

MEMO

To: Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC)
From: Megan Squires, Sr. Transportation Planner
Date: October 19, 2023
Subject: Final Draft Active Transportation Plan (ATP)



Background

Council adopted Saanich's first active transportation plan, *Moving Saanich Forward* in June 2018 as a guide for investment in active transportation improvements over 30 years. The plan established a vision, goals, and targets. It also outlined strategies and actions to ensure progress on policies, standards, infrastructure, and programs for active transportation.

Saanich is committed to updating the ATP. The purpose of this update has been to refresh the plan in accordance with the priorities outlined below. The updated Plan will guide investment and decision-making for active transportation over the next five years, and beyond.

The update focused on the following priorities:

- Alignment with current policy documents, including recent strategies and plans for climate change, active transportation, land use, and road safety
- Incorporating current demographic and travel data, as well as collision data and statistics on new and updated infrastructure
- Addressing e-bikes and micro-mobility trends
- Incorporating Vision Zero and a Safe Systems Approach to road safety
- Reviewing progress towards achieving the vision, goals, and targets, as well as select strategies and actions and priorities for implementation
- Updating mapping
- Developing a framework for a future traffic calming policy
- Incorporate an equity approach into the updated ATP was also a key priority

Planning Process

As per the approved Terms of Reference, the process to update the ATP has been completed in five phases. Stakeholder and public engagement was implemented throughout the planning process, with specific engagement periods occurring in Phase 2, 3, 4, and 5.

Over 50 stakeholder groups and individuals were contacted in Phases 2 and 3, and participants were invited to provide written responses to discuss questions, as well as attend online workshops and meetings.

In Phase 4, an online survey received 600 survey responses and the project team hosted two open houses, seven pop-up events, seven conversations with equity-deserving groups. In addition, the project team presented to five advisory committees.

In addition to the methods of engagement outlined above, communication tools used to reach stakeholders and residents included: email – messages and notifications, social media, print media, utility bill inserts mailed to individual households, and website updates.

Plan Content

The table below provides a summary of the changes to the ATP organized by section. To a large extent, these changes reflect input received through stakeholder and public engagement.

SECTION	UPDATE IN THE PLAN
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• General information updates to reflect the current planning context
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updates to reflect engagement undertaken during the planning process• Updates on progress made since 2018• Strengthened rationale for active transportation – making ties to climate action, economic, health, social, and safety benefits• Changes to the community profile to reflect current demographics, land use, policy context, travel patterns, infrastructure, road safety and new mobility trends• Inclusion of new sections on community equity and road safety• Increased profile of Rural Saanich
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Revised vision, goals, and target• New section on micro mobility
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• New principles to guide implementation of the Plan• New and revised actions under the themes of Connections, Convenience, and Culture• Reference to the BC Active Transportation Guide• Mapping updates• Definitions for Multi-Use Trails and Recreational Trails• New content on traffic calming to inform a future policy and program
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Updated implementation tables• New network prioritization criteria, including criteria for trails• New mapping and tables to describe priority sidewalk, bike, and trail projects• New mapping showing buildout of the bicycle network

Next Steps

The Updated ATP is now complete, and we are seeking endorsement from the Transportation Advisory Committee before taking the Final Draft Plan to Council in December 2023. The TAC may consider passing the following motion:

“That the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) supports the Final Draft Active Transportation Plan with minor updates to the mapping, which are currently underway.”

Conclusion

In closing, on behalf of the project team I wish to thank members of the Transportation Advisory Committee and the former Active Transportation Advisory Committee for their time and effort in the process to update the ATP. Your commitment to this project, and your community is greatly appreciated.

Prepared by



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