

# ASRTS IN THE BROADER CONTEXT OF RURAL ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLANNING

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# TDM in a Rural Context

- Transportation issues are often more about supply than demand in terms of infrastructure
- Intentions for using TDM strategies may be different
- Rural communities tend to have poorer health outcomes
- Transportation becomes a social indicator of health

# Active Transportation Planning in Haliburton County

## Lead by community-based groups:

- Communities in Action Committee
- Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition

## Sectors represented:

- Economic development
- Public health
- Roads Engineering
- Trails
- Cycling
- Planning
- Age Friendly

# Focus of AT Work

- Planning
- Policy
- Promotion
- Infrastructure
- Partnership
- Engaging residents, including children and youth, in this work



# In Haliburton County...

- Majority of students are bussed
- Distances travelled on the bus can range from a few km to as much as 50 km
- Bussing policy includes children that live within 1.5 km of the school if there is no safe route to walk/bike
- If students are not bussed, they are driven by their parents
- Very few students use active modes to travel to school

# Communities in Action Committee

**Includes ASRTS in AT planning through:**

- Research
- Working with local schools
- Planning and advocacy for the development of a safe walking route in Haliburton
- Bringing stakeholders together
- Land use policy



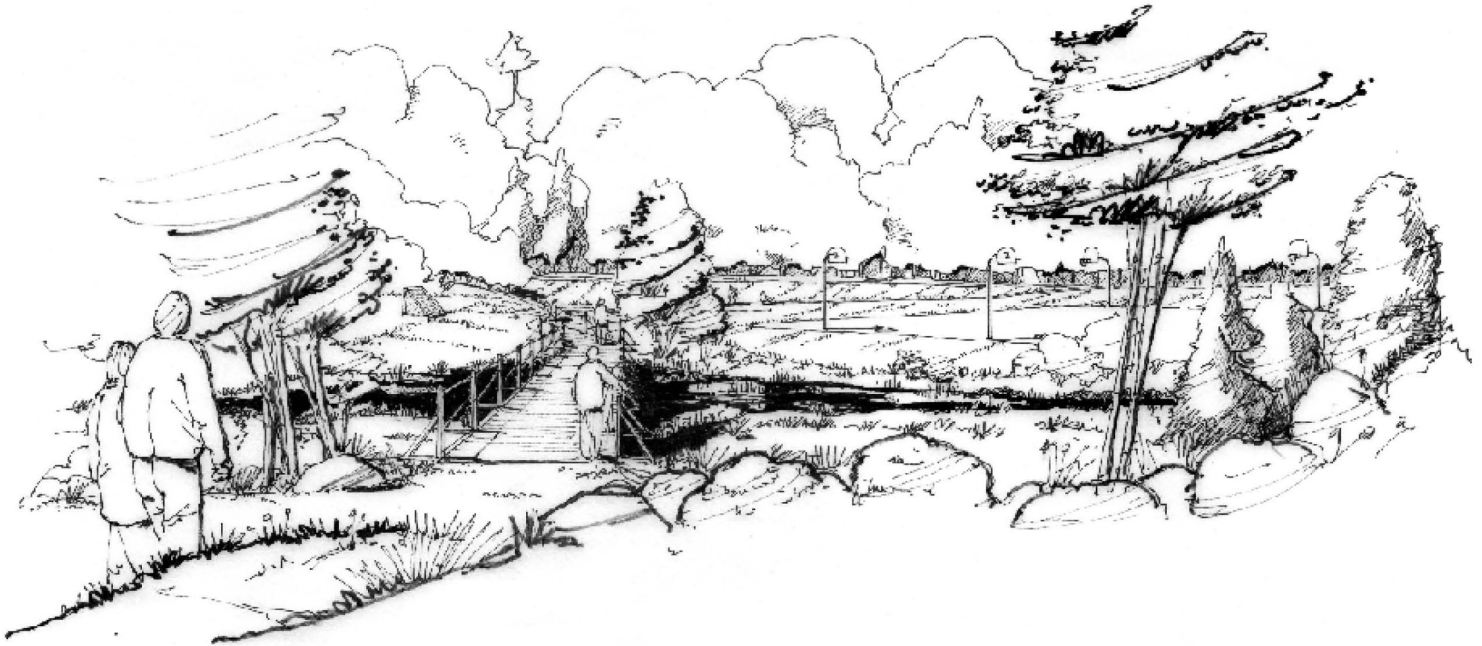
# The CIA has...

- Made ASRTS presentations to students
- Conducted a School Walking Survey in Minden
- Held a planning charrette with Minden students
- Facilitated a planning workshop with students in Cardiff
- Facilitated a focus group with high school students
- Helped to create a vision for a safe walking route in Haliburton Village
- Been active in LUP policy development during the Official Plan 5 year review process

# Safe Route to School - Haliburton

- Received funding to develop plans for a boardwalk to traverse a wetland on school property
- Advocated for and received support in principle from the municipality, schools/school councils, school board, health centre
- Prepared a report with final boardwalk design and costs
- Presented the report to school officials

# Safe Route to School - Haliburton



Proposed boardwalk, Haliburton Walking Trail

# ASRTS Programming

- Health Promotion staff provide information and support for the iCANwalk to school...can you? Challenge throughout the year
- 4 out of 5 schools participate annually in iWALK in October
- The Haliburton Highlands Cycling Coalition works with teachers to organize Bike to School day in June in conjunction with the annual Cycling Festival
- No one has yet taken the lead on Active School Travel Planning

# Challenges

- Typical challenges such as time, convenience and weather
- Prevalent “Car Culture” in rural community
- Lack of safe routes
- Limited resources at the municipal level, both human and financial
- Roles and responsibilities around infrastructure projects
- Bus policy

# Successes

- Linking ASRTS activities with other projects and existing initiatives; this enables access to more and different human resources, taps into the momentum of other projects and provides community-wide message
- Involving schools and students in the planning process
- Accessing a variety of funding sources
- Engaging partners from all sectors

# Successes

- Addressing change at both policy and practical levels
- Engaging local decision makers
- Linking to other messages e.g. economic benefits, injury prevention, environment
- Using the nature of small communities to our advantage

# THANKS!

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