revised and expanded directory was a partnership between the Environmental Task Force and Detour Publications with contributions from various sources including the Moving the Economy Conference held in Toronto in July 1998. The information collected at the conference (MTE On-Line, an international inventory of economic success stories in sustainable transportation) is available through the City of Toronto web site at www.city.toronto.on.ca/mte.

The 1999 Sustainable Transportation in Toronto directory showcases a wide range of Toronto-based initiatives related to sustainable transportation including projects, organizations, case studies, people, success stories, conferences, annual events, publications and more. In some cases, we have listed people and initiatives outside of Toronto, but for the most part we have concentrated on the region because transportation is a regional issue. The businesses listed in this directory all have on-going sustainable transportation-related programs or projects. If we have missed you or any other initiative, please let us know. We will add you to either the on-line version or the next edition.

Modeled on the Moving the Economy conference proceedings this directory is meant as a practical, accessible, expandable tool for action.

This Directory might be useful - even essential - to you if:

- you are interested in learning more about sustainable transportation, a particular mode, approach, or system of transportation
- you need a quick reference on sustainable transportation in Toronto
- you are interested in becoming involved in sustainable transportation events, activities, or volunteer opportunities
- you are already involved in sustainable transportation and are frequently asked or wonder what other activities are going on
- you want to keep in touch with sustainable transportation people and projects
- you want to know what has been done in the past

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Definition*

What is Sustainable Transportation?

Think of it as...

- moving people and goods in cleaner, greener, safer, healthier, and more equitable ways
- where possible and appropriate, not moving people or goods

These greener ways can include:

- Telecommunications to reduce or replace travel, or to make it more efficient
- Cleaner and more efficient systems for moving goods
- Land use planning, green development and local production to make cities more vibrant and efficient and reduce the need for travel
- Sustainable personal transportation modes: cycling, walking, transit and new hybrid modes
- New approaches to automobile travel: car sharing, car pooling, cleaner cars, lighter cars

It's about:

- increasing people's options
- life getting better

A sustainable transportation system is one that:

- allows the basic needs of individuals and societies to be met safely and in a manner consistent with human and ecosystem health, and with equity within and between generations
- is affordable, operates efficiently, offers choice of transport mode, and supports a vibrant economy
- limits emissions and waste within the planet's ability to absorb them, minimizes consumption of non-renewable resources, reuses and recycles its components, and minimizes the use of land and the protection of noise

* (Source: Centre for Sustainable Transportation)

Evolution

Since the original 1994 version, extensive research has revealed many new resources related to sustainable transportation and we have made every effort to include these in the 2000 directory. We have also incorporated local success stories from Moving the Economy's conference proceedings. We are working on making the directory available through the Internet and to provide on-line registration for any new initiatives or ones that we have missed.

Moving forward with optimism...

- Toronto enters the millenium with growing commitment and innovative efforts to address transportation and environmental challenges.
- The evolution of this directory, a listing that has doubled in less than five years, is a significant indicator of increasing awareness, commitment, and action. Sustainable transportation is developing rapidly in Toronto, most noticeably in the public sector as well as in the rise of dedicated projects led by the non-governmental and private sectors. As a result, the 2000 directory has incorporated new classifications for City of Toronto initiatives and partnerships as well as a new section for sustainable transportation related funds, and an archival section of completed projects and precedents.
- The City of Toronto is implementing and developing sustainable transportation initiatives as part of its target to reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 20% of 1990 levels by 2005. Toronto City Council adopted this target, at the urging of the Environmental Task Force, in December 1998 (ETF Newsletter, May 1999). The government of Canada is developing a National Implementation Strategy to meet the greenhouse gas emission reduction targets established in the Kyoto Protocol. The Protocol was the outcome of the Third Conference of Parties (COP3) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change that took place in Kyoto, Japan, in December 1997 (Environment Canada, 1999).



- The 1998 Moving the Economy conference was a great success and put an economic win-win spotlight on Toronto and sustainable transportation. It showed that the sustainable transportation sector is growing world-wide, innovating and developing a wider and more integrated range of transportation choices for citizens and businesses - enhancing efficiency, safety, accessibility, convenience, enjoyment, and affordability, providing new opportunities for business spin-offs, costs savings, job creation and local economic revitalization (Moving the Economy, 1998)
- Bicycle culture, the process of building a community of people who see the bicycle or other human-powered vehicles as a way of life, is more present than ever, particularly in downtown Toronto.
- Urban green tourism is developing in response to local and international demand and the Green Tourism Association now offers the other Map of Toronto. More and more citizens are concerned and inspired to make changes in their transportation choices.

The inevitable reality check...*

Transportation is the key urban issue of the coming decades. With a projected 40% increase in population across the region by 2021 a "business-as-usual" scenario would see a 55% increase in daily person trips and a corresponding exponential growth in transport for the movement of goods.

Left unchecked, these trends will have an unprecedented financial impact. In Toronto alone, traffic congestion costs \$1 billion a year through delays, pollution and other negative impacts. Motor vehicle crashes in Ontario in 1990 cost individuals, organizations and governments \$9 billion. In 1990 the province was spending more than \$1 billion a year just paying interest on funds borrowed to build roads. The estimated annual health care cost in Ontario for disease attributable to car related air pollution is \$646 million. The average taxpayer in Toronto pays \$700 per year in taxes to pay for road and traffic service. Canadians now spend more money on transportation than they do on food.

Even more important are the social, health, and environmental effects of these changes. Although we live in a city with one of the better transit and bikeway systems and with some of the better land use planning in North America, our air quality and water quality are in decline. In Ontario approximately 1800 people die each year due to poor air quality, much of it directly or indirectly related to increasing automobile use. By June of 1999, Toronto had already experienced as many smog days as it had had over the entire summer of 1998. Transportation challenges related to shifting demographics are also resulting in reduced freedom and restricted access to people's needs especially among seniors and children.

Toronto is at a turning point. Mere stabilization at current air quality and congestion levels would require meeting all new transportation demand with sustainable transportation infrastructure. Becoming a city in which people will want to live and do business over the next two decades will require much much more.

**(Source: Sustainable Transportation Work Group Report, October 1999)*

Vision*

A thriving, liveable and wealthy Toronto -- a model city for sustainable transportation and land use -- a sustainable ecological footprint

Fortunately, as international experience has shown, solutions do exist, and transportation approaches that are socially and environmentally sustainable are also the most economically efficient. A recent World Bank study by Dr. Peter Newman found that the world's wealthiest cities also have the best sustainable transportation infrastructure and spend the least per capita on transportation.

We have a brief window of opportunity. On the one hand doing nothing is not an option. On the other hand, wise transportation and land use decisions now could set us light years apart as a thriving, liveable and wealthy urban centre. This will require a comprehensive and integrated vision of transportation for the new millenium. It will also require a detailed plan and concerted action not only by the City, but also by business, other levels of government, communities, and citizens.



The Environmental Task Force recommended a whole range of actions to Toronto City Council in its Sustainable Transportation Work Group Report with the aim of establishing Toronto as a leading sustainable transportation city by:

- Providing all Toronto citizens and visitors to Toronto with the widest range of sustainable transportation options that are seamlessly linked, safe, convenient, enjoyable, affordable, and economically competitive, and by applying the best available and emerging measures to significantly reduce the environmental, health, social, and economic impacts of personal transportation
- Significantly reducing congestion, pollution, danger, costs, and inefficiencies related to the movement of goods - the fastest growing segment of the transportation sector, with emerging consolidation systems, cleaner freight vehicles, local production and distribution, and intermodal approaches
- Replacing or reducing the need for transportation (of people or goods) where appropriate with emerging telecommunications technologies and advanced land use, development, and economic policies and practices
- Giving priority in all transportation and land use decisions to sustainable transportation as described in the Sustainable Transportation Work Group Report, in policy, spending, programs, and partnerships

The Environmental Task Force's recommendations and report represent one sustainable step towards addressing the looming challenges we face and reaping the many benefits of becoming a leading sustainable transportation city.

**(Source: Sustainable Transportation Work Group Report, October 1999)*