

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Road Safety

Road design has a powerful impact on how we move around. How wide a street is and how it's laid out affects how it's used. Whether or not a road has sidewalks or cycling lanes determines who can use it safely. Features like four-way stops, speed bumps and traffic lights influence how drivers drive. Drivers can make their way at reasonable speeds, reducing the risk to others.

Safer streets mean children can walk or cycle to school with less risk of injury. Road design influences if, and when people cycle, walk or drive, and how safe they are when they take part in these activities.

DID YOU KNOW?

- If all pedestrian and cyclist collisions in York Region were evenly spread over 12 months, there would be one pedestrian-related collision every two days and one cyclist-related collision every three days, according to 2016 statistics.
- Crosswalks and traffic lights make wide roads safer to cross, especially for children and older adults.
- When people live in compact, dense communities, they don't drive as often. With fewer cars on the road, streets are safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Furthermore, with fewer cars, air quality is improved and public transportation is more efficient.
- In York Region (in 2016), 78% of commuters used cars, 11% rode public transit, 4% travelled by school bus and 7% walked or cycled during a typical weekday morning rush hour.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

york.ca/healthybuiltenvironment

19-5254


York Region

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



You make a difference when you. . .

- Walk around your neighbourhood to assess how safe and easy it is to be a pedestrian
- Talk to your neighbours about road safety in your community. Discuss solutions to problems you identify
- Encourage your employer to support active transportation (walking or bicycling), carpooling, use of public transit and tele-working
- Learn more about your municipality's official plan and how this plan affects road safety

Municipalities show leadership when they. . .

- Build roads with sidewalks and cycling lanes to protect pedestrians and cyclists
- Make sure sidewalks, bike lanes and public spaces are well-situated, linked to one another, well-designed and well-lit
- Keep frequently-used pedestrian intersections maintained and regularly upgraded for safety
- Develop (and build) compact and multi-purpose communities
- Set lower speed limits to minimize road injuries. All road users (especially pedestrians and cyclists) are safer when motor vehicles travel at slower speeds

BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER WHERE YOU LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY.
Participate in building healthy communities!