County Wide Active Transportation Master Plan Study (CWATS)
Notice of Study Completion and 30 Day Public Review Period

The County of Essex has completed a County Wide Active Transportation Master Plan Study (CWATS) Master Plan. The Master Plan is designed to improve and designate a regional Active Transportation (AT) network of on-road corridors and off-road trails, to improve connections between the proposed regional and local municipal systems, and to promote the use of active transportation in the County of Essex. This study focuses primarily on non-motorized modes (cycling, hiking, etc.) on County roads and selected local roads that are proposed to be included in a regional network and is supported by an implementation strategy that provides recommendations on priorities, funding and timing to develop the proposed AT network.

Master plans are long-range plans that integrate infrastructure and program requirements for existing and future land uses with environmental assessment principles. While the Master Plan addresses need and justification at a broad level, more detailed studies related to major infrastructure components of the CWATS Master Plan are expected to be undertaken when appropriate as part of Municipal Class Environmental Assessments (Class EA's) and/or design feasibility studies for other County of Essex, Local Municipal and Essex Region Conservation Authority (ERCA) infrastructure projects.

The study area for the CWATS Master Plan includes all of the County of Essex. The Master Plan is intended to guide the County, Local Municipalities, the Essex Region Conservation Authority, and other partners over the next 20 years and beyond to implement a comprehensive active transportation and regional trails network while minimizing environmental impacts. The draft master plan is based on the study findings and incorporates comments provided from the public, stakeholders, agencies, and local municipal and county staff during key stages of the study.

The draft County Wide Active Transportation Master Plan was received by County Council as an information report on Wednesday May 18, 2011 and will now be followed by a 30 day public review period.

You are invited to review and provide comments regarding the draft County Wide Active Transportation Master Plan. The Master Plan is available for your review on-line at:

http://www.countyofessex.on.ca/

Or a hard copy can be reviewed at the following location:

Corporation of the County of Essex

360 Fairview Avenue W., Suite 201
Essex, Ontario, N8M 1Y6

Please forward any comments in writing to Ms. Jane Mustac, Manager of Transportation Planning by July 8th, 2011. Thereafter, the CWATS Master Plan will be reviewed and refined where necessary taking into consideration the comments received from the public. The Final CWATS Master Plan will then be presented to County Council in the summer or fall of 2011 for confirmation and formal adoption.

Jane Mustac, P.Eng.
Manager of Transportation Planning
Tel : 519-776-6441 ext. 397
Email: jmustac@countyofessex.on.ca

May 26, 2011