

CycleON: Update on MTO Cycling Initiatives

Presentation to Ontario
East Municipal
Conference



Ministry of Transportation
Transportation Policy Branch
September 16, 2015

Purpose

- To provide an update on Ministry of Transportation (MTO) cycling initiatives that are part of the CycleON Strategy and Action Plan 1.0:
 - Municipal cycling infrastructure program.
 - \$10 Million over two years.
 - Provincial cycling infrastructure program
 - \$15 Million over 3 years
 - Cycling training fund.
 - Up to \$380,000 over two years.
 - Identification of a province-wide cycling network.

Context

- In August 2013, the province released **#CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy**, a twenty-year vision to encourage cycling and improve the safety of cyclists in Ontario.
- MTO worked with partners inside and outside provincial government to develop the first action plan for the Strategy, for example:
 - Convening a workshop with a Minister's Cycling Stakeholder Working Group in October 2013 , which came up with a top-ten list of priority initiatives; and
 - Working with partner ministries and agencies to assess the feasibility of the proposed priority initiatives and other possibilities for the first action plan.



Context

- **#CycleON Action Plan 1.0** was released in April 2014 and contains initiatives being led by several provincial ministries and agencies, including commitments to:
 - Improve cycling infrastructure by launching programs:
 - Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure
 - Provincial cycling infrastructure.
 - Provide new funding to develop or enhance cycling skills training programs:
 - Cycling skills and instructor training
 - Cycling curriculum and public education projects
 - Identify a province-wide network of cycling routes to promote recreational cycling and cycling tourism, connect municipal cycling routes and places of interest and help prioritize future infrastructure investments on provincial highways.



Program Development

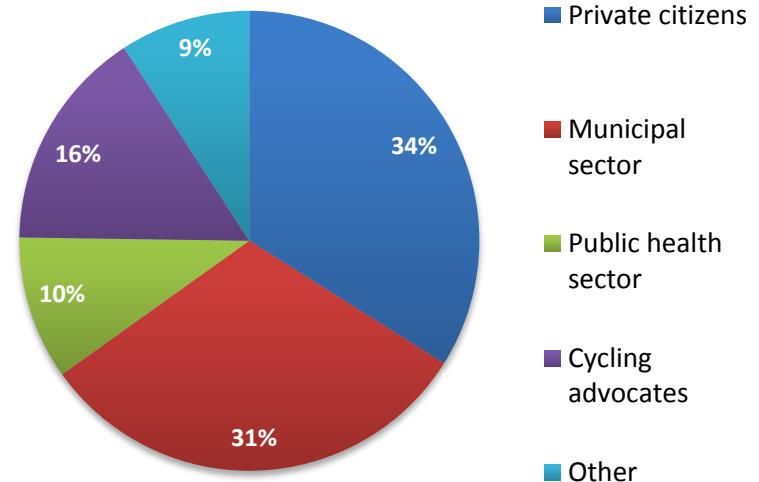
Typical process for program development:

- Seek approval of policy context.
- Obtain approval of funding.
- Design elements of program by:
 - Jurisdictional scans for best practices and outcomes,
 - Internal outreach for partnerships and efficiencies, and
 - Consultation with stakeholders and experts.

Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program

Program Design

- Scan of 18 programs (8 from Ontario, 7 from elsewhere in Canada and 3 international) provided best practices and lessons learned on program design and administration.
- Proposal posted on Environmental Registry for public feedback from September 16 to October 31, 2014, including draft program design.
- 110 responses were received, with about 1/3 from municipalities, 1/3 from individuals and 1/3 from others- particularly cycling advocates and public health agencies.



Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program

Program Design (cont'd)

- Most respondents were supportive, but many recommended improvements:
 - Safety and connectivity were identified as the most important considerations when evaluating project proposals.
 - Larger municipalities wanted the project funding cap increased above \$250,000.
 - Smaller municipalities wanted the program to be sensitive to scale and local context: e.g. a small project is a big deal in a small town.
 - Municipalities preferred the program intake period be delayed until spring 2015 to better align with municipal capital planning cycle.
 - Opinion was divided on whether projects should have to be identified in an approved municipal plan to be eligible for consideration.
- Subsequent to reviewing the comments received via the Environmental Registry, meetings were held with key stakeholders for further insights.
- Input from all sources was factored into final program design.

Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program

Program Implementation

- The program launched on July 3, when municipalities were invited to submit expressions of interest (EOIs) for funding of up to \$325,000 or 50% of eligible project costs, whichever is lower.
- Almost 150 municipalities submitted EOIs.
- Ministry staff are currently reviewing the EOIs with key considerations being:
 - Would the infrastructure connect people with the places they want to go?
 - Would the infrastructure be safe to cycle on?
 - Can the project be completed by March 31, 2018?
- Municipalities whose EOIs most effectively align with program objectives will be invited to submit full Applications this fall.
- Application approvals targeted for the end of this year.
- Funds will flow to successful applicants between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018.

Provincial Infrastructure Investment

- On April 1, 2015 the Ministry of Transportation announced that some initial proposals to move forward on the \$15 Million investment in provincial cycling infrastructure have been identified. The Ministry is proposing improvements on:
 - Highway 33 west of Kingston, which is part of the Waterfront Trail;
 - The Highway 137 structure over the 1000 Island Parkway, which is part of the Waterfront Trail;
 - Several sections of Highway 6 on Manitoulin Island and south of Highway 17 at Espanola, which is part of the Georgian Bay Cycling Route; and
 - Several sections of Highway 17B and Highway 17 between Sault Ste. Marie and Espanola, which is part of the Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route.

Provincial Infrastructure Investment

- Specific locations are still being finalized.
- Key factors for project selection included
 - Locations that are on provincially recognized cycling routes and on the current provincial highway capital program.
 - A focus towards existing recognized cycling routes will help MTO ensure alignment with the future province-wide cycling network.
- Future investments in cycling facilities on provincial highways will be guided by the province-wide cycling network.

The Cycling Training Fund

- One-time funding up to \$380,000 was committed to support cycling skills training as part of the Promotion, Celebration and Legacy Strategy for the 2015 Pan / Parapan Am Games.

Program Development

- MTO scanned cycling training programs offered in Canada, the US and elsewhere identifying success factors and potential gaps in Ontario.
- A Proposal Notice was posted on Environmental Registry for public comment from September 16 to October 31, 2014:
 - MTO proposed to provide time-limited funding to support:
 - Training for additional instructors
 - Cycling education and curriculum development.
 - Factors that can contribute to successful cycling training in Ontario and proposed requirements for receiving support included.

The Cycling Training Fund

Program Development – Results of Public Consultation

- MTO received 61 responses to the registry posting, from the municipal sector, public health, non-profits, businesses and the general public.
- The results were qualitative and do not confirm support for particular solutions. Common concerns and competing priorities were revealed.
 - Many comments were received on training locations, meeting diverse needs, availability of instructors, course duration and school curriculum.
 - Organizations that provide training identified a variety of needs related to curriculum enhancement, instructor training and other aspects of training programs.
 - Some respondents identified a need for a province-wide approach or framework for cycling training, which time-limited funding may not be able to support.
- MTO considered this valuable input to finalize the program details.

The Cycling Training Fund

- The Cycling Training Fund launched on July 3, 2015.
- Two types of funding are available in 2015 and 2016 to municipalities, school boards, schools, public health units, corporations and non-profits:
 1. Cycling curriculum and/or public education projects
 - up to \$25,000 for cycling curriculum development or enhancement, and/or public education to be awarded in a competitive process.
 - The application period closed September 4th
 - Applications are now being evaluated.

The Cycling Training Fund

2. Cycling skills training projects or cycling instructor training projects
 - up to \$2,500 for delivery of cycling skills training.
 - up to \$3,000 for delivery of cycling instructor training.

- For projects delivered in 2015, the application period closed September 4th.
 - Projects awarded on first come first serve basis
 - 7 projects awarded to date
 - Applications still being evaluated

- For projects delivered in 2016, applications will be accepted from Oct. 15 to Dec. 15, 2015.

Cycling Network Identification Project

- #CycleON Action Plan 1.0 includes two action items related to network identification:
 - Improve cycling infrastructure by identifying a province-wide network of cycling routes that will help locate areas of provincial infrastructure that should accommodate cycling; and
 - Increase cycling tourism opportunities by identifying a province-wide network of cycling routes to promote recreational cycling and cycling tourism, connect municipal cycling routes and places of interest and help prioritize future infrastructure investments on provincial highways.

Objectives

- To assist the province, municipalities and stakeholders in setting priorities for cycling infrastructure investment over 15-20 years.
- To promote economic development through cycling tourism and health through recreational cycling.

Cycling Network Identification Project

Approach

- The project will be supported by MMM Group, a private sector consulting firm chosen through a competitive process.
- The project will include consultations with municipalities, key stakeholders and the general public conducted over almost three years.
- The first round of consultations with municipalities is expected to begin early in 2016.

Proposed Principles

- Safety for all types of cyclists will be paramount.
- The network will be identified and implemented through partnerships between MTO, municipalities and key stakeholders.
- Implementation of the network will be fiscally responsible: existing infrastructure will be used wherever possible and public benefit maximized through new investment.

Next Steps

Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program

- Complete EOI review and invite municipalities to submit full Applications this fall.
- Final decisions on Applications are targeted for the end of the year.
- Funds will flow between April 1, 2016 and March 31, 2018.

Provincial Infrastructure Program

- MTO design and construction.

Cycling Training Fund

- MTO is currently reviewing applications for training and curriculum / public education projects and final decisions are expected later this fall.
- Applications for 2016 cycling skills and instructor training projects will be accepted from October 15 to December 15, 2015.

Cycling Network Identification Project

- The first round of consultations with municipalities is expected to begin in early 2016.

Thank you



Questions?

Appendix A: Road Safety Bill 31 (if asked)

- ❑ **Requiring drivers of motor vehicles to maintain a minimum distance of one metre when passing cyclists on highways;**
- ❑ **Permitting cyclists to ride on the paved shoulders of all unrestricted highways;**
- ❑ **Permitting contra-flow bicycle lanes on one-way highways;**
- ❑ **Authorizing the use of bicycle signal heads on traffic control signal systems; expected summer 2016**
- ❑ **Increasing the penalties for persons who improperly open or leave opened the doors of motor vehicles on highways;**
- ❑ **Increasing the fines for non-compliance with the motor-assisted bicycle and bicycle light, reflector and reflective material requirements from \$20 to a set fine amount that falls in the range of \$60 - \$500; and**
- ❑ **Permitting cyclists to use lamps that produce intermittent flashes of red light.**