



Physical Activity Coalition of Manitoba

Manitoba Community Cycling & Pedestrian Planning Audit Tool

v1.0

Introduction

Cycling and walking are two of the simplest, most sustainable and most efficient forms of transportation. People head out their front door, whether for fun, for exercise, or because they are simply going somewhere. But, creating an environment where people are encouraged to do so takes some work. Healthy communities are built, they don't just happen. Communities that begin addressing some of the barriers will be more successful, more vibrant places to live.

About this Tool

Below you will find a list of “yes” or “no” questions corresponding to foundational steps a community can take to start making cycling and walking easier, more enjoyable, and common. This tool is intended as both a living checklist and as a starting point for walking and cycling planning in your community.

Each “yes” answer means that your community has taken a step forward. Each “no” answer probably means your community has work to do. But don't be discouraged if most of your answers are “no”. Few, if any, communities in Manitoba are able to say they have taken all of the steps below. Nonetheless, a community that believes that active transportation and recreation are an essential service will likely want to start working towards being able to answer “yes” to most, if not all, of the questions below.

What do I do with this tool?

Simply filling out this form is a tremendous start. Your answers should provide a good picture of the assets and gaps that exist in your community. Once a community decides to start addressing these issues of active transportation, it takes time before all of the pieces fall into place. One step at a time.

Particularly important is the section on “staff and volunteers”. Your answers could help form the basis of a team that will eventually make sure that every answer is “yes”. There are many ways to get a community moving; the local champions that lead the way come from many different backgrounds and each community is unique. If you want to make a difference, start by surrounding yourself with like-minded people to identify problems and brainstorm solutions; see what happens.

Let's get started . . .

Name:

Date Completed:

Contact info:

Community:

Planning

Yes No Does your community have an active transportation plan?

Yes No Does your community collect data on biking/walking mode shares?

Yes No Does your community have a parks/recreation master plan with elements of cycling and walking?

Yes No Does your community have a proposed bicycle infrastructure network?

Yes No When your communities choose sites for new community centers, pools, rec. centres and schools, are they chosen to ensure easy access by cyclists and pedestrians?

Yes No Does your community have an active transportation advisory committee comprised of members representing a wide-spectrum of specialties and interests? (see Team of Staff and Volunteers)

Yes No Are your communities' schools engaged in the school travel planning process?

Policy

Yes No Does your community have an active transportation policy statement to include active transportation and recreation route infrastructure in all new roads projects?

Yes No Is "ensuring access by pedestrians and wheelchairs" considered the highest priority when determining infrastructure upgrades, land-use planning and transportation spending priorities?

Infrastructure

Yes No Does your community have cycling infrastructure (i.e. bike lanes, bike paths, designated routes)?

Yes No Does your community have sidewalks on every street?

Yes No If not, are provisions (i.e. signage, traffic calming) made to ensure motor vehicle traffic proceeds slowly around pedestrians?

Yes No Are all of your civic buildings and recreation centres accessible to wheelchairs?

Yes No Do all of your civic buildings and recreation centres have bike racks for short term visitors?

Yes No Do all of your civic buildings and recreation centres have secure indoor bike parking for long term visitors and employees?

Funding

Yes No Does your community (city, town, RM, village or land-use district) have a dedicated budget for active transportation and recreational route upgrades?

Yes No Does your community have a dedicated budget for adding bike racks, and secure bike storage at publicly-owned buildings?

Yes No Many buildings and transportation facilities predate modern ideas of equal access for all. Does your community have a dedicated budget for making accessibility upgrades and retrofits to existing buildings, signals and sidewalks?

Mapping

Yes No Does your community have an official online cycling map?

Yes No Does your community have an official printed cycling map?

Yes No Are your community's cycling routes indicated on Google maps?

Yes No Does your community have an official online walking map?

Yes No Does your community have an official printed walking map?

Yes No Are your community's walking routes (besides roads which are assumed by default to have sidewalks) indicated on Google maps?

Awareness and Encouragement

Yes No Does your community host races that celebrate active transportation (i.e. MTB races, marathons)?

Yes No Does your community host street-closure based events, incentive events or pilot projects that celebrate active transportation (i.e. Sunday Street Closures, Street Festivals, Commuter Challenge, Bike to Work Day) ?

Providing Options: Other Modes

Yes No Does your community have a local bus system?

Yes No Does the regional bus provider make it easy to bring bicycles on board?

Yes No Does your community have secure bike parking at main bus stops?

Yes No Does your community have a rental car dealership?

Yes No Does your community have a car-share program?

Yes No Does your community subscribe to a carpooling service?

Staff and Volunteers

Those communities that maximize the experience of everyone available will be far ahead. Luckily, active transportation and recreation touches on many aspects of life and offers benefits for diverse issues where people are working, or are dedicating their time. Regular citizens play an important role. Unlike many other processes, planning communities for active lifestyles can draw heavily on expertise within your community. Professionals and laypeople alike all have something to share. For each of the following, try to list specific names and organizations in the space below each question.

Yes No Does your community have an active transportation coordinator?

Yes No Does your community have an engineer on staff with knowledge of active transportation infrastructure?

Yes No Does your community have a maintenance professional with knowledge of active transportation infrastructure needs?

Yes No Does your community have a Rec Director with expertise in promoting unstructured recreational activities (jogging, walking, biking, etc..) and in developing the facilities these pursuits require? (recreation)

Yes No Does your community have a seniors group with an interest in physical activity? (age-friendly communities)

Yes No Does your community have a CED coordinator (MAFRI) or renewal corporation? (economics/tourism)

Yes No Does your community have a Boys and Girls Club? (youth involvement)

Yes No Does your community have a Rotary/Kinsmen Club? (volunteerism and fundraising)

Yes No Does your community have a CLER coordinator or other environmentally-focused professional? (environment)

Yes No Does your community's school division(s) have staff (bussing coordinator, school travel planner) with a mandate to encourage cycling/walking? (school travel)

Yes No Does your community have a cycling racing club? (sports/touring)

Yes No Does your community have an outdoors group (naturalists, birdwatchers, hikers, walking club)? (trailbuilders)

Yes No Do you have a transportation engineer that is familiar with bicycle and pedestrian design? (engineering)

Yes No Do you have a public health facilitator or InMotion team? (health and healthy living)

Yes No Do you have any local celebrities/politicians that walk/cycle to work? (leadership/awareness)

Yes No Does your community have an artist or graphic designer with an interest in cycling and walking? (mapping, posters, design)

Yes No Does your community have a planner? (planning)

Yes No Does your community have a GIS technologist or geo-caching club? (mapping)

Is there anyone else you think might be interested? (Think outside the box.)

For more information on each question, examples from elsewhere or strategies that might help, please contact: activetransportation@pacm.ca. Your feedback is appreciated. If you found this tool to be lacking in something, or you have a unique question that you think should have been asked, please let us know how it can be improved.