

COUNCIL REPORT

To: Mayor and Council

From: Recreation Services

Date: November 7, 2023

Subject: Active Transportation Plan – What We Heard Report

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT Council receives this report for information.

BACKGROUND:

At the regular meeting of June 26, 2023 Council awarded the Active Transportation Plan to VDZ+A.

Since then, following the contract award, District Staff and the proponent began the process of developing the District of Mackenzie's Active Transportation Master Plan. VDZ+A has conducted a preliminary review of the existing walking, biking and trail system. This has been conducted in conjunction with a site review for their ongoing work at the new downtown community space as well as the recreation area community space.

They have reviewed our GIS and existing mapping available through the District and have discussed with staff transportation planning and community plans that may impact the active transportation plan. VDZ+A has had two separate site visits to the community meeting with staff from various departments as well as the Accessibility and Inclusion Advisory Committee. Staff along with VDZ+A created the Active Transportation & Community Spaces Survey for the residents in Mackenzie. We have had 138 responses, attached as Appendix A is a summary of the What We Heard report for Council's review. The full survey report can be found in Centre Table File.

Staff have removed two comments from the What We Heard report as they relate to hate/racism which does not adhere to the District of Mackenzie's Code of Conduct.

SUMMARY OF OTHER QUESTIONS:

Below is a summary of the (Other) options for the Active Transportation & Community Spaces Survey that were not included in the What We Heard report.

What is the greatest factor that influences your choice to use active transportation over other modes?

- Walk my dog
- Benches for resting

What is the biggest improvement that could be made to existing infrastructure to encourage more active transportation?

- More lights for evening and night
- Better pedestrian snow removal
- Curb heights for mobility aids
- More sidewalks
- A sidewalk made for the short stretch along the way, in front of the Subway/Motel/Park road

Safety Concerns?

- More bear deterrents in bear season
- Not enough crosswalks
- Fixing the streets so that bikes, scooters etc. are actually a practical option
- Lack of sidewalks on both sides of a street
- Painting of crosswalks
- Bike getting stolen because nowhere to lock it
- Loose dogs
- Softer lighting

What recreational activities do you currently most enjoy?

- Skating
- Pickleball
- Soccer
- Snowmobiling
- X Country Skiing
- Skiing/Snowboarding
- Curling
- Baseball

Programs (Other)?

- Biking lessons
- Walking groups
- Electric bike raffle once a year. This promotes alternative transportation.
- "Fix-it-Fest" Bring your broken stuff. Someone will know how to fix it.
- Awareness programs of speeds around schools/Rec Centre.

Additions to the 616 Area?

- Trees, shade is lacking.
- Garden beds and greenery splash parks.
- A statue. A big statue of an animal.
- Shelter from elements, garbage cans, dog poo bags. Then increase green spaces and mural.
- Attractive paving, landscaping, and lighting.
- Public washrooms, with baby changing tables.
- Don't like it at all, we need our four lanes, we need larger parking areas.

What amenities would you like to see incorporated into the outdoor spaces that surround the Rec Center?

- An outdoor skating trail that is lit at night.
- Horseshoe Area
- Shelter from elements, more green spaces, garbage cans and dog poo bags.
- Native, drought resistant plant species.
- Better dog park
- Trees

NEXT STEPS:

- Community Open House November 29, 2023 & Draft Plan presentation.
- Bring forward the Active Transportation & Community Spaces Plan for Council's consideration.

COUNCIL PRIORITIES:

Community and Social Development

- Our investment in the municipality's services and infrastructure, our commitment to principles of social equity and well-being, and our belief in the value of resident engagement, creates a healthy community in which everyone feels valued and enjoys a high quality of life.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:

Terry Gilmer, Director of Recreation Services
Luke Thorne, Land & Environmental Coordinator

Reviewed By: Corporate and Financial Services

Approved By: Chief Administrative Officer