

Two Way Street

Public Health & Transportation

Working Together



Increasingly, transportation and public health professionals work together in the common interest of promoting active transportation. A consultation was done to better understand the challenges and opportunities to strengthen collaboration between both disciplines.

Key Findings

Challenges in promoting active transportation and building infrastructure:

- Balancing provincial leadership with recognition of local autonomy;
- Obtaining exclusive and predictable active transportation funding;
- Gaining public and elected official support;
- Improving technical guidelines and standards- anything outside them may be difficult to implement;
- Information gaps about on active transportation;
- Limited land use policy tools for changing existing built forms;
- Diversity in active transportation expertise within transportation professionals;
- Differences between jurisdictions (e.g. region vs. municipality).

Opportunities for public health to contribute to transportation planning:

- Harness additional policy and funding support locally, provincially or federally;
- Contribute to promoting mutual understanding and knowledge of opportunities for collaboration between transportation and public health:
 - Gap in knowledge makes collaboration difficult;
 - Important for public health practitioners to become familiar with transportation practice and processes;
- Contribute more data and evidence supporting active transportation, especially context-specific data;
- Contribute to public outreach and education efforts to build support from elected officials and general public for active transportation;
- Advance active transportation and safety perspectives in key scenarios (e.g. the Municipal Class Environmental Assessment process).

PROJECT CONDUCTED BY
Ontario Public Health Association's
Built Environment Workgroup

PROJECT INCLUDED
Scan of literature, policy and
guidance documents; scan and
stakeholder mapping, in-depth
semi-structured interviews with
select transportation professionals
(7 in total)



INTERESTED IN GETTING INVOLVED?

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