

# Making the Case for Active Transportation

Fact Sheet #4

Fall 2000

## BUILT INFRASTRUCTURE:

### Did you know:

- ⌘ Neighbourhoods of traditional design with compact land use mixing homes, business, and retail stimulate higher levels of cycling and walking;
- ⌘ A shift to more active modes is conducive to more compact urban land use, and requires less land for roadways and parking;
- ⌘ A shift to active transportation leads to a reduction in public expenditures on costly transportation infrastructure for motor-dependent modes;
- ⌘ A roadway can carry 7 to 12 times as many people per hour by bicycle compared to an automobile at similar speeds in urban areas;



*Proper infrastructure will encourage everyone to participate in Active Transportation and lead to active lifestyles.*

- ⌘ Paths for pedestrians are even more efficient, handling 20 times the volume per hour compared to cars in mixed traffic. The more trips that can be accommodated via cycling or walking, the greater the efficiency of traffic flow and the less demand for costly investment in road infrastructure and maintenance for private cars and public transit;
- ⌘ Congestion costs in Ontario are projected to reach \$6.4 billion annually by 2001. Modal shifts away from motor vehicles can curtail or reduce demand for new transportation infrastructure;
- ⌘ A clear majority of Canadians would ideally like to walk (82%) and/or cycle (66%) more than they do at present. In fact, 70% of Canadians strongly (46%)

or somewhat (24%) agree that if there was a dedicated bike lane taking them to their workplace in less than 30 minutes at a comfortable pace, they would definitely use it; (*Environics, 1998*)

- ⌘ Across Canada, metropolitan area commuters' median distance to work in 1996 was 7.4 km;
- ⌘ Active transportation infrastructure, such as walking and cycling paths in residential neighbourhoods, are appreciated by residents. Walking and cycling-friendly environments are also good marketing tools for developers.

For more information please contact us at:



**Go for Green**

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