



County Wide Active Transportation Study (CWATS) Notice of First Public Open House

The County of Essex has initiated a study to develop a **County Wide Active Transportation Study (CWATS)** which will support and strengthen the active transportation plans of local municipalities. The goal for this long-term study is to identify and recommend a comprehensive network of on-road corridors and off-road trails to connect County and selected local roads, to improve connections between regional and local systems and to promote active transportation.

The CWATS will build upon and consolidate the existing active transportation studies across the County and its seven local municipalities as well as identify appropriate connections to Chatham-Kent and the City of Windsor. This study will focus primarily on non-motorized modes (hiking, cycling, walking, etc.) on County roads and select local roads and will identify priorities for network implementation projects over the next 25 years, suggest potential partnerships, determine appropriate levels of funding, review the current standards, by-laws, and programs for trails, cycling and walking and introduce a program for public outreach (promotion and education).

PUBLIC OPEN HOUSE:

You are invited to a public open-house to meet the Study Team and share your ideas on how to improve conditions for Active Transportation in the County of Essex.

When: May 13th, 2010 (3:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
Where: County of Essex Council Chambers (2nd Floor)
360 Fairview Avenue West, Essex, Ontario

All those in attendance at the Open House will be entered into a free draw to win a New Bike

The following information will be on display:

- A draft vision and goals for the study;
- Route selection principles and the network development approach;
- Examples of active transportation facility types such as off-road trails and on-road signed bike routes with paved shoulders and bike lanes in urban areas; and
- Maps that illustrate the existing active transportation facilities throughout the County including those already in place in the 7 local area municipalities as well as potential new candidate on and off-road active transportation routes that will be investigated this spring by the Study Team.

We value your ideas and hope that you can join us and have your say on how you think the County of Essex should improve conditions for Active Transportation. The study team will be present to answer questions and discuss your suggestions. The meeting will be an "Open House" format so participants can drop-in over the course of the event as there will be no formal presentation. In addition, attendees will be able to complete the online questionnaire developed for the study.

If you can not attend the Open House we encourage you to **complete the study's on-line questionnaire** which can be accessed at http://surveymonkey.com/CWATS_Questionnaire or by contacting us directly. For additional information and study updates visit the County's web site at <http://www.countyofessex.on.ca/general/home.asp> or contact:

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