

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 19, 2015 at 10:30am

LOCATION

City of Greater Sudbury
Civic Centre
200 Brady Street
Sudbury, ON

PARTICIPANTS

Chris Gore, Manager of Community Partnerships – City of Greater Sudbury
Samantha Baulch, Executive Director – Rainbow Routes
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

- Sudbury is progressing with a focus on cycling, cycling trails, routes and infrastructure.
- They have some dedicated off-road/non-motorized trails promoted by Rainbow Routes. Sudbury Cyclists Union has been active in lobbying the municipality for cycling infrastructure investment and are supportive of the cycling trails initiative.
- The municipality is working towards the integration of cycling opportunities (Transportation Study) throughout the municipality. This is a bonafide long-term commitment for transportation options including recreation and tourism, as well as active living for health and well-being.

- In March 2015, the municipality has committed \$500,000 this year for cycling initiatives and has committed \$800,000 per year in subsequent years.
- Sudbury is committed to the Waterfront Regeneration Trust's Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail partnership and annual contribution of \$2,500.

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 were some good connections with the Rainbow Routes trails (primarily off-road/non-motorized trails).
- Discussed a section south of Lorne Street that is open but needs a little bit of work, which will be completed this year.
- The original terminus of the Lake Huron North Channel Waterfront Trail, according to the Lake Huron North Channel Cycling Route Study by MM Group, was at Bell Park. However, as per direction from the City of Greater Sudbury, the eastern terminus of the trail will now be slightly north of Bell Park ... at the waterfront, at a park, at the end of Elizabeth Street and McNaughton Terrace. The rest of the route, as previously mapped and agreed last year, was approved.
- This trail terminus will link with the Trans Canada Trail which will continue to proceed east of Sudbury.
- The hyperlink from the Waterfront Regeneration Trust website will be to a page at Tourism Sudbury, to be identified later.

FOLLOW-UP ITEMS

1. Forward copy of partnership letter and press release to C. Gore (M. Wozny).
2. Send approval of partnership letter to Waterfront Regeneration Trust (C. Gore).
3. When complete, forward draft map with particulars identified for final review (M. Koehler)
4. Continue to keep municipality up-to-date on key activities and milestones (M. Wozny & M. Koehler).