



REPORT

Council Date: April 16, 2014

To: Warden Thompson and County Council

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Reviewed By: Mobushar Pannu, Director of Transportation and Waste

Approved By: Elizabeth Savill, Chief Administrative Officer

Subject: Adoption of the Greenbelt Cycling Route

2011-2014 Strategic Plan: Sustainable Infrastructure and Services

Recommendation:

WHEREAS the County has developed and is in the process of implementing a Cycling Master Plan;

AND WHEREAS staff was contacted by the Waterfront Regeneration Trust and the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to establish a linkage for the Greenbelt Cycling Route between the Region of Durham and Northumberland County;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT County Council endorses the recommended linkage route which serves as a connection between the Region of Durham and Northumberland County.

1. Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide information for County Council to endorse the establishment and identification of a cycling linkage in the Greenbelt between the Region of Durham and Northumberland County (Figure 1).

2. Background:

The Waterfront Regeneration Trust (WRT) received funding from the Greenbelt Foundation to establish a new cycling route connecting communities throughout the Greenbelt starting at the Niagara Region and ending in Northumberland County. The 600km proposed Greenbelt Cycling Route will traverse: the County of Northumberland, Regions of Durham, York, Peel, Halton and Niagara and the City of Hamilton. The identified route will highlight attractions, natural features, agricultural regions and businesses throughout the regions.

After conducting a feasibility study in 2012 by the WRT, it was recommended that the project continue towards implementation. The Greenbelt Foundation confirmed funding of approximately \$500,000 over three (3) years to implement the Greenbelt Cycling Route in the various regions across Ontario.

County staff was contacted by the WRT to establish a Greenbelt Cycling Route within the County. After much consultation, it was recommended that the route be along the following itinerary:



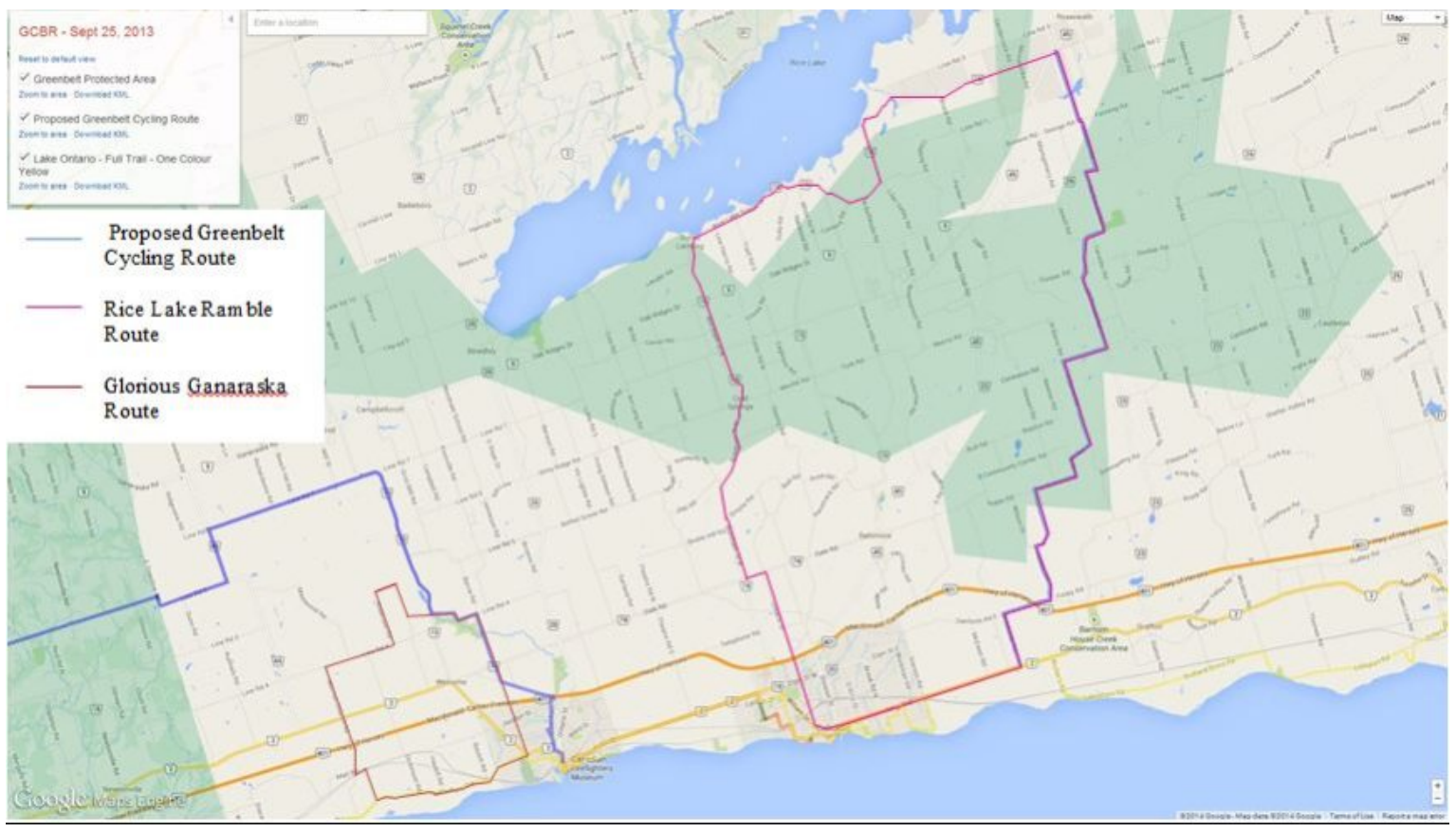
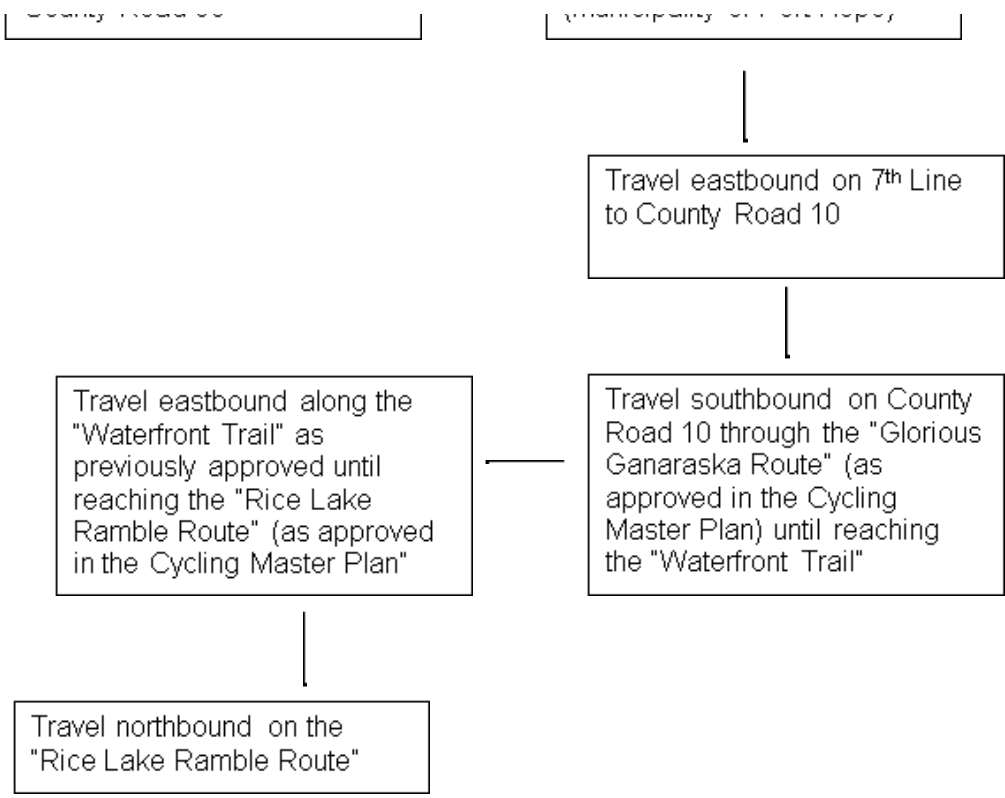


Figure 1 The proposed “Greenbelt Cycling Route”.

Staff recommends the proposed route in Figure 1 as it, for the most part, follows roads that are already identified as cycling routes i.e. the Waterfront Trail, the Glorious Ganaraska Route and the Rice Lake Ramble Route which are approved in the Master Cycling Plan. The route will utilize existing infrastructure and as such, no modifications will be needed to the roadway system. Road signage will be provided by the WRT at a cost to the County. It is anticipated that the Greenbelt Cycling Route will be implemented in 2015.

3. Options/Consultations:

County staff attended two (2) consultation meetings with representatives from the WRT, Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation, Region of Durham and the Municipality of Port Hope to create a cycling route that meets the roadway requirements in the regions involved while capturing the vision of the WRT. The outcome of the meetings is the proposed route as outlined in Figure 1.

4. Risk/Safety Considerations:

The County will assume responsibility for the initial installation of the road signage. Furthermore, the County will be responsible for maintenance of the roadways and signage to ensure safe travelling for the cyclists.

5. Legal/legislative Requirements:

N/A.

6. Financial Impact:

Initial costs for implementing the route will be associated with road signage. While the signs will be provided by the Friends of the Greenbelt Foundation to the County at no charge, County staff will be responsible for installing the signs along the established route. Following that, maintenance of the roadways and signage replacement will be the responsibility of the County. Costs of road maintenance will be part of the County's Road Maintenance Program in the Capital Budget while signage costs will be part of the Cycling Master Plan Implementation budget.

This report has been reviewed and is endorsed by the Finance Department.

7. Staff Recommendation:

Staff recommends that County Council approve the proposed cycling route outlined in Figure 1 to be part of the Greenbelt Cycling Route that travels from the Niagara Region and ends at the County of Northumberland. This initiative will help attract cyclists to experience the attractions, natural features, agricultural regions and businesses throughout the County which will have tremendous positive economic impacts.