

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of Committee of the Whole

From: Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works

Date: April 13, 2023

Re: Traveller Safety Plan Update

This memorandum provides an update to Council on development of the multi-year Traveller Safety Plan.

Transportation Master Plan identifies traveller safety as a focus area

The 2022 [Transportation Master Plan](#) (TMP) identified safety for all travellers as a focus area. Focus areas require further study and potentially additional engagement, with recommended actions and initiatives brought forward for review in this term of Council. This focus area is being advanced in 2023 through development of a Traveller Safety Plan (Plan) which will include specific actions and commitments to improve safety for all travellers across the Region.

As introduced in [Annual Traveller Safety Report](#) presented to Council in September 2022, key deliverables of the Plan include:

- Develop a web-based regional data warehouse and safety analytic tools
- Conduct data-driven, evidence-based analysis to develop a risk exposure index
- Identify quantified counter measures
- Design and plan safer streets
- Expand existing safety measures and programs
- Develop key performance indicators

Traveller Safety Plan aligns with York Regional Police Road Safety Strategy and United Nations Institute for Training and Research Framework

This Traveller Safety Plan and [York Regional Police Road Safety Strategy](#) focus on similar strategic priorities with the aligned goal to reduce fatal and injury collisions. Focus areas include vulnerable road users, aggressive driving, speeding and distracted and impaired driving to guide development of road safety initiatives.

[United Nations Institute for Training and Research](#), the Region, York Regional Police and York University recently renewed a partnership agreement to foster sustainable development in Canada. This agreement aims to deliver joint training and professional development activities, which target mainly government officials, leaders, civil society and other interested parties in the areas of safety mobility including road safety. Reducing fatalities and injuries caused by traffic collisions is one key area of collaboration in the partnership agreement to address this local need through capacity building and learning.

Traveller safety is a shared responsibility requiring a collaborative approach engaging multiple safety partners and industry professionals

A transportation safety consultant, with expertise in developing road safety plans, safety audits and creating policy documents for municipalities, was retained to help develop this Plan. There are two primary working groups.

The project steering committee will lead Plan implementation and deliverables and consists of:

- Region staff
- Consultant
- Local municipalities
- York Regional Police
- Public Health

A stakeholder advisory group will provide insight and support to the project steering committee and consists of:

- York Region School Boards
- Ministry of Transportation
- Emergency services
- Neighbouring regions
- Special interest groups, such as Canadian Automobile Association, Mothers Against Drunk Driving, seniors' groups, business improvement associations, pedestrian and cycling advocacy and accessibility groups

These partners expressed a strong commitment to work together to improve safety on the Regional and local transportation systems during the Plan kickoff meeting held in October 2022. The project steering committee and stakeholder advisory group will continue to collaborate, set out targets, guidelines and action plans towards creating safer travel and reducing the number of fatal and serious injury collisions for all travellers.

A process to share collision data with local municipalities has been developed

The Region entered into an Authorized Requestor Agreement with the Ministry of Transportation for access and delivery of electronic collision data. This allows the Region to collect, upload and share Regional and local data with local municipalities more quickly and efficiently. This data will be shared through a web-based data warehouse. Collision data is used to analyse and plan infrastructure changes to improve safety.

January 2023, a web-based data warehouse incorporating Regional and local data was developed, including new safety analytical tools

Traditionally, traffic and collision data has been collected through multiple sources and stored independently by the Region and local municipalities. To help inform the Plan, a third-party web-based traffic data warehouse, incorporating all Regional and local traffic and collision data, along with safety analytical tools, was developed. This data warehouse now allows data to be stored and accessed from one source. The Region is currently working with local municipalities to provide access to the data warehouse, subject to execution of a Memorandum of Understanding for annual licensing, maintenance and support fees.

This data warehouse includes analytic tools allowing staff to conduct data-driven and evidence-based analysis. The data warehouse also has the capability to incorporate, correlate and migrate new data sources, such as future connected vehicle data and human factors science. Incorporating these new data sources will enable a better understanding of human behaviours relating to traveller safety. This will provide staff with the ability to prioritize and identify quantitative measures to change traveller behaviours and establish a stronger road safety culture. These additional data sources will be available to all members of the project steering committee in fall 2023.

February 2023 a virtual public information centre was held and an interactive online tool was used to solicit resident feedback, input and concerns

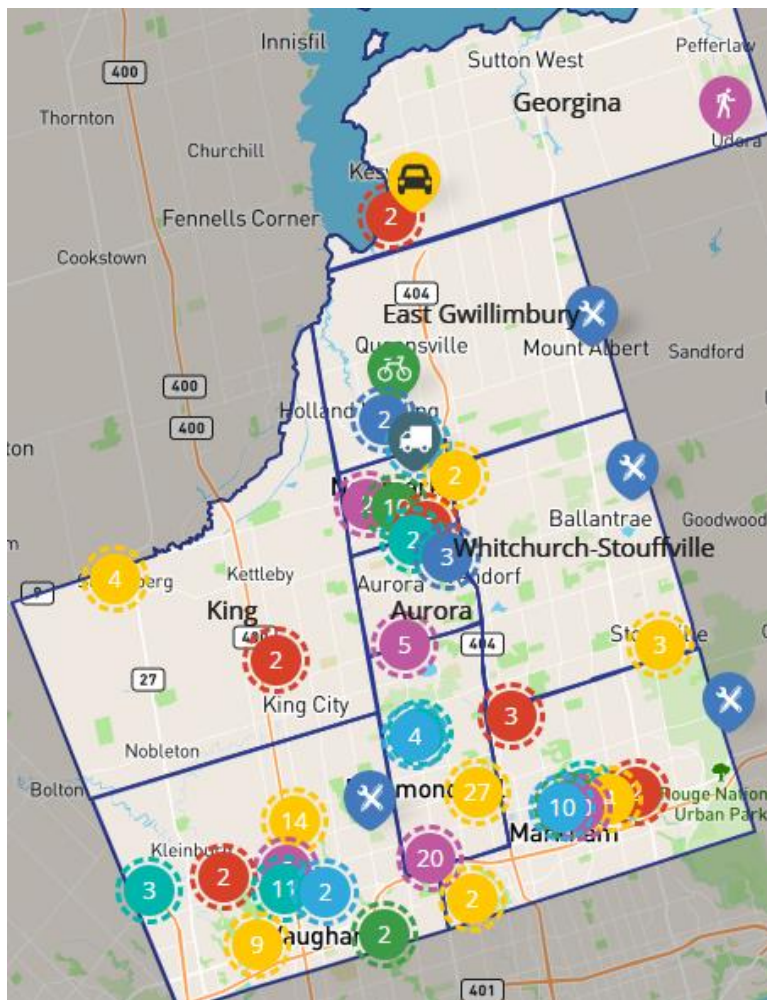
Public and community engagement is vital in developing and implementing a successful Plan that addresses resident concerns. A webpage, along with various advertising means through York.ca, on-street signage, local community newspapers, social media and other media advisories, was launched to seek public input between December 2022 and April 2023. To date, there have been more than 15,000 views on [York.ca/TravellerSafetyPlan](https://www.york.ca/TravellerSafetyPlan).

On February 28, 2023, almost 100 participants attended the virtual public information centre which included a presentation, question and answer chat, public opinion survey and interactive online mapping tool for commenting.

Pedestrian/cyclist safety and intersection concerns were the primary focus of attendees

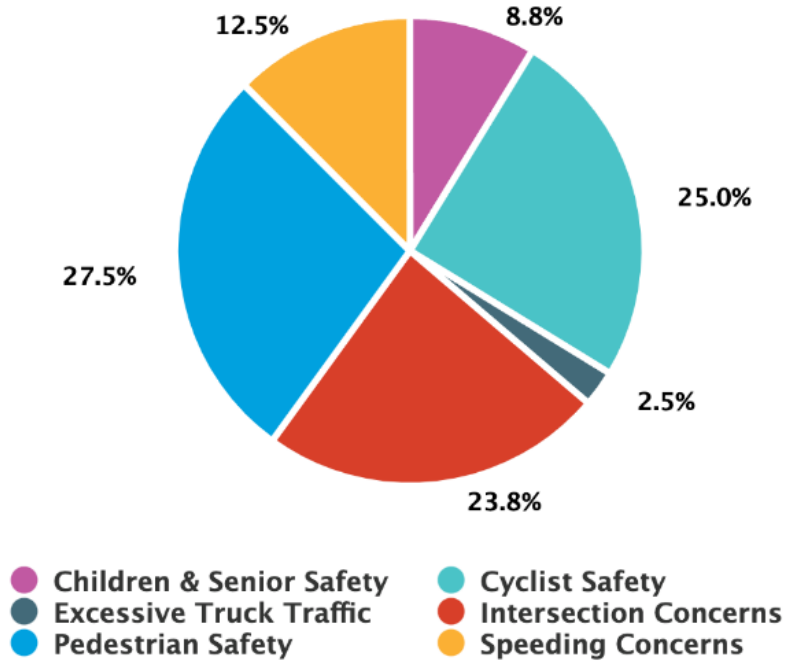
The online mapping tool allowed participants to pinpoint site-specific concerns on the Regional and local transportation system. More than 600 comments were captured using the online mapping tool shown in Figure 1. Most concerns are in relation to the need for more traffic signals, speeding and pedestrian and cyclist safety.

Figure 1
Online Mapping Tool



In addition, more than 500 public comments were received throughout community engagement. Figure 2 highlights primary areas of concern identified through various channels of public input.

Figure 2
Areas of Concern



Staff plan to present the Traveller Safety Plan to Council in late 2023

Staff intend to present the Traveller Safety Plan to Council in late 2023. Staff continue to share progress and timing with local municipal staff through the project steering committee for local staff to use in updating their councils. Subject to Regional Council approval of the Plan, staff can provide presentations on the Plan to local municipal councils in early 2024.

Erin Mahoney, M. Eng.
Commissioner of Public Works

Bruce Macgregor
Chief Administrative Officer

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