



## **The Corporation of the Town of LaSalle**

**To:** Mayor and Members of Council

**Prepared by:** Larry Silani, Director of Development & Strategic Initiatives

**Department:** Development & Strategic Initiatives

**Date of Report:** January 6, 2020

**Report Number:** DS-02-2020

**Subject:** Transportation Master Plan

---

### **Recommendation**

That the Final Draft of the new Transportation Master Plan (dated December 2019) be received by Council.

### **Report**

In April 2018 Council awarded a contract to WSP to create a new Transportation Master Plan (including a LaSalle Age-Friendly Transportation Action Plan) for the Town.

Active Transportation (AT) includes all forms of non-motorized (human-powered) transportation. Within a growing municipality such as the Town of LaSalle, there is a broad range of users that require a properly designed, built and maintained network of both cycling and pedestrian related active transportation infrastructure --- including but not limited to AT infrastructure for: (i) commuter cyclists; (ii) recreational cyclists; (iii) pedestrians travelling to/from a specific destination (to school, to a store, to visit a friend, etc.); (iv) pedestrians/runners walking or running for leisure/exercise purposes; (v) pedestrians with special mobility requirements.

The Town of LaSalle has a long history and a successful track record of planning for and building “age-friendly” infrastructure for both cyclists and pedestrians of all ages and abilities.

In 1997, extensive community consultation resulted in the adoption of an Official Plan which incorporated the “LaSalle Greenway” as a cornerstone element of the Town’s growth management strategy. The essence of the greenway system approach is

linkages --- connecting wildlife habitat areas to each other, neighbourhoods to other neighbourhoods, urban to rural, waterfront to non-waterfront, and people to nature.

In 1999, a “Pedestrian and Bicycle Facility Policy Statement and Action Plan” was formulated by LaSalle Staff and was adopted by Council ---- to put in place a set of guiding principles and specific actions to be taken to build an integrated network of safe and inviting facilities for LaSalle residents and visitors to cycle and walk for both utilitarian and recreational purposes.

Both of these documents, and the on-going commitment by Council to allocate funding for cycling and pedestrian related infrastructure, has resulted in a community that has an extensive network of off-road, in-boulevard and on-road cycling facilities.

This existing AT network currently serves many of the needs of this community, and has been received very positively by a broad cross-section of LaSalle residents. “LaSalle Trails” are a key defining element of this municipality. They are a significant community asset that are used by many residents as a deciding factor when choosing to make LaSalle their home.

However, the Town is now at a point in time where there is a need to “re-tool” and to undertake a comprehensive review of:

- the gaps that still exist within the AT network, with an emphasis on identifying critical pieces of missing AT infrastructure, and identifying how best to complete the Town’s AT network, in order to meet the evolving needs of cyclists, pedestrians and persons with special mobility requirements of all ages and of all abilities;
- the opportunities that exist to better integrate the Town’s AT infrastructure within the larger CWATS network, with the AT infrastructure that is to be built as part of the new Gordie Howe International Bridge, and with the network that exists/is planned in the City of Windsor and along the Herb Gray Parkway;
- the design guidelines that should be used for various AT facility types, for both new “greenfield” neighbourhoods and for existing developed areas of LaSalle - -- focusing on user needs, safety, and convenience factors that collectively promote/support increased use of AT by a broad range of LaSalle residents and visitors of all ages and abilities;

- financial resources required for AT related infrastructure --- with the objective being to identify and put into place a sustainable and fiscally responsible on-going implementation plan in keeping with the Town's available resources;
- opportunities that may exist for funding from senior levels of government for cycling related infrastructure --- particularly those related to provincial and federal programs designed to promote active and healthy lifestyles and to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;
- best practices for on-going maintenance of AT infrastructure – for on-going asset management and user safety purposes;
- the priority actions that need to be taken during the next 5 and 10 year time frames --- to continue to build on the successful AT track record that has been built during the last two decades.

A new *“LaSalle Age-Friendly Active Transportation Action Plan”* will provide the necessary recommendations and action items that will enable Council, working collaboratively with community partners, to responsibly deal with each of the above-noted items in a timely, integrated and cost-effective manner.

The AT action plan is to be prepared as part of a broader Transportation Master Plan, to be prepared by the Town with the assistance an experienced multi-disciplinary consulting team, working closely with Town Staff, Council, stakeholder groups (including County of Essex Engineering Staff), and a broad cross-section of LaSalle businesses and residents.

In addition to the AT action plan, the Town's new Transportation Master Plan will need to be comprehensive in scope, including the following key components:

- I. An assessment and evaluation of the existing transportation network, and an identification of gaps and deficiencies in terms of capacity, connectivity, level of service and effectiveness;
- II. A re-assessment of the Town's future arterial and collector road needs, based on short, mid and long-term planning horizons;
- III. An assessment of the Town's mid and long-term transit requirements;

- IV. The identification, assessment and evaluation of cost-effective options to responsibly address the existing transportation related gaps/deficiencies and the future transportation related needs of the Town of LaSalle;
- V. A review and update of existing design standards for Town of LaSalle roads and trails, to ensure that they are designed, built and maintained to meet applicable standards and best practices for all users (pedestrians, cyclists, transit riders and motorists of all ages and abilities);
- VI. An assessment of steps that the Town will need to take to responsibly address mid and long-term impacts to the Town's overall transportation needs, arising from autonomous vehicles;
- VII. The preparation of an implementable action plan that makes cost-effective use of limited financial resources, and builds on the existing strengths and successes achieved to date by the Town to create "safe and livable neighbourhoods" and a "healthy, vibrant and caring" community.

Since April 2018, the consultants working closely with Town Engineering and Planning Staff have undertaken a series of public/community/stakeholder engagements --- including on-line surveys, public information centres, and meetings with key stakeholders.

A Final Draft Transportation Master Plan (dated December 2015) has been prepared by WSP, and has been submitted to the Town. This draft has been posted on the Town's website for a 30-day review period.

The lead author of the Transportation Master Plan (Brett Sears from WSP) will be in attendance at the January 14, 2020 Council meeting to present the key findings and recommendations that are included in the Final Draft Plan.

A copy of Mr. Sears slide presentation is attached.

It should be noted that the Traffic Calming Section of this Master Plan has already been presented to Council, and at a recent meeting of Council authorization was given to Staff to begin utilizing the traffic calming recommendations that formed part of this Master Plan to address traffic calming requests received from this point onward.

Following the 30-day review period, any comments/feedback received will be analyzed by WSP --- and if necessary further refinements will be made to the final master plan before it is presented to Council for adoption purposes in February 2020.

## **Consultations**

Community, Public and Stakeholder Engagements were held as part of the preparation of the new Master Plan

## **Financial Implications**

Decisions on the Allocation of Resources to fund the priority action items will be addressed by Council as part of annual budget deliberations

## **Prepared By:**



Director, Development and  
Strategic Initiatives

Larry Silani

## Link to Strategic Priorities

Yes	Expanding and diversifying our assessment base
	Effectively communicating the activities and interests of the Town
	Managing our human and financial resources in a responsible manner
	Promoting and marketing LaSalle
Yes	Promote a healthy and environmentally conscious community

## Communications

	Not applicable
	Website
	Social Media
	News Release
	Local Newspaper
	Bids & Tenders
	Notification pursuant to the Planning Act

## Notifications

Name	Address	Email

### Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Transportation Master Plan.docx
Attachments:	- LaSalleTMP_Council Presentation 20191212reduced.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Dec 27, 2019

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



Director, Public Works

Peter Marra



Chief Administrative Officer

Joe Milicia