



January 20, 2022

SENT VIA EMAIL

City Clerk's Office
City of Guelph
1 Carden Street
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To His Worship Cam Guthrie and the Members of Council,

RE: Moving Guelph Forward – 2022 Transportation Master Plan - 2022-02

Our built environment impacts our health by creating conditions that influence behaviour and the choices we make daily. The built environment includes not only the spaces where we live, work and play, but also the transportation networks that connect these places together. Planning and building communities that provide safe, convenient, and connected walking and cycling networks encourages physical activity and makes active transportation an easier choice. Moreover, communities designed to support active living could result in economic cost-savings including reductions in health care expenses related to physical activity.

In 2019, Wellington-Dufferin-Guelph Public Health (WDGPH) released a series of reports as part of the [Healthy Community Design Baseline Project](#). The reports were the result of a collaboration between Public Health and local municipalities, including the City of Guelph, to collect and analyze spatial data to create ways to measure and assess the physical features of community design. One recommendation that emerged from the report was to promote planning and development that further enhances connectivity and encourages active transportation in the city.

It is encouraging that the Transportation Master Plan lays out network improvements and policies that aim to make walking and cycling safer and more convenient. The 2051 mode share targets of 10% cycling and 15% walking, if met, could have significant positive impacts on public health in the community. WDGPH encourages the City to revisit these targets often and strive towards aiming for more ambitious targets.

WDGPH also supports the recommendations in the Transportation Master Plan to become a Vision Zero community through policies that aim to enhance road safety for vulnerable road users



through road design as well as programming, including the continued implementation of the Community Road Safety Strategy.

WDGPH's [Social Determinants of Health in the City of Guelph](#) report indicated that access to affordable and reliable transportation was important to maintaining access to programs and services which has considerable impacts on other important determinants of health. The Transportation Master Plan's commitments to building and maintaining a quality transit network, including using an equity lens for regular transit reviews and strategies aimed at reducing transit travel times, contributes positively toward addressing this need.

It is with pleasure that I share WDGPH's support for this plan.

Sincerely,

Dr. Nicola Mercer, MD, MBA, MPH, FRCPC, C.Dir.
Medical Officer of Health and CEO
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