




Complete Streets Forum

April 23, 2012

PRESENTED BY

toronto centre for active transportation 



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Program

Evergreen Brick Works - April 23, 2012

8:00 am Registration/Continental Breakfast

9:00 - 9:20 am (BMO Atrium) Opening Remarks

Eva Ligeti - Executive Director, Clean Air Partnership

Stewart Chisholm - Director, Centre for Green Cities, Evergreen

Chair: Ken Greenberg - Principal, Greenberg Consultants

9:25 - 10:10 am (BMO Atrium) Keynote

Complete Streets:

The Foundation for Building Healthy Communities

Gary Toth - Senior Director, Transportation Initiatives, Project for Public Spaces

Complete Streets has done more to influence needed policy change in the transportation world than any other single movement. It has been an amazing program that sets the table for communities to re-frame their future around people, not just cars. To reach its fullest potential, communities and advocates need to understand the difference between Complete Streets and Complete Systems, and also how to use Placemaking and Land Use planning to go beyond the engineering foundation provided by Complete Streets and create truly walkable communities.

In his Plenary, Gary Toth will foster a full understanding of what Complete Streets is trying to accomplish: creating places not thoroughfares. Topics covered will include:

- Understanding the mindset of transportation professionals trained to focus on automobile efficiency
- Tools for working with transportation professionals to change auto oriented mindsets, including flexible design principles
- Case Studies of what other communities around North America are doing
- How "Incomplete Streets" based on inappropriately high street design speeds not only degrade place and limits biking and walking, but also adversely affect transportation performance
- How to use the concept of "Street Typologies" to accommodate all road users via Complete Streets Network
- How to use the idea of Place to create the foundation for creating a Street Network that accommodates all road users using Complete Streets principles
- How to facilitate a citizen driven vision planning process which works "upside down" by first engaging community stakeholders themselves to identify existing assets and areas of opportunity

10:15 - 10:45 am (BMO Atrium) Keynote

Laying the Foundation for Complete Streets

John LaPlante, P.E., PTOE - Vice President and Director of Traffic Engineering, T.Y. Lin International

The goals of this presentation are to bring together diverse agency staff, advocates and other stakeholders from across the region to:

- Build a common understanding of the complete streets concept and approach
- Explore how complete streets policies can help achieve multiple transportation, health and community goals
- Present examples of the types of complete streets policies

10:45 - 11:00 am Morning Break

11:00 - 11:55 am (Meeting Room 2)

Incorporating Complete Streets Language into Policy: Breakout #1

Complete Streets and Policy

Ryan Whitney - TCAT Complete Streets Researcher + Project Manager

Hannah Evans - Director of Partnerships and Consultation, Ontario Growth Secretariat, Ministry of Infrastructure

Moderator: Elana Horowitz, TCAT Steering Committee

This session will share the results from research completed by the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) that reviewed Complete Streets supportive language in the Official Plans of 17 communities across Ontario. Topics of discussion include potential opportunities to strengthen Complete Streets supportive policy language, common barriers and potential solutions towards adopting and implementing a Complete Streets approach, and opportunities to strengthen support for a Complete Streets approach at the provincial level.

The panel will address how the framework established by the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe helps to create more vibrant communities and more complete streets. In addition, two case studies will be presented that illustrate how this framework can be realized.

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11:00 -11:55 am (BMO Atrium)

Complete Streets on the Ground: Breakout #1

Lessons from 20+ Years of Completing Streets

Michael King, RA - Principal Nelson\Nygaard NYC

Paul Lippens, AICP, APA - Senior Planner at Active Transportation Alliance

Courtney Kashima - Senior Associate, Farr Associates

Moderator: Antonio Gomez-Palacio - Principal, DIALOG

This session includes experiences in developing complete streets, and a roundtable discussion about what you can do in your community to advance the cause. It will begin with a review of some of the efforts over the past three decades: traditional neighbourhood design, traffic calming, context sensitive design and solutions, urban street design, real intersection design, walkability. The presenters will share their experiences, analyzing what has and has not worked, looking in particular at current efforts in Chicago.

Participants may bring information to distribute. The presenters and other will offer criticism and advice to help those in the trenches learn from those who have gone before.

11:00 am - 11:55 am (Blake's Room)

Building Community with Complete Streets: Breakout #1

A Spectrum of Start Points for Engaging the Public in Active Transportation Infrastructure Improvements

Paul Young, OALA, CSLA - Planner, landscape architect and health promoter, Ontario Healthy Communities Coalition

Raj Mohabeer - Transportation Planning Lead, Parsons Brinckerhoff Halsall

Moderator: Loy Cheah - Director, Infrastructure Planning, The Regional Municipality of York

This session will explore a spectrum of public engagement "start points" from community initiated projects to engagement that stems from a legislated requirement. It will present three general types of engagement - resulting in change to a road or proposed development. Each type of engagement will have unique characteristics and rely on the participation of various actors (residents, elected representatives, lawyers, designers, etc.). Advantages, disadvantages, and unique considerations will be discussed.

1. Confront / Challenge (i.e. Ontario Municipal Board and a grass roots campaign)
2. Utilizing a Legally Required Engagement Process (i.e. Environmental Assessments, public meetings)
3. Pro-active (Visioning, Strategic Planning)

11:00 am - 1:00 pm (Building 1) Workshop Stream

Complete Streets Coalition Workshop: Laying the Foundation for Complete Streets

John LaPlante, P.E., PTOE - Vice President and Director of Traffic Engineering, T.Y. Lin International

Norma Moores, P. Eng. - Senior Transportation Engineer, IBI Group

This interactive workshop will Lay the Foundation for implementing the design and policy of complete streets for professionals, stakeholders, and advocates.

12:00 -12:55 pm (Meeting Room 2)

Incorporating Complete Streets Language into Policy: Breakout Session #2

What do Complete Streets Look Like in a Rural Community? Policy and Practice

Sue Shikaze - Chair, Communities in Action Committee + Health Promoter, Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit

Kate Hall - Project Coordinator, Communities in Action Committee

Moderator: Jacqueline Gulati, Manager, Cycling Office, City of Mississauga

This session will describe how the principles of complete streets can be applied in rural communities by highlighting work in Haliburton County. Rural communities have different needs and opportunities than urban areas when it comes to active transportation and complete streets planning, promotion and implementation.

This session will provide: examples of infrastructure investment and changes in Haliburton County that promote and support active transportation; results of the first two phases of the evaluation strategy including a community survey and key informant interviews; and, a report on influence with decision makers and changes in community awareness and behaviour with respect to active transportation.

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12:00 - 12:55 pm (BMO Atrium)

Complete Streets on the Ground Theme: Breakout #2

Developing a Complete Streets Design Guide for the City of Calgary: Successes + Challenges

Joe Olson, P.Eng., PTOE - Complete Streets Project Lead, Transportation Planning, City of Calgary

Moderator: Darryl Young, TCAT Steering Committee

The City of Calgary is half way through the development of a Complete Streets Guide to provide the necessary guidance to City Administration and the Development Industry on how to incorporate 'Complete Streets' into the planning, design, and construction of all streets, and reconstruction of existing streets.

The presentation includes; revision of basic cross-section elements, development of new detailed design sheets for construction of Base (or typical) cross-sections, and development of 'Alternate' cross-sections; discussion of the key issues and 'trade-offs'; and the process, with internal City and 'external' stakeholders, by which the new standards and practice were developed.

12:00 - 12:55 pm (Blake's Room)

Building Community with Complete Streets: Breakout #2

Mobility and Public Space

Antonio Gomez-Palacio, Arq. MES, RPP, MCIP, MRAIC - Principal, DIALOG

Chris Hardwicke - Associate, Sweeny Sterling Finlayson & Co Architects Inc.

Moderator: Thomas Smahel, TCAT Steering Committee

This session will explore the relationship between complete streets, active transportation, conventional transit, and active public spaces as a component of city and community building. The presentation will discuss a case-study that provides a foundation to quantify and qualify the public space and mobility conditions found within Saskatoon's City Centre. The findings, portrayed in the charts, maps, and illustrations in the report, were generated using a methodology that can be repeated in future years to assess changes to the quality of public life in Saskatoon's City Centre.

The sessions also includes a discussion of the experiences of other Canadian cities, focusing on lessons learned, and a facilitated con-

versation about the potential of transit investment to facilitate both city building and active transportation.

1:00 - 1:45 pm Lunch

1:45 - 2:40 pm (BMO Atrium) Keynote

Improving Health through Active Transportation

Monica Campbell - Director of Healthy Public Policy, Toronto Public Health

Monica Campbell will speak to the health impacts of walking and cycling in urban areas. Specifically, she will present evidence from a new public health report that explores walking and cycling patterns across the City of Toronto, quantifies the health benefits of active transportation in Toronto and investigates the costs of collisions and injuries. The presentation will include strategies for increasing the safety and use of active transportation across Toronto.

Active Living in Peel Region

Dr. David L. Mowat - Medical Officer of Health, Region of Peel Public Health

The ways in which our communities have been designed and built have changed our world... and our health. Peel Region is a rapidly growing jurisdiction within the Greater Toronto Area with a population of 1.3 million. Auto-oriented low-density development has been a widespread trend in Peel for the last 10 or more years. Creating health-promoting built environments that encourage physical activity is challenging because the path is unpaved, and the levers to address the issue lie within several sectors, such as transportation, development and urban planning.

In collaboration with Peel Planning, Peel Public Health has been working to develop health-based rationale to consistently guide planning decisions, develop benchmarks and standards to evaluate the health-promoting potential of land use, and incorporate language into Official Plan policy that recognizes the relationship between planning and health.

Dr. Mowat will highlight recent accomplishments achieved through partnership including: the Healthy Development Index, Health Background Study and Active Transportation Plan. Through the forging of unconventional partnerships, and tailored policy development, Peel Health is paving the way for major strides in chronic disease control in Ontario.

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1:45 - 3:45 pm (Building 1) Workshop Stream

Laying the Foundation for Complete Streets Cont'd

2:45 - 3:40 pm (BMO Atrium)

Incorporating Complete Streets Language into Policy: Breakout #3

Where do you think you're going? Building Complete Streets + Livable Communities

Dan Burden - Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

Robert Voigt, MCIP, RPP - Manager Planning and Infrastructure Projects Town of Collingwood

Moderator: Raj Mohabeer - Transportation Planning Lead, Parsons Brinckerhoff Halsall

This session will discuss placemaking within the context of complete streets, active transportation and community livability. The presentation will include successful placemaking stories with numerous images of successful projects, stop-motion animation, and 3D simulations.

The presenters will show how these concepts can be envisioned; developed into ground-breaking policies and regulations; and implemented. Community benefits to placemaking approaches and initiatives will be highlighted.

The speakers will also show how innovative, cost effective ways to engage citizens can positively affect organizational change and community participation; including, how the "three degrees of influence" can bring unforeseen regional benefits from key partnerships.

2:45 - 3:40 pm (Blake's Room)

Complete Streets on the Ground: Breakout #3

Shared Streets and the Vision Impaired

Mark Van Elsberg - Project Manager, Pedestrian Projects Unit, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services

Sheyda Saneinejad - Project Lead, Public Realm Section, Transportation Services

Boyd Hipfner - Canadian National Institute for the Blind

Moderator: Paul Kulig - Principal, regionalArchitects

Curbless streets result in reduced travel speeds and benefit users with mobility challenges such as those on wheelchairs. However, while trying to cater to the needs of these users, we may be putting

the vision impaired at a disadvantage. Without the ability to make eye contact and negotiate their space with vehicles, vision impaired individuals may feel at risk in such streets.

In this roundtable discussion, we present the opportunities and challenges in the design of shared streets and encourage participants to share their insights, experiences and innovative ideas on how to address these challenges. What kind of warning and guidance system could be used? How are the AODA standards translatable to these spaces? What kind of legislation needs to be in place? How do we educate all road users and make it more legible and intuitive?

2:45 - 3:40 pm (Meeting Room 2)

Building Community with Complete Streets: Breakout #3

Stepping Towards Complete Streets with Children's Mobility

Jennifer Lay - Program Advisor - School Travel, Metrolinx

Wayne McKay - Physical Activity Coordinator Department of Health & Wellness, Cape Breton Region

Stephanie Johnstone-Laurette - Ecology Action Centre's Active & Safe Routes to School

Moderator: Gaby Kalapos, Clean Air Partnership

This session will present lessons learned from various programs and projects the presenters have implemented with children and youth. They will share the results of this engagement, what needs to be done, and why it is essential in the creation of successful Complete Streets. They will show how this supports complete streets in local communities and initiates more fundamental discussion on built environment, health and community action.

The presentation will include: a video that youth created based on their experiences with AT in their own community and other cities in Canada; and, a demonstration of how Canada's School Travel Planning initiative provides communities and schools with the tools they need to influence travel behaviour and supports community planning for complete streets.

3:45 - 4:00 pm Afternoon Break

Program

Evergreen Brick Works - April 23, 2012

4:00 - 4:45 pm (BMO Atrium) Keynote

Walking Audits: Lessons, Best Practices, and Effecting Change

Dan Burden - Executive Director and Co-Founder of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute

Having worked in over 3,500 communities and led over 4,000 walking audits throughout North America, Dan Burden is both the inventor of the walking audit and the “Johnny Appleseed” of walkability. He is currently a senior urban designer and executive director of the Walkable and Livable Communities Institute, and previously co-founded Walkable Communities and the Bicycle Federation of America. Join Dan Burden as he discusses lessons learned from walking audits, also known as a “walking workshop,” and the discoveries he has made about complete streets. Dan will provide best practices for streetscapes, urban development, infill, public spaces, parking and traffic management. Additionally, Dan will share ideas of how to effect change at the program, policy, project and personal levels.

4:45 - 5:00 pm (BMO Atrium) Closing Remarks

Chair: Ken Greenberg - Principal, Greenberg Consultants

Nancy Smith Lea - Director, TCAT

5:00 pm Travel to Reception

5:30 - 7:00 pm Wine & Cheese Reception at the Hyatt Regency Toronto, 370 King Street West

Complete Streets Forum 2012 Organizers

Staff: Kevin Behan, Gaby Kalapos, Eva Ligeti, Shazia Mirza, Caroline Schutrumpf, Nancy Smith Lea, Ryan Whitney

Program Advisory Committee: James Chan, Wayne Chan, Loy Cheah, Shawn Chirrey, Nick Cluley, Andie Garcia, Keagan Gartz, Jacquelyn Hayward Gulati, Dave Hunter, Keri Hyde-Baxter, Eva Ligeti, Dewan Masud Karim, Eleanor McMahon, Amanda O'Rourke, Joe Olson, Michelle St-Amour, Fred Sztabinski, Sean Wheldrake

Event Team Volunteers: Chris Beaver, Sarah Bradley, Pauline Craig, Erica Duque, Andie Garcia, Keagan Gartz, Jacqueline Hayward Gulati, Elana Horowitz, Keri Hyde-Baxter, Christine Oldnall, Inna Olchovski, Ryan O'Shaughnessy, Greg Smith, Ben Smith Lea, Thomas Smahel, Michelle St-Amour, Fred Sztabinski, Darryl Young

Workshops

Bloor Street Transformation

Leader: Paul Kulig - Principal, regionalArchitects

Depart: Downtown Toronto

Date: Sunday April 22, 2012, 2:00 pm - 3:30 pm

Completed in 2011, the Bloor Street Transformation represents the single largest per kilometre streetscape investment in Toronto's history. While widely praised, the project was also the subject of some criticism for not incorporating dedicated bike lanes, and the unique public-private partnership that financed its construction.

This walking tour proposes to address these criticisms while also highlighting many of the unique elements of the street's design, through the lens of the “Complete Streets on the Ground” theme. Topics for discussion will include the balance achieved between standardized and unique elements; the use of sharrows to accommodate cycling traffic; the scramble intersections at Bay and Yonge Streets; and the unique rain-water irrigation system feeding the extensive soil-cell network.

Complete Streets Workshop: Laying the Foundation

Leaders:

John LaPlante, P.E., PTOE - Vice President and Director of Traffic Engineering, T.Y. Lin International

Norma Moores, P. Eng. - Senior Transportation Engineer, IBI Group

Date: Monday April 23, 2012, 11:00 am - 3:45 pm

Additional cost for registrants: \$50.00

TCAT is pleased to offer, in partnership with the National Complete Streets Coalition and the Association for Bicycle and Pedestrian Professionals (APBP), the first accredited Complete Streets Workshop to take place in Canada. The interactive workshop will Lay the Foundation for implementing the design and policy of complete streets for professionals, stakeholders, and advocates.

Effectively implemented complete streets policies help communities routinely create safe, comfortable and convenient networks for everyone to travel regardless of age or ability - motorists, pedestrians, bicyclists, and public transportation riders. Learn from the National Complete Streets Coalition, founder of the complete streets movement, how to better balance the needs of all users, and develop and implement effective policies to create complete street networks.