

Lake of Bays Active Transportation Strategy

Public Meeting
September 3, 2026

Agenda

- Strategy Overview and Timeline
- Planning and Policy Context
- Demographics & Existing Road Network
- What We're Heard so Far
- Network Conditions & Analysis
- Network Opportunities



Active Transportation Strategy

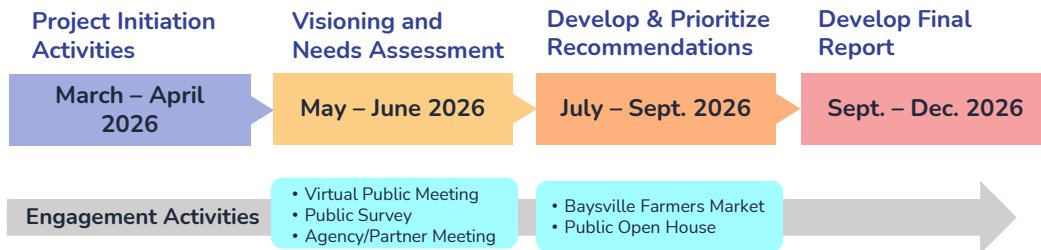
Overview

The **Active Transportation Strategy** (AT Strategy) will expand the Township's walking, cycling, and trails network to provide **safe, equitable, and comfortable active transportation** (AT) opportunities for residents, tourists, and visitors.

The AT Strategy will:

- ▶ Establish **short, medium, and long-term** active transportation objectives
- ▶ Identify existing network **gaps** and **opportunities** for improvement
- ▶ Create a **tool to evaluate and prioritize** potential active transportation improvements
- ▶ Develop an **implementation strategy** to enhance and expand the Township's active transportation network in a way that meets the needs of both residents and visitors
- ▶ Support the Township's **Official Plan Review** and build on previous strategic planning initiatives

Project Schedule



What is Active Transportation?

Active Transportation (AT) is any form of travel using your own power to get from one place to another, including:



Walking



Cycling



Using a wheelchair



Scooting/
skateboarding



Inline skating/
rollerblading

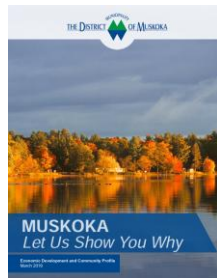
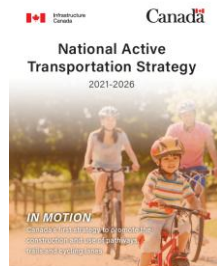


Snowshoeing/
cross-country
skiing

Planning and Policy Context



Federal & Provincial Policy



District of Muskoka

- District Official Plan
- Transportation Master Plan (In progress)
- Accessibility Plan
- Economic Development & Community Profile
- 2024 Growth Strategy Update
- Master Aging Plan

Township of Lake of Bays

- Township Official Plan (in review)
- Asset Management Plan
- Community Improvement Plan
- Economic Development Strategy
- Parks, Open Space and Recreation Strategy
- Strategic Priority Update
- Waterfront Study

From Official Plan

- Build an **active and healthy community** which supports measures for **active transportation**, **safe neighbourhoods**, and **accessible services**, and conserves the **ecological attributes** of the **natural environment**.
- Encourage the identification, maintenance and establishment of recreational and community facilities, parkland and **trails**, as well as natural areas and open space.

Community Improvement Plan

- Safe pedestrian routes through Dorset, Baysville, Dwight and Hillside are critical for the success of these service centres

Parks, Open Space & Recreation Strategy

- Baysville Riverfront Park – add path connecting monuments, signage, and waterfront.
- Centennial Park – Add pathway around park
- Dwight Community Centre – create trail loop around the park
- Oxtongue Rapids Park – Undertake a Master Plan for the park to address trail development, signage, etc.

Strategic Priority Update

- Develop and implement **active transportation policies**
- Advance the expansion of the AT network along municipal roadways, trails, and upper-tier roads, including the **creation of a cycling loop** connecting key community destinations and attractions
- Expand the active transportation network **along Muskoka Road 117 in Baysville**

Demographics & Existing Road Network

A growing population



8%
population
increase
2011 to 2021

3,759 permanent residents (2021)
11,720 seasonal residents (estimated)

6,140 permanent residents
13,210 seasonal residents (anticipated by 2051)

Older Population

58

Average Age
vs. 41.6 in Ontario
& rising over time

34%

Residents 65+
vs. 18.5% in Ontario

Lake of Bays' Road Network

- The road network in Lake of Bays includes **Provincial, District, Township** & private roads
- **Provincial & District roads** carry most **traffic**
- Township roads include:
 - **27 km** of paved roads in community areas
 - **65 km** of tar and chip roads
 - **125 km** of gravel roads

Lake of Bays' Active Transportation Network

- Most **sidewalks** and **paved shoulders** are on **District roads**
- AT infrastructure on **Township roads** consists of:
 - **Shared space routes**
 - Some **sidewalks** in community areas
- Lake of Bays also owns and maintains **12 off-road trails**

What We've Heard

Through the Online Public Meeting, the Pop-Up at the Baysville Farmers' Market, and the Online Survey we heard:



Existing Strengths

- Attractive scenery, closeness to nature
- Wide shoulders on Highway 60 and parts of Highway 117
- Low traffic volume on many roads
- Ability to cycle for long distances without stop signs or traffic signals
- Fresh air, small-town feel



Current Challenges

- Considerable distances between communities
- Lack of sidewalks and designated bike lanes
- Safety for pedestrians and cyclists
- Sidewalk and road maintenance
- Speeding and sightline issues, particularly on District Roads
- Duplication of efforts between the District and the Townships
- Not enough focus on the rural areas between hamlets
- Trails are not well marked or promoted
- Concerns about parking, including lack of signage and availability in urban areas

What We've Heard

Opportunities for Improvements



Trails

- Better maintenance of existing trails
- More amenities at trailheads (restrooms, benches, water filling stations, parking).
- Better signage and promotion (Online / printed trail maps/brochures).
- New trails throughout the Township, including along hydro corridors and Crown land
- Year-round usage of snowmobile trails



On-Road Cycling

- Paved shoulders or bike lanes, particularly on busy District Roads
- Separated cycling facilities, including multi-use paths and paved off-road trails to increase comfort and safety for cyclists of all ages
- Improved sightlines
- Signed cycling routes on lower-volume roads, such as those around Ril and Cream Lakes



Additional Comments

- More sidewalks in communities
- Active transportation facilities that link key destinations and bypass busy roads
- More recreational spaces
- Better sidewalk maintenance, particularly in winter
- More speed enforcement and better education
- Bicycle / e-bike rentals
- Potential paddling / portage routes

Network Conditions & Analysis

	Strengths	Issues/Challenges	Opportunities
Walking	- Low traffic volumes on local roads - Compact urban hamlets - Natural scenery	- Long distances between destinations - Gaps between sidewalks	- Increase number of sidewalks and multi-use paths within communities - Improve connections between key destinations
Cycling	- Beautiful scenery, close to nature - Some paved shoulders on rural / District roads - Some promoted cycling routes	- Busy District roads - Many roads lack paved shoulders or cycling facilities - Roads vary in jurisdiction	- Provide new cycling facilities, including paved shoulders and multi-use paths - Enhance connections between destinations - Refine and promote routes, including signage
Trails	- Many scenic and natural areas to attract users - Some very good existing trails	- Limited connections between trails - Maintenance of existing trails	- Improve accessibility of existing trails - Create new linkages between trails and parks / recreational facilities - Enhance promotion of trails - Provide more trail amenities, e.g. trailheads, rest areas



Lake of Bays | Active Transportation Strategy

Baysville Candidate Opportunities

Legend

Community Elements

- Community Boundary
- Waterbodies

Roadways

- Arterial
- Local

Existing Cycling and Walking Facilities

- Paved Shoulders
- Trails
- Sidewalks
- Waterfront Walkway
- Multi-use Path

Candidate Opportunities

- Proposed On-Road Cycling Improvements

Key Destinations

- Accommodations
- Art
- Attraction
- Boat Launch
- Dining
- Library
- Sightseeing
- Lake Access
- Shopping
- School

**Note: All Candidate Opportunities are subject to further review.*

Map Labels:

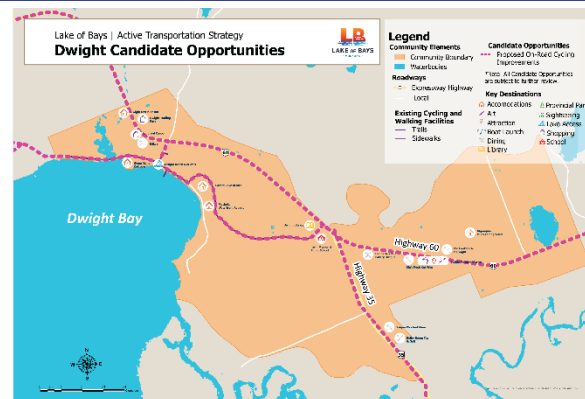
- Brunel Road
- South Branch Muskoka River
- Muskoka River
- Muskoka Road 117
- Echo Lake Road
- 117
- 81
- 2
- 10
- 9
- 8
- 7
- 6
- 5
- 4
- 3
- 1

Map Features:

- North Arrow
- Scale Bar (0 to 0.5 Kilometers)
- Waterbodies: South Branch Muskoka River, Muskoka River
- Roads: Brunel Road, Muskoka Road 117, Echo Lake Road
- Proposed On-Road Cycling Improvements (Pink dashed line)
- Key Destinations (Numbered locations 1-10)

Map Notes:

- *Note: All Candidate Opportunities are subject to further review.
- Priorities for future sidewalk and trail enhancements along Baysville Historic Walking Trail



Network Opportunities

Township-wide opportunities include:

- Enhance on-road cycling routes for a loop around Lake of Bays, and other connecting routes and loops
- Potential for off-road trails along hydro corridors
- Enhance / expand existing trails (e.g., Oxtongue Rapids)
- Examine trails along other Township-owned lands
- Leverage existing recreational roads and Crown lands for new / enhanced trails, e.g. near Ril & Cream lakes

Draft opportunities will be refined and prioritized during the next phase of work based on community input and additional technical investigations.

Questions or Comments?

www.engage.lakeofbays.on.ca

