

context

From April to August 2013, with a grant from the Toronto Atmospheric Fund, the Toronto Centre for Active Transportation carried out a project to document the current status of Active Transportation (AT) projects in the Greater Toronto & Hamilton Area (GTHA), build a case for support for increased investment in AT and clarify the AT component of the 25% Next Wave projects in the Metrolinx Big Move regional transportation plan. The expected project outcomes include dedicated funding source for AT in the GTHA, better regional AT cooperation and planning, an expedited timeframe for AT projects across the GTHA, and to ensure exemplary AT designs are implemented for all large transit projects.

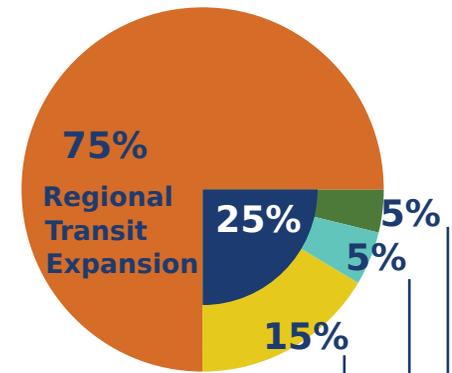
activities

- Stakeholder interviews with GTHA municipal staff
- Documented best practice from other jurisdictions
- Developed two backgrounders:
 - Active Transportation and the Regional Transportation Plan: The Big Move*
 - Why Should We Invest in Active Transportation?*
- Toronto Star op-ed: "Big Moment for Walking and Cycling"
- Complete Streets Forum 2013 – Closing Plenary Panel:
 - What would you do with 60 million per year? The importance of the Metrolinx investment strategy for active transportation*
- Final report: "The Other 25%: The Big Move and Investment in Active Transportation"

findings

- There is a strong case to be made for investment in AT in the Big Move (see tables on right), however there is more work to be done.
- Cost-benefit analysis for AT requires data not currently available
- Regional coordination is required to assess priorities for AT
- It's currently difficult to quantify the relative costs of AT facilities
- A clear and fair model for resource allocation to support AT is needed
- Dedicated funding, programs, and/or strategies for investment in AT from Metrolinx is largely lacking to date beyond one-time Bikelinx funding
- No clarity as to whether AT components are included in existing or future transit expansion budgets for the Big Move projects
- Funding and planning for AT in conjunction with transit expansion is crucial to its success, improving first/last mile experience
- No clarity as to the amount of the AT investment in Next Wave projects

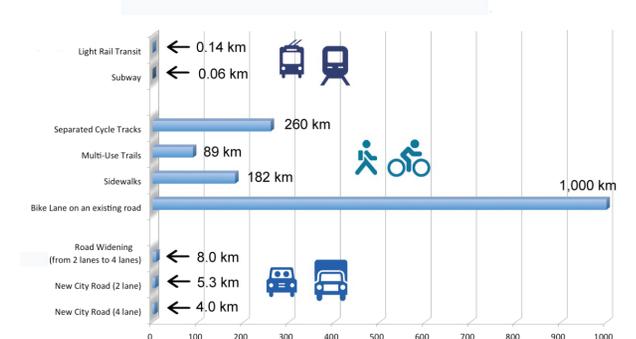
Next Wave Projects



Municipal transit support

Improvements to regional highways

Other smaller projects that support larger transportation initiatives (eg. walking and cycling paths)



How many kilometres could you build for 20 million?

Annual estimated cost for bicycle network maintenance (per km)

Region/Municipality	Bike Lane maintenance	Trail maintenance
Halton Hills	\$10,000	\$4,000
Richmond Hill	\$1,650-\$15,800	\$2,000-\$6,000
Los Angeles	\$5,000	n/a

recommendations

1

- Establish clear leadership for regional active transportation planning and investment**
- Dedicated staff within Metrolinx
 - Regional vision and coordinated priorities for AT

2

- Provide dedicated investment for active transportation through the Big Move**
- Investment model for AT
 - Evaluation of Bikelinx funding
 - Identify AT components in big transit project budgets
 - Identify shovel-ready AT projects

3

- Create a regional coordinating and advisory committee for the GTHA**
- All local municipalities invited
 - Develop terms of reference
 - Develop regional strategies and priorities for AT
 - Focus on infrastructure planning and implementation

4

- Conduct further research, planning and outreach**
- Cost-benefit analysis of AT
 - Develop a regional AT Plan
 - Identify regional AT data needs
 - Establish an AT communications and outreach strategy
 - Identify regional AT champions