

# MEETING REPORT

## INITIATIVE

Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail & Trans Canada Trail

## PURPOSE

Tourism Northern Ontario and Waterfront Regeneration Trust is continuing to conduct implementation activities of the Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route Study and implementation activities of the Trans Canada Trail Concept Plan - Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail.

## BACKGROUND

As a follow-up to previous community meetings, discussions and correspondence, this follow-up meeting/mapping workshop session was with the community and those they felt should be in attendance (mayor, councillors, tourism/recreation staff, roads personnel or others) to provide input/comments on the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail and Trans Canada Trail route.

Attached is the agenda for the meeting/mapping workshop. We brought maps and asked that the communities develop a community list of items identifying community attractions, amenities, connections and concerns.

By the end of the session, we anticipated to have a clear understanding of what particulars will be identified on the community's section of the map and the final route that will be signed as the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail and the Trans Canada Trail.

This map of the route and the particulars identified will be digitized and become part of the provincial cycling trail mapping system and part of the national Trans Canada Trail system. Communities will have another opportunity to view the route and maps before they are finalized. These are continuing steps in the implementation process.

## DATE and TIME

May 22, 2015 at 1:15pm

## LOCATION

City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Civic Centre  
99 Foster Drive, Level 5  
Sault Ste. Marie, ON

## PARTICIPANTS

Stephen Turco, Planner – City of Sault Ste. Marie  
Andre Riopel – Sault Cycling Club (regrets)  
Michael Wozny, Coordinator – Tourism Northern Ontario (TNO)  
Marlaine Koehler, Executive Director – Waterfront Regeneration Trust (WRT)

## **PARTICULARS**

### 1. Welcome and introductions.

### 2. Brief update of Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route project and Trans Canada Trail initiative:

- Met with the communities along the route last year and they are supportive of the TNO initiative.
- Received resolutions of support from many communities, and board approval and support from the Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities.
- Tourism Northern Ontario continues to be supportive and vested in the logistics regarding this regionally based new product development initiative.
- Waterfront Regeneration Trust has expanded their mandate and agreed to be the coordinating agency for the route. Waterfront Regeneration Trust is a charitable non-profit group that has been coordinating over 1,400 km of cycling trails (the Waterfront Trail) in southern Ontario through over 70 communities for 20 years. The expansion of their mandate to include the 370 km Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route provides the north with a great opportunity and guarantee of success. The Waterfront Trail is a well-known provincial cycling brand and we will be linked and part of this brand with the route identified as the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail.
- As per partnership agreement with Trans Canada Trail and funding through the Trillium Foundation, this route will also be part the official Trans Canada Trail, a national trail system that will span from coast to coast and open in 2017.
- Discussed the Ministry of Transportation's News release titled "Ontario Investing \$25 Million in Cycling Infrastructure". There is \$15 million for key connections and linkages on provincial highways in which the Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route is specifically identified to receive funding. There is also \$10 million for municipal cycling infrastructure cycling routes and preliminary information indicates that it may be 50% funding with a \$250,000 cap.
- Efforts of the communities, TNO, FONOM and WRT have been well acknowledged by MTO and important in the announcement of MTO to provide funding and to incorporate cycling infrastructure and activities.
- MTO has issued a Request For Proposals for the assessment and evaluation of a coordinated provincial cycling route in accordance with their #CycleON strategy.
- There is a lot of interest and the expansion of cycling trail to Northern Ontario has been very well received at the recent cycling show in Toronto.
- Cycling continues to grow as a transportation option, recreational activity and tourism opportunity.

### 3. Community update highlights

- Sault Ste. Marie is continuing the implementation and expansion of its 25 km Hub Trail.
- The city continues to progress with a focus on cycling, cycling trails, routes and infrastructure. Major construction was just completed this year on Queen Street where the four lane street was reduced to one lane in each direction, a centre turning lane and a dedicated bike lane in each direction.
- Sault Ste. Marie continues to progress with a blueprint for more cycling opportunities with expansion planned via an East Route, North Route and West Route as identified in the recent MMM Group study.

- Tourism Sault Ste. Marie has taken an active role in developing future opportunities for cycling tourism and developing regional tourism linkages with Tourism Northern Ontario via the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail.
- Sault Ste. Marie is committed to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust's Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail partnership and annual contribution of \$2,500. Will take the \$2,500 out of a miscellaneous fund this year and go to council next year for permanent contributions.
- The municipality is impressed with the success and implementation activities of TNO and WRT regarding the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail.

#### 4. Review and mark cycling particulars on master map

- Collected data from community representatives in the following areas on the map:
  - a) Alerts - trail/road conditions (change in surface, gravel, high speeds, railway crossings, busy crossings, cyclists have to dismount etc.)
  - b) Amenities - washrooms and parking as well as other important items such as shopping areas, hospitals, restaurants, general stores, etc.
  - c) Attractions - museums, galleries, parks, conservation areas, cultural particulars, farmer's market, camping, provincial parks, historical and heritage sites, marinas, terrestrial or aquatic natural features
  - d) Connections - to other trails or tours
- There is good connectivity with the Hub Trail and the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail.
- Discussed the easterly section of the trail at Fournier Road. There is a new subdivision in this area and while the connecting road is not complete currently, it will be done later this year. This will help connect to the cycling trail as it exists the city.
- Discussed that Trans Canada Trail originally wanted a shorter more direct trail through the city. The Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail will not take this short-cut through the city. The Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail will proceed along the southerly part of the Hub Trail along the waterfront then up to Huron Street, then Albert Street to Carmens Way.
- The province will sign their portion of Second Line.
- The city has traffic count figures for most streets.
- Need to reconcile route particulars with Prince Township at Town Line.
- Sault Ste. Marie trailhead sign will be located at Clergue Park.
- Discussed the issues in crossing the border on your bike.
- There still is an issue at Second Line and Peoples Road. Need to address the trail as it goes through the snow dump site and crosses Peoples Road.
- Need to look at detailed GIS files to assist in the mapping.
- Will have website links to tourism page as determined by Tourism Sault Ste. Marie.

#### **FOLLOW-UP ITEMS**

1. Forward electronic copy of WRT strategic plans to city (M. Wozny).
2. Send shape files (GIS) of SSM trails to WRT (S. Turco).
3. Send traffic count figures to WRT (S. Turco).
4. Send artwork files of Hub Trail sign post to WRT to evaluate design blending (S. Turco).
5. When complete, forward draft map with particulars identified for final review (M. Koehler)
6. Continue to keep municipality up-to-date on key activities and milestones (M. Wozny & M. Koehler).

