

Background:

In 2010, the City's Zoning By-law 2010-100Z was amended to require new commercial, retail, institutional and multi-residential developments to provide adequate bicycle parking and this has generally been successful in increasing the supply of private bike racks in the community. However, since that time there has been no similar program to provide bicycle parking for pre-existing developments or publicly-owned facilities.

The Transportation Master Plan for the City of Greater Sudbury, adopted by City Council in late 2016, recommends that the City make the development of supportive infrastructure, such as bicycle parking, a priority during the planning and implementation of cycling facilities. It further recommended that as part of demonstrating leadership, the City should provide bicycle parking facilities at all public buildings and that the City, in collaboration with local partners, should investigate the potential to develop a bicycle parking program whereby bicycle racks would be installed in locations where there is a demonstrated need for bicycle parking.

During the summer of 2017, staff conducted an inventory of bicycle parking at municipally-owned properties across Greater Sudbury and found that less than 10% of all facilities, including administrative buildings, parks and other recreational facilities have adequate bike parking. Improving this percentage is critical to encouraging more residents to access these destinations by bike and to shift more trips away from single occupant vehicles to more sustainable travel modes.

In January 2018, the City of Greater Sudbury was recognized with a Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community Award from Share the Road Cycling Coalition. By participating in this voluntary evaluation process, staff received valuable feedback on how the community can move towards the Silver level designation. This feedback included a recommendation that the City expand the availability of high-quality bike parking within the community, especially at popular destinations such as the town centres and to ensure that bike parking standards comply with the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals (APBP) best practices.

In May 2018, the final Transportation Demand Management (TDM) Plan for Greater Sudbury was presented to the Operations Committee and was approved by Council in June 2018. As part of the development of the City's TDM Plan, a community survey of residents' travel habits was completed by more than 1,500 respondents. When asked what end-of-trip facilities would help promote more cycling in Greater Sudbury, nearly 50% of respondents indicated that bike parking and the lack thereof, was a significant factor in whether residents would choose to cycle as transportation.

Bike Parking Program Overview:

To address existing community infrastructure deficiencies and increase the availability of both public and private secure bike parking in Greater Sudbury, the City requested funds to implement a Bicycle Parking Program from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program.

The Bike Parking Program will be delivered in two parts:

- 1) Upgrading public bike parking across the town centres and at municipally-owned facilities; and
- 2) Introducing a 'Bike Racks for Businesses' program to incentivize private sector businesses to invest in bike parking for their properties.

Public Bike Parking:

Staff are working with the Parking Services section to identify opportunities for increasing the supply of public bike parking in the Downtown and in other town centres throughout the community. The removal of parking meters in the Downtown core presents an opportunity to install bike racks and increase the supply of conveniently located racks in Downtown, thereby supporting the ability of residents to frequent the area without a vehicle. The bike racks to be installed in the Downtown and town centres would be taken down in the winter months to ensure snow can be removed efficiently and that sidewalks can be more easily maintained.

Staff are also continuing to investigate opportunities to improve bicycle parking at municipal facilities for both staff and visitors. In early 2018, as part of the upgrades to the Tom Davies Square Courtyard, a secured Bicycle Parking Station was installed in the underground parking lot to encourage more staff to ride a bike to work and to-date, this facility has been well-used. In addition a bicycle rack was installed at the Kelly Lake Road Wastewater Treatment Plant, which is also actively being used by staff.

Bike Racks for Businesses:

To incentivize existing businesses throughout the community to improve existing or introduce new bicycle parking for people frequenting their business on two wheels, the City will be making bike racks available at bulk purchase pricing, on a first-come, first-served basis. Based on best practices in bicycle parking as defined by the Association of Pedestrian and Bicycle Professionals, an inverted-U style rack has been selected for this program. Racks will be available for purchase individually or can be purchased in multiples to meet the needs of individual businesses.

The Bike Racks for Businesses program will have three (3) intake periods, where the City will be accepting pre-orders for bike racks. The program intake periods will be, fall 2019 (to commence shortly), spring 2020 and fall 2020. Once the intake period closes and the order is placed, the bike racks are anticipated to arrive within six (6) to eight (8) weeks. Businesses will be required to arrange for pick-up of the racks on a designated date to be communicated in advance and will be responsible for the installation of the racks on their own properties.

This program is being made possible with funding received from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program (to be spent by December 2020), which will be used to subsidize the cost of the bike racks. After the final intake period in fall 2020, the program will no longer be available and businesses will be required to provide bike parking at their own effort and expense.

To ensure the success of the Bike Racks for Businesses Program, Transportation and Innovation Services Section staff will work in collaboration with EarthCare Sudbury and Economic Development and Tourism staff to ensure that businesses with which the City has existing partnerships are made aware of this opportunity. Staff will also work closely with Communications and Community Engagement staff to share information with the broader community and to ensure the information is also shared with the Greater Sudbury Chamber of Commerce and local Business Improvement Areas.

Next Steps:

The Request for Proposals to secure a supplier of bike racks for the program has closed and was awarded in July 2019. Details, including specific intake period dates, for the program are being finalized and will be released shortly.

All information regarding the City's Bike Parking Program is available at www.greatersudbury.ca/bikeparking.