

**LET'S MOVE
SAANICH!**



#movingsaanichfwd
OUR 30 YEAR ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN



MOVING SAANICH FORWARD

DISCUSSION PAPER #2: FUTURE DIRECTIONS REPORT

JULY 2017





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PART ONE

INTRODUCTION

INTRODUCTION

The District of Saanich is a vibrant, livable and growing community on the southern tip of Vancouver Island. With a population of approximately 110,000 residents, Saanich is the largest of 13 municipalities that make up the CRD. Saanich is a diverse community, home to a variety of unique settings, including a combination of both urban and rural land uses which have shaped the character of the community.

The District is focused on improving walking, cycling and other active mobility options by developing its first-ever Active Transportation Plan – known as Moving Saanich Forward. The Active Transportation Plan will guide the District's investments in active transportation. The plan will establish a vision, goals, targets and corresponding directions and actions for improving active transportation in Saanich over the next 25 years and beyond. The policies, standards, infrastructure and program recommendations in the Active Transportation Plan will contribute to increased transportation options by improving the accessibility, comfort, convenience and safety of active transportation.

The Active Transportation Plan is being developed over a five phase process that began in late 2016 and will continue until Spring 2018.

This is the second Discussion Paper developed as part of the Active Transportation Plan process. The purpose of this Discussion Paper is to present a vision with supporting goals to guide active transportation decision-making in Saanich, as well as targets to measure progress towards achieving the goals of the Plan. The vision, goals, and targets are intended to build upon and support the District's existing direction as identified in key documents, notably the District's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 and the Official Community Plan (OCP).

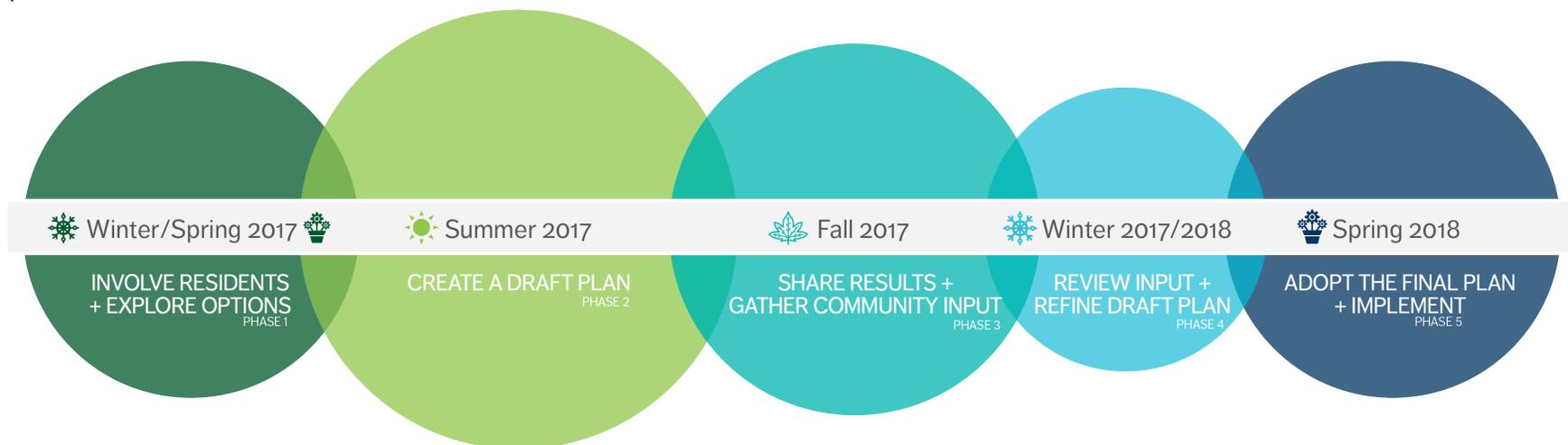


FIGURE 1 - PROJECT TIMELINE



PART TWO

CONTEXT FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS

CONTEXT FOR FUTURE DIRECTIONS

The proposed vision, goals and targets shape the overall direction of the Active Transportation Plan and serve as a basis from which improvements and investments are identified and prioritized. To understand their importance, it is first necessary to elaborate on the distinction between the vision, goals and targets for this process:



THE VISION describes the broad aspirations for the future of active transportation in Saanich. A vision statement is meant to be inspirational in guiding the future of active transportation in Saanich.



GOALS help guide the District towards fulfilling its vision. Goals are overarching, simple, succinct statements that are easily remembered and referenced. Goals should also be easily measurable.



TARGETS serve as benchmarks to measure progress towards achieving the goals of the Active Transportation Plan and help to ensure that it is being implemented as intended.

This section describes the policy context and stakeholder feedback that helped to inform the development of the vision, goals and targets and includes input received from residents and stakeholders.

2.1 POLICY CONTEXT

Discussion Paper #1: Baseline Conditions Report outlined a number of key policy documents that contain policies, plans and goals related to walking and cycling in Saanich. These policy documents were reviewed to ensure that the Active Transportation Plan builds off the work already outlined in these policy documents. The District is committed to sustainability and recognizes the importance of active transportation to enhance community livability. In recent years, Saanich has developed several plans and policies with a strong emphasis on ensuring Saanich continues to grow as a sustainable community.



FIGURE 2 - MOVING SAANICH FORWARD DEVELOPMENT

THE DISTRICT'S OCP OUTLINES THE FOLLOWING VISION...

 Saanich is a sustainable community where a healthy natural environment is recognized as paramount for ensuring social well-being and economic vibrancy, for current and future generations. 

The vision focuses on three key themes, which are further elaborated below:



ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

Saanich is a model steward working diligently to improve and balance the natural and built environments. Saanich restores and protects air, land, and water quality, the biodiversity of existing natural areas and ecosystems, the network of natural areas and open spaces, and urban forests. The challenges posed by climate change are responded to. “Centres” and “Villages” accommodate the majority of future growth, using green building practices.

Vibrant, distinct neighbourhoods provide a high quality of life for individuals and families. A variety of travel modes connect neighbourhoods and businesses, allowing for the effective, efficient, and safe movement of people, goods, and services. Walking, cycling, and transit are viable and popular travel options, resulting in less car dependence. Rural and farm land is protected by adherence to the Urban Containment Boundary.



SOCIAL WELL-BEING

Saanich offers opportunities for balanced, active, and diverse lifestyles. Housing, public services and amenities are affordable, accessible and inclusive. Residents enjoy food security through the safeguarding of agricultural land and the promotion of community gardens and urban farming. The community's heritage is valued and promoted. Residents take advantage of a diverse range of recreational, educational, civic, social, arts, and cultural services.

Community activities and events generate inter-generational and inter-cultural interest, participation, and social integration. Land-use planning, infrastructure design, and service delivery continue to address public safety issues. Citizen awareness, education, and collaborative involvement promote a shared responsibility and ownership of community development.



ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

Saanich's economy is connected locally, regionally, and globally, providing diverse economic opportunities, ranging from high technology to agriculture. Our economy and labour force is responsive and has the ability to adapt to change. Saanich's clean, appealing environment, skilled workforce, responsive public services, and excellent community infrastructure make it an ideal location to live, work, and conduct business.

Implementation of strategic economic development strategies sustains and enhances the economy, and ensures long-term financial sustainability, while meeting social and environmental commitments. Saanich ensures sustainability through the provision of efficient, affordable, accessible, and reliable public services, programs, and utilities that meet community expectations, and are achieved through careful management, fiscal responsibility, innovation, progress monitoring, community involvement, and meaningful consultation.

The OCP goes further, stating that a variety of travel modes connect neighbourhoods and businesses, allowing for the effective, efficient, and safe movement of people, goods, and services; and that walking, cycling, and transit are viable and popular travel options, resulting in less car dependence.

The District's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 emphasizes these three themes, and sets priorities for the District, focusing energy on what is most important and clearing a path to move forward to where the District wants to be in the future.

2.2 STAKEHOLDER INPUT

The proposed vision, goals, and targets are based on the relevant planning documents identified in the previous section, as well as input received from District staff, stakeholders, and members of the community.

The first round of public engagement for the Active Transportation Plan took place between January and March, 2017. This round of engagement focused on gaining a better understanding of the following:

HOW Saanich residents currently move around

WHY walking, biking, and other active mobility options are important to residents

WHAT challenges do residents face today when actively moving around Saanich

WHAT opportunities exist to improve mobility options in Saanich

WHAT is the vision for active transportation in Saanich and what goals and targets will help the District achieve this vision

Initial drafts of the proposed vision, goals and targets were developed during the first round of public engagement for the Active Transportation Plan (see **Engagement Summary #1**).

The second round of public engagement took place between April and June, 2017. The project team revised the proposed vision, goals and targets based on input received during the first round of engagement and sought input on the revised vision, goals, and targets (see **Engagement Summary #2**).

At the first Walk Bike Rally stakeholder workshop in particular, participants discussed the proposed vision, goals, and targets. The results of these discussions can be found in **Engagement Summary #1** and are summarized in more detail on the following pages.



VISION

Workshop participants provided the following comments on the overall vision for the Active Transportation Plan:

- Build community and a culture for active transportation
- Prioritize pedestrian and bike movements - all ages all abilities
- Enjoy environment / becoming one with the environment
- Identify places/destinations people want to go (cultural distinctiveness, unique character)
- Encourage a "shop local" mentality
- Employ more compact land use to support communities with low rates of vehicle ownership
- Change how development happens - bring parking lots to the back of buildings
- Promote + enable: a paradigm shift from car culture to active transportation
- Recognize that more people going more places more often by bike or foot.
- Honour traditional indigenous knowledge and territory acknowledgment
- Build communities together through active transportation.
- Provide equal opportunity for all modes - not car-centric (move away from suburban auto model)
- Make the key point about making biking and walking safe and comfortable.

Participants were further asked to discuss how the Active Transportation Plan could support the three themes of environmental integrity, social well-being, and economic vibrancy; the results are summarized below:

ECONOMIC VIBRANCY

- Active transportation provides savings to healthcare, transportation, environment, and individuals
- Attractive cities support tourism - being recognized for good active transportation choices
- Connections are important to support business areas - increased access to businesses creates opportunities to go places locally
- Increases livability, attracts more businesses (walk, bike, transit)
- Create multi-modal connections between existing city centres and villages
- Create more destinations within residential neighborhoods

SOCIAL WELL-BEING

- Social gathering places from walkable communities in village centres create
- Better emotional health and social well-being
- Connection opportunities eliminate isolation leads to better health
- Health system savings
- Contributes to a healthier community with lower health care costs

ENVIRONMENTAL INTEGRITY

- Active modes to replace auto/fossil fuel emissions
- Less space leads to land use benefits
- No net loss of green space to accommodate vehicles
- Improve network connections to green spaces that provide access to the natural environment

GOALS

Four draft goals were presented to stakeholders for discussion at the workshop. In general, there was strong support for each goal, as shown in **Figure 3**.

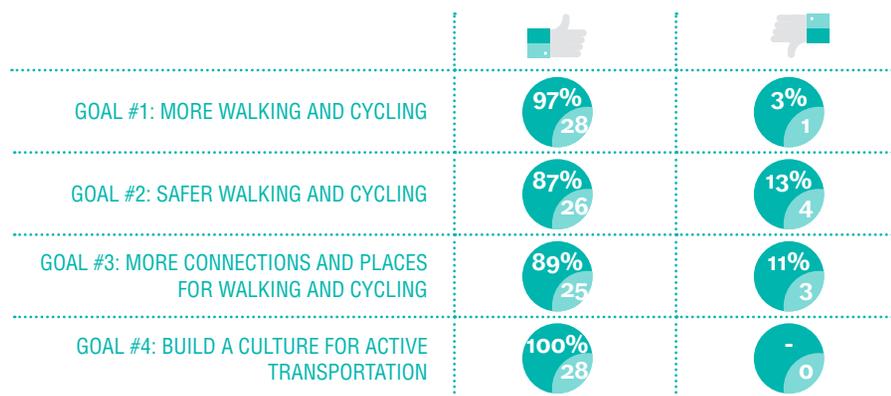


FIGURE 3 - EXIT SURVEY RESULTS (GOALS)

However, participants provided the following comments regarding the draft goals:

- Should be measurable and have metrics to follow progress
- Focus: reducing car use - more transit + car sharing, lower rates of car ownership.
- Celebrate active transportation - fostering a culture of sustainability
- Target younger generation
- New goal: compact communities
- Goal #1 change to: more walkers and cyclists
- Goal #2 change to: safe walking and cycling

TARGETS

The District's Strategic Plan 2015 – 2018 identifies a target that the proportion of trips made by sustainable transportation should increase from 11% to 18% by 2036. Workshop participants were asked to provide input on this target. As shown in **Figure 4**, most respondents at the stakeholder workshop felt that this target was not high enough.



FIGURE 4 - EXIT SURVEY RESULTS (TARGETS)

Following the first stakeholder workshop, the targets were revised, with a modified target to double the percentage of trips made by walking, cycling and transit by 2036, and to work towards a 50% sustainable transportation mode share by 2050 (as discussed in further detail below).

Through a series of Community Road Shows during the second round of engagement, the public was invited to provide input on whether these revised targets were too low, just right, or too high. The results of the engagement found that the majority of respondents felt that the revised targets were appropriate.



FIGURE 5 - COMMUNITY ROADSHOW RESULTS (REVISED TARGETS)



PART THREE

VISION, GOALS , TARGETS

VISION, GOALS + TARGETS

3.1 VISION

A vision statement was developed to describe the broad aspirations for the future of active transportation in Saanich. As outlined in **Section 2.1**, the vision statement builds on the District's existing commitments as described in several overarching plans and strategies and reflects input received throughout the development of the Active Transportation Plan.

THE PROPOSED VISION TO DESCRIBE THE STATE OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION IN SAANICH IN 2036 IS..

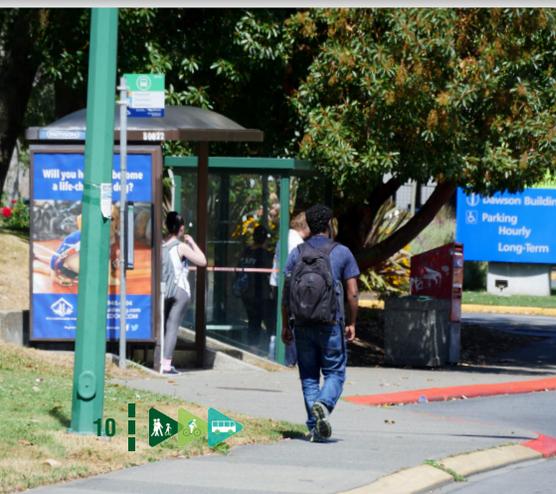
 Active transportation is a safe, convenient and enjoyable way to move around the District of Saanich, and is a common part of everyday life for all residents and visitors.

The District has a complete network of walking and cycling facilities that is universally accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities and connects all Centres, Villages, Neighbourhoods, and other key destinations.

Active transportation is a key contributor to the District's economic vibrancy, cultural and recreational experiences, social well-being, natural environment, physical beauty, and neighbourhood and social connections. 

This vision statement for Saanich sets the overall direction of the Active Transportation and the goals and targets as well as the directions and actions that will be developed as part of this planning process.





3.2 GOALS

Four supporting goals were developed to provide clear direction on how to achieve the vision identified in **Section 3.1**. These goals were refined based on input received from the stakeholder workshop and are intended to be both achievable and measurable to ensure the successful implementation of the Active Transportation Plan. The proposed goals are presented and described below:

- 1 Build a culture for active transportation.
- 2 Observe a significant shift to active modes of transportation.
- 3 Improve safety for people using active transportation modes.
- 4 Create more connections and places for walking and cycling.

3.3 TARGETS

Targets are a critical component of an active transportation plan, as they provide an effective way to measure progress towards achieving the goals of the Plan. Targets will help to ensure the Active Transportation Plan is implemented as intended and help to determine whether the plan is achieving its goals. To be effective, the targets should be:

Meaningful. Targets can be used to point to success in achieving the goals as well as the broader vision of the Active Transportation Plan.

Measurable. Targets must be based on criteria that are readily measurable and for which data or information can be readily obtained.

Manageable. Targets should be based on measures that take into account the resource limitations of the District, and be limited to measures where information is accessible or data is simple to collect. To be manageable, targets

should also be limited to areas or policies over which the District has significant influence or control.

Achievable. Targets should strike a balance between being bold and ambitious and being achievable and realistic.

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TARGET 1...

Double the proportion of trips made by sustainable transportation

One of the most common targets for active transportation plans is improving the balance of travel mode share, or the percentage of trips made by each mode of transportation. It implies much more than simply how people are choosing to travel. Among other things, changes in mode share provide an indicator of how attractive the District will be for walking and cycling, how integrated the District's transportation system is with land use, and how well the transportation system is helping to achieve the District's vision to be a lively and compact community that supports livability and sustainability. Mode share is also an indication of how investments in sustainable modes can shift the amount of driving that people do to support healthier and more vibrant communities.

Today, 11% of all trips in Saanich are made by walking or biking. As noted previously, the District's 2015-2018 Strategic Plan has set a target to increase this percentage to 18% by 2036 – a 64% increase from current levels. Feedback from the public and stakeholders indicated that a shift from 11% to 18% was not bold enough and they suggested a higher target. Additionally, defining a target for transit mode share was identified as desirable and would provide the District with targets for all sustainable modes.

As such, the proposed revised target for the Active Transportation Plan is to double the proportion of trips made by walking and cycling by 2036, as well as to increase the percentage of transit trips from 7% to 14% (Figure 6). This would result in 36% of trips in the District being made by walking, biking or transit by 2036. A longer-term target was also developed, whereby 50% of trips made by Saanich residents would be made by walking, cycling or transit by 2050. These targets represent more than a 50% increase in the proportion of trips made by walking, cycling or transit over the next twenty years, and more than a 100% increase over the next thirty plus years.

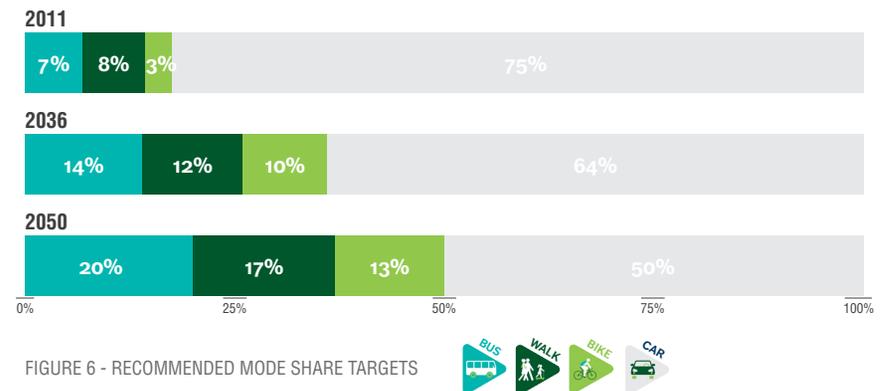


FIGURE 6 - RECOMMENDED MODE SHARE TARGETS

To put these targets in perspective, a comparison was made between several other communities across British Columbia that have established mode share targets. As shown in **Figure 7**, a doubling in the mode share for sustainable forms of transportation is ambitious, yet comparable to targets established in many other communities.

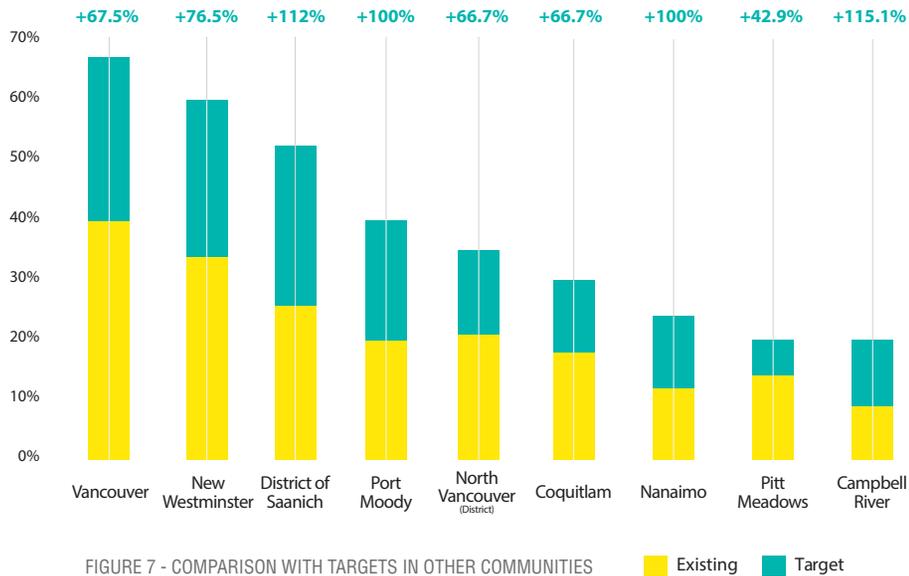


FIGURE 7 - COMPARISON WITH TARGETS IN OTHER COMMUNITIES

To provide additional context for the proposed mode share targets, a historical comparison was also made with historic mode share data in Saanich. As shown in **Figure 8**, the mode share for sustainable transportation has been steadily increasing over the past 20 years, from approximately 19.8 % of commute trips in 1996 and 2001, to over 23.6% in 2011 – an 18.9% increase over twenty years. The proposed target continues to project this historic trend into the future, but at a significantly accelerated pace.

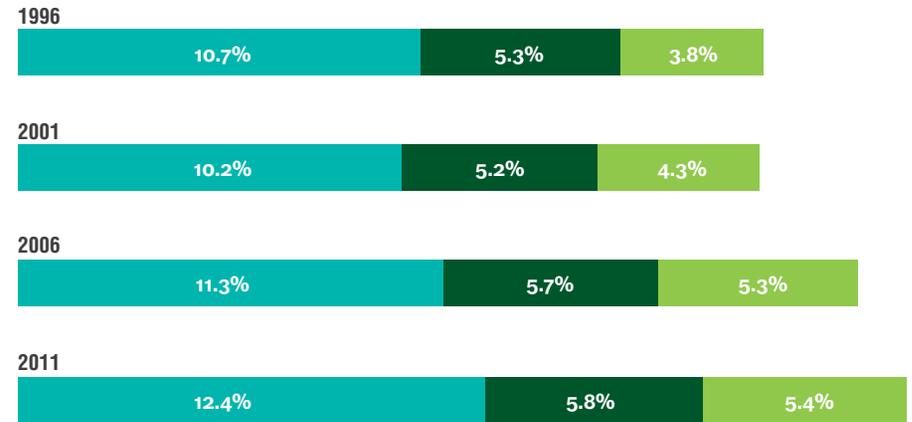


FIGURE 8 - HISTORIC COMMUTE MODE SHARES IN SAANICH



The Active Transportation Plan recognizes that a significant portion of the increase in walking and cycling trips will be achieved in the urban areas. In addition to the long-term target that half of all trips made by Saanich residents in 2050 will be by walking, cycling or transit, it is also useful to establish interim targets to monitor progress. Interim targets are recommended for each five-year horizon that reflect historic trends (**Figure 9**).

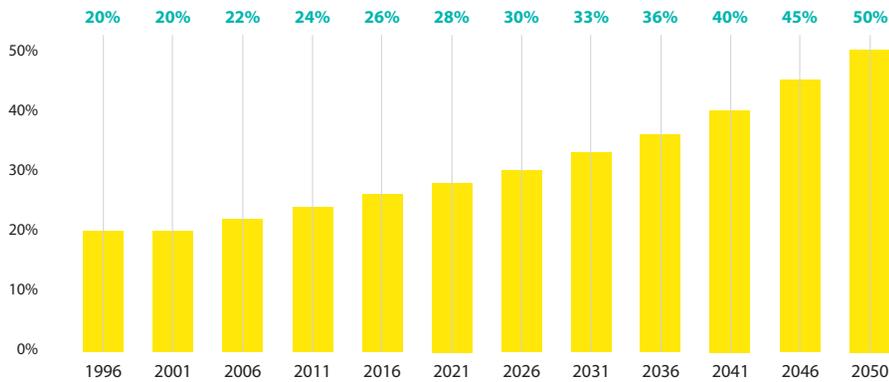


FIGURE 9 - INTERIM 5-YEAR TARGETS

ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION TARGET 2...

Work Towards Zero Traffic-Related Fatalities or Serious Injuries

The Active Transportation Plan will seek to improve road safety – particularly among vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. Over the five year period from 2011 to 2015, there were a total of 206 reported collisions involving people walking, and 334 involving people cycling. This represents a total of 540 reported collisions involving people walking or cycling, or over 100 incidents per year.

The Active Transportation Plan places a special emphasis on improving safety, a theme which will be interwoven throughout all components of the Plan. The District will work closely with all its partners to examine the location and contributing factors of collisions, and identify steps to improve road safety and reduce traffic-related injuries and fatalities in Saanich through a combination of engineering, enforcement, and education measures, with specific emphasis on safety measures for vulnerable road users. The District will work towards zero traffic-related fatalities or serious injuries.



PART FOUR

NEXT STEPS

NEXT STEPS

This is the second Discussion Paper prepared as part of the Moving Saanich Forward process, and charts the course for the future of active transportation in Saanich by establishing a community vision with supporting goals and targets.

The next phase of work will focus on identifying how the District can work towards this vision, goals and targets by developing priorities, strategies and actions to improve active transportation over the next 20 years and beyond.



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OUR 30 YEAR ACTIVE
TRANSPORTATION PLAN

