



Ontario Helping the Town of Newmarket Expand Cycling and Improve Safety

Province Investing \$325,000 in Local Cycling Infrastructure

March 15, 2016

NEWS

Ontario is providing \$325,000 to the Town of Newmarket over the next two years to help build new, or improve existing, cycling infrastructure through the [Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program](#).

Last year, Ontario announced \$10 million to help municipalities across the province improve cycling safety in their communities and invest in cycling infrastructure. Ontario is providing 50 per cent of eligible project costs, to a maximum of \$325,000 and municipalities awarded funding under the Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program will begin receiving funds in April 2016. Eligible projects for funding include the installation or improvement of on-road cycling lanes, off-road cycling and walking paths, cycling-specific traffic signals and signs, active transportation bridges and bike racks.

The Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program is helping implement [#CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy](#), the government's 20-year vision to encourage the growth of cycling and improve safety for cyclists across the province.

Investing in cycling infrastructure is part of the government's economic plan to build Ontario up and deliver on its number-one priority to grow the economy and create jobs. The four-part plan includes investing in talent and skills, including helping more people get and create the jobs of the future by expanding access to high-quality college and university education. The plan is making the largest investment in public infrastructure in Ontario's history and investing in a low-carbon economy driven by innovative, high-growth, export-oriented businesses. The plan is also helping working Ontarians achieve a more secure retirement.

QUOTES

"This is great news for Town of Newmarket. Investing in our local cycling infrastructure will help keep our cyclists safe and encourage more people to ride a bike. Cycling is a healthy, sustainable way to get around."

— Chris Ballard, MPP Newmarket-Aurora

"Building cycling infrastructure is important in helping us make Ontario a great place to ride a bike. Working together with our partners, the cycling community and local municipalities, I know we will succeed in making Ontario a cycling leader in North America."

— Kathryn McGarry, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Transportation

"Newmarket residents have long enjoyed using our award-winning trail system, and specifically the Tom Taylor and Nokiidaa Trails – which runs north to south and connects to the Towns of Aurora and East Gwillimbury – and the recreational opportunities they provide. Building on that success, the Town of Newmarket will embark on a new cycling project that will connect residents in the east and west parts of Town, will help to get people out of their cars and will take us one step further in rounding out the vibrant and dynamic Newmarket that we have all come to enjoy."

– Tony van Bynen, Mayor, Town of Newmarket

QUICK FACTS

- Projects selected for funding most effectively aligned with the program objectives: improving connections between local cycling networks, promoting safety, enabling recreation and tourism, encouraging innovation, research and data collection, supporting partnerships and improving awareness of cycling as a viable transportation mode.
- Almost three million Ontarians hop on their bikes at least once a week during the spring, summer and fall and many cycle year-round.

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LEARN MORE

[CycleON: Ontario's Cycling Strategy](#)
[CycleON Action Plan 1.0](#)
[Bicycle Safety](#)

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Newmarket East-to-West Bikeway fact sheet

- With the support of the provincial government through its Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program, the Town of Newmarket will embark on the design and construction of the Newmarket East-to-West Bikeway, connecting residents in the east and west parts of town from Eagle Street West to Leslie Street.
- The Bikeway will build on the success of Newmarket's existing award-winning trail system, specifically the Tom Taylor and Nokiidaa Trail – which runs north to south, connects to the Towns of Aurora and East Gwillimbury and sees an average of 225 cyclist trips per day in the off-season, and more than 1000 in the warmer weather.
- The Bikeway will include more than five kilometres of bike lanes, which will – wherever possible – be separated from traffic to help ensure comfort and safety for both drivers and cyclists.
- Improvements to intersections, bike racks along the route, cycling and pedestrian wayfinding signs, a sheltered bike parking area in the downtown and improvements to pavement surfacing as needed along the route will also be included within the scope of the project.
- Connecting to local and rapid transit routes, the Bikeway will link destinations like grocery stores, shopping and employment areas, and will help residents reach the popular downtown Main Street without needing to drive.
- A detailed design of the Bikeway has yet to be completed by the Town of Newmarket, but is expected in 2016. It is anticipated that the Bikeway will be open to enjoy by mid-2017.
- The Bikeway will support the provincial [#CycleON strategy](#) to promote Ontario as a premier cycling tourism destination, and will be funded by both the Government of Ontario and the Town of Newmarket, each contributing \$325,000.