

# Bike Summit 2020

# Overall

- 18 hours of presentations over 3 days
- 200 registered participants
- A lot going on behind the scenes
- Lots of support for cycling
- Still plenty of opposition

# DAY 1: Cycling during the pandemic & beyond

- Minister of Transportation, Honourable Caroline Mulroney
  - 1000km paved shoulders on Ontario roads, additional 1050km by end of 2020
  - e-bike survey - may updating rules for slightly heavier commercial cargo bikes
  - Survey -> <https://ero.ontario.ca/notice/019-2745>
- Rod Bilz, North Bay
  - closed road near waterfront, demand for more leisure space - better signage
  - noted “slower streets improve property values” – selling point for road diets
- Becky Katz, Toronto
  - closed some streets, business worried about deliveries or congestion/access
  - weekend closures got families and new cyclists
  - suggest going to people (school, mall, streets) vs. people coming to you (open house)
- Benita Van Mitenburg, Guelph
  - sidewalk expansion project 175% increased use, need more safety

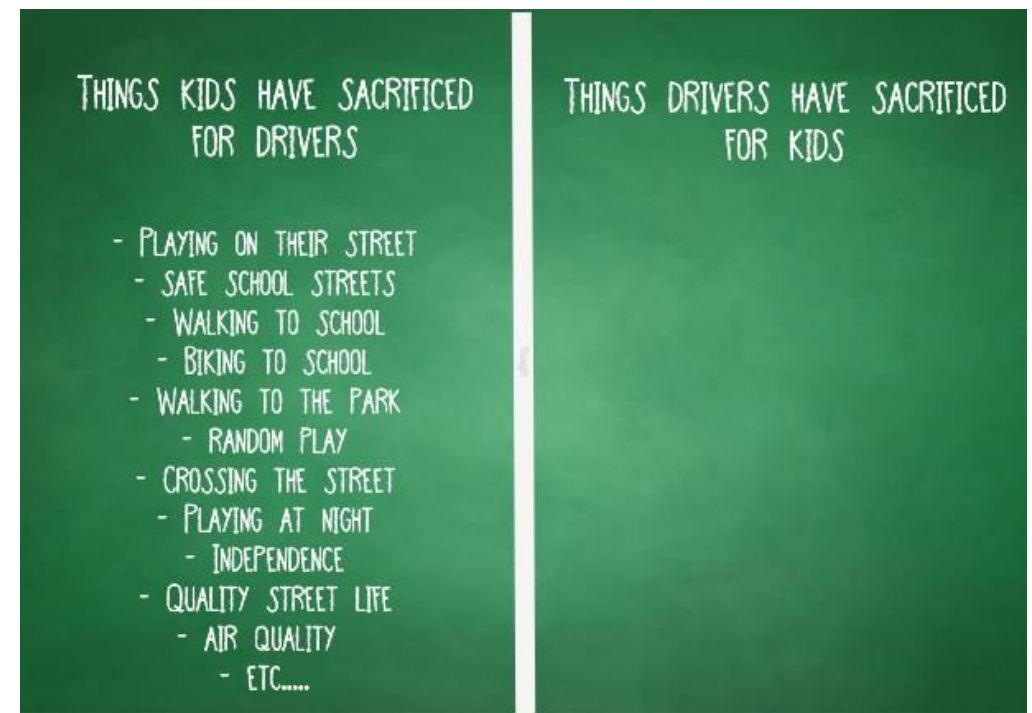
# Changing hearts & minds

- Marvin Macaraig, Scarborough
  - building support - need **more than just lanes** e.g. maintenance (ice covered bike lane)
  - give non-riders what they need; get riders involved
- Paul Young, Public Space Workshop
  - Change is hard, risky, to quote a Toronto councilor: **“to get re-elected, it's best to do nothing”**
- Laura Keresztesi and Natalie Stephenson, GreenUP
  - use pop-up info booths on street
  - some people afraid to get out, “eyes on street” helpful (ref Jane Jacobs)
  - cycling promotes safer, slower, friendlier communities eg. can stop and chat using bike
- Wes Spatazzo, Brock University
  - Seeing cycling from a child’s perspective – view from their eyes, not just words
- David Trueman, CycleWR
  - **Catch them being good** e.g. kudos to crews clearing bike trails

# Share the Road Award for Tom, Oliver, and Ronan Flood



I found Flood when someone on Twitter asked for a recommendation for a baby



City: I'd like to solve the puzzle: Is it "Wear bright clothing"



# Bicycle Friendly Communities Seminar

- Michael Stewart, CAA
  - Sponsor, **30% of members use bikes**, desire biking destinations and maps, extend road service to bikes
- Matthew Sweet & Jenna, City of Mississauga
  - **Get community to buy-in** to ideas
  - Make use of small project matching grants (like giving bikes), free meeting rooms
- becoming a cycling friendly region, Anthony Caruso and Joshua deBoer , Durham Region
  - Link to trails (Waterfront), crossings (75 identified), and fix gaps
- Creating connections, Lisa Billing, Town of Saugeen Shores
  - Find partners (police), work with recreation dept, rotary club, local grassroots
  - **Leverage what you have** e.g. trails, green-space
  - Idea: bike scavenger hunt
- Marian Mithani and Olivia White, Eco-Counter
  - Get year-round biking data, noting weather and special event changes
- Bikemaps.org (Karen Laberee, BikeMaps)
  - already have collisions, but this **shows near misses, single bike incidents** (eg. fall)
  - Suggest using standard nomenclature CanBICS (Canadian Bikeway Comfort and Safety)
- suggest hiring dedicated staff eg. summer students for improvements (small city)

# Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) Workshop

- APBP
  - Started 1994 - Offers meetups, conference, games, 1200 members
- Cyclists at roundabouts (Phil Weber, CIMA+)
  - some have cyclist priority, others vehicle
  - In Netherlands, decrease cyclists injury by 44-73%
- Bike signals and crossrides, Fred Sandoval, Mississauga
  - crossrides: curb depressions, tight radius (4-8m), intuitive, consistent
- proposed changes to OTM Book 18: Cycling Facilities, Dave McLaughlin & Shawn Smith, WSP Canada
  - **Ontario Traffic Manual** (OTM) is series of books, intended as a guide
  - more focus on separated bike infrastructure when speeds and vehicle volume justify it

# DAY 2: Cycling tourism and trails

- The Great Trail
  - Eleanor McMahon CEO, founded Share the Road 2008 (husband killed)
  - During Covid, trails saw 2-3x usage
  - 69% intend to use the trail in the winter (trails should indicate what you need)
  - can offer a letter of support for your project
- Marlane Koehler, Great Waterfront Trail
  - 27,000 km (3 oceans)
  - Paved shoulders on hwy 17 (rumble strips on buffer zone), 77% felt safer
  - Loose gravel is exhausting
  - Some places don't feel worthy to tourists, just promote e.g. CAA
  - Tell Ontario government bike network needs investment
- Karen Bittner, Town of Blind River
  - Build on what you have, and improve it in steps
  - Tell council: need working \$ to leverage larger pockets eg. provincial, federal

(cont...)

- Jennifer McCourt, Discovery Routes Trails Organization
  - Voyageur Cycling Route along its 645km length between Sudbury and Ottawa
  - connecting to other trail systems
  - visits up 68% from last year
  - cycling up 331% (motorized touring down)
- Doug Cerson, Guelph to Goderich Rail Trail (G2G Trail Inc.)
  - efficacy to connect 17 communities (not brought out of tourism), 132km route
  - built mostly with volunteers + students
  - busy even at end of Nov
  - Trailway + maintenance is not in small community's budget, how to support?
    - > Share the Road will do that!

# Cycling & the new normal: provincial perspective

- Jessica Bell, NDP MPP University—Rosedale
  - **focus on amendments** (much more efficient), cohesion of communities
  - equitable investments - invest in areas that are more racialized, lower income
  - active TO - key lanes that are identified but still not implemented (low income)
- Stephen Blais, Liberal MPP, Ottawa (John Fraser not available?)
  - could use a province-wide Vision Zero and network
- Norm Miller, PC MPP Parry Sound—Muskoka
  - rural: resurgence in cycling (and now cross-country skiing)
  - paved shoulders on provincial hwy (perspective has improved since 5 years ago)
  - not car driver vs. cycling; eg. CAA supports it (many members cycle too)
  - equitable investments - more affordable for lower income

(cont ...)

- Mike Schreiner, Green Party MPP Guelph
  - provide accessibility which supports small business
  - cycling tourism (Quebec way ahead of us)
  - equity: accommodate all road users, avoid conflict with bikes and people w/ disabilities
  - low-income neighbourhoods often have large high-speed roads not safe for low-cost bikes/pedestrians
- Diane Freeman Councillor, City of Waterloo (moderator)
  - Cycling is a non-partisan issue
  - Asked if these four would group together to form an all-party cycling caucus for safe cycling and tourism? -> yes

# Building support and overcoming challenges

- Vision Zero Pop-up Demonstrations
  - Mountainview: school street closed 8-9am 3-4pm (4 days) (in Europe traffic goes away w/time)
  - Pineway: 35 -> 24 km/h with barriers
  - Danforth: made more for people (bike lanes, exercise zone, performers, seating)
  - "A lot of persistence. A lot of emails. A lot of no's."
  - \$150,000 for all three projects
- Build it now, perfect it later, Zibby Petch, IBI
  - Go from current level -> acceptable -> good level
  - Hamilton (King St.), get lane, add paint, add bollards
  - don't compromise must haves
  - do monitor, have plan for upgrades, get fresh eyes
- London (King Street)
  - consultation and engagement help guide design solutions
  - Look at European school streets

# Harnessing data in support of cycling

- Peterborough
  - 2020 Active Transportation and Health Indicators Report
  - collect data to assess walking and cycling, found 10.2% (goal was 8%)
  - saw 400% increase in cycling (2006-2016)
  - county 100km paved shoulders 2018
  - injuries in Peterborough higher than Ontario average (but going down) -> road safety a priority
- travel survey, Matt Kussin, City of Kingston
  - address-based sampling, survey captures a baseline prior to Covid
  - 29% of  $\geq$  one trip per week cyclists also bike in winter

# DAY 3: Equity, diversity & inclusion: Ontario

- Bike Equity, Ajax
  - who feels safe and why, who is allowed to move freely, what systems cause harm?
  - some whites consider black mobility dangerous
  - create a space for growth and learning
- Sabat Ismail, York University
  - San Francisco: Chris Carlton - cycling in the 1930 hit critical mass, but still unlivable for most
  - Minneapolis - great cycling but racial problems
- Hamilton Bike Share
  - ERI (Everyone Rides Initiative), access, subsidization, education, outreach
  - Mark Anderson (coordinator) - got involved after cancer scare, his story shows how a simple suggestion can lead to personal and organizational success
- Building cycling culture in suburban communities (Yvonne Verlinden, The Centre for Active Transportation)
  - Suburbs down (1.1 to 0.8%), urban up (1.3 to 6.9%) from 1996 to 2016
  - addressing barriers (access, knowledge, community)
  - bike loan with library card (libraries are social hubs, already loan stuff)
  - relearn geography of city eg. taking quiet streets vs. big arterial streets

(cont ...)

## Other

- Toronto Neighbourhood Improvement Area historic pavement issues that need addressing
- When utilizing active transportation (cycling /walking) in London, carding of visible community friends was frequent by London Police
- Students rode trail to mark safety issues, lend tools, answer questions, distribute tourism info and local resource info for residents
- Key for government change and \$: show benefits & results
- Collision data may come from Public Health Ontario: emergency visits

# Connecting the cycling network

- use an Active transportation master plan, Brampton
- Parson Corporation
  - neighbourhood collector streets - trees die due to salt spray
  - Was provocative painting lines on streets 20 years ago, progress now good
- Dougall Avenue multi-use trail tunnel, City of Windsor
  - every cycle project has a story about the barriers
  - railway bridge modified with tunnel for pedestrians and cyclists \$9.8million
  - often gaps are not completed because of expense and difficulties

# Connecting the cycling network with transit

- Cycling and Transit, Alex Gatien, The Centre for Active Transportation
  - transit itself is safe, but policy gap for walking/biking to transit
  - their guide addresses the first/last km problem
  - Portland, Oregon - has connections for pedestrians/cyclists
  - San Francisco : subway trains have 2-3 cars suitable for bikes
  - Suburb – bike to access transit; urban – bike to replace transit
- Bike Parking & Transit, Cai de Ridder, WSP Canada & Allison Miller, London
  - have parking visible and convenient
  - parking right at bus stops, near pedestrians for visibility
- Multimodal connections to rapid transit, Kalle Hakala, Alta Planning + Design, Ottawa
  - 2017 study was already out of date by 2020
  - direct connections to transit, safe (lighting, crossings), calming, trees, etc
  - tracks and/or parking lots can be obstacles
  - transit is more than just trains and buses

# Connecting the cycling network with trails

- Vaughan super trail, Martin Tavares & Michael Habib, Vaughan
  - 100km trail endorsed in 2017
  - 1973 spur in bike sales (banana seats, enviro & embargo, lasted 4 years)
  - useful to have a story and be in the right places/meetings
- Kitchener's Cycling and Trails Master Plan, Brian Patterson, Urban Systems
  - go to a big event and promote
  - themes: connections, experience, culture
  - All Ages and Abilities (AAA)