



COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE & STRATEGIC GROWTH – AGENDA REPORT

Meeting Date: 22 April 2025

Subject: Airdrie on the Move – Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan

Directorate: Strategic Growth and Investment

Issue:

The Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee is being presented with recommendations from the Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan for Airdrie, that recognizes Airdrie's success in developing a high-quality recreational network for small rides (bicycles, scooters, skateboards, electric-assist rides, etc.) and identifies opportunities to enhance it for commuter travel locally and regionally.

Policy / Council Direction:

At the March 6, 2023, meeting, Council accepted the report entitled "Active Transportation Project Plan" for information.

A \$50,000 grant from Infrastructure Canada's Active Transportation Fund supported the project, and the city funded the remaining \$25,000.

Background:

The proposed **Airdrie on the Move: Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan**, if endorsed as a planning tool, would be Airdrie's first dedicated strategy to enhance mobility options beyond traditional vehicle and transit travel. This plan promotes a safer, more connected and more affordable life in Airdrie by making walking, cycling and small-scale transportation more accessible and practical for all residents.

While the plan's title retains commonly recognized terms like "Active Transportation" and "Micro-Mobility" to align with funding and other policy frameworks, its content introduces "**Small Rides**" and "**Big Rides**" as more inclusive and intuitive categories. Small rides encompass bicycles, e-bikes, scooters and other lightweight personal transportation options, while big rides refer to cars, trucks, buses and trains. This distinction helps residents and policymakers better understand and engage with the plan.

Airdrie already has a strong recreational cycling network, and this plan prioritizes expanding it into a **commuter-friendly network for small rides and pedestrians** that connects residents to key destinations. With advances in **electric-assist technology**, small rides now offer practical, affordable and sustainable alternatives for short and medium-distance trips, complementing—not competing with—big rides. Importantly, this plan does not propose removing existing or planned travel lanes for big rides to accommodate small rides. Instead, it focuses on **leveraging boulevards and other open spaces** to grow the network. These spaces, accumulated over several decades, **provide Airdrie with a distinct advantage over many other cities** that are attempting to grow their networks.

In addition to planning for more small rides moving around the city, the plan also emphasizes pedestrian mobility, ensuring safe and accessible routes for walking and jogging.

As Airdrie grows, investing in a well-integrated network for small rides and pedestrians will improve transportation flexibility, affordability and sustainability while maintaining a strong vehicle network.

Five key objectives guide this plan:

1. **Safety First:** Reduce conflicts and enhance safety through thoughtful design and policy updates.
2. **Equity:** Ensure the network is accessible for all ages and abilities.
3. **Seamless Connectivity:** Link neighbourhoods to Downtown, the South Transit Terminal, recreation areas and other key destinations.
4. **Direct Routes:** Offer efficient pathways with minimal detours, barriers or regulatory gaps.
5. **Year-Round Use:** Provide lighting, snow clearing and all-season infrastructure to make small rides practical in all weather conditions.

By further implementing these principles, Airdrie can maintain and grow a **future-ready, adaptable and inclusive mobility system** that efficiently serves all residents.

A link to ISL's technical research in support of the Active Transportation Plan can be found here [Technical Research Report - Airdrie Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan.pdf](#)

Administration Recommendation:

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Committee recommends that Council:

1. endorses the Airdrie on the Move: Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan; and
2. directs Administration to identify potential bylaw amendments and standards required to implement the plan and return to Council with a summary of those requirements and budget implications.

These two steps would modernize rules and infrastructure planning for pedestrians and people using small rides. The lower-cost bylaw changes would help maximize the use of Airdrie's existing Small Rides and Pedestrians network.

As well, having a dedicated plan for "Active Transportation" and/or "Micromobility" would assist Airdrie in pursuing capital funding from sources other than the municipal property tax base and Airdrie developers. Section 5 of the Plan identifies several funding opportunities.

Alternatives/Implications:

1. The CISG Standing Committee could choose to accept the report for information, preventing it from advancing to Council or becoming an official planning tool for Active Transportation and Micromobility.
2. The CISG Standing Committee could choose to recommend that Council endorse the plan as an unfunded planning tool, guiding future capital investment priorities for Small Rides and Pedestrians without further direction to undertake capital improvements or bylaw/design standards updates. Any future funding to implement the plan could be considered during future budget discussions.

Budget Implications:

Endorsement of the plan does not commit Council to funding any identified capital projects. If approved, existing staff resources are available to implement proposed bylaws and/or construction standards updates.

If a future Council chooses to allocate more funding or apply for grant funding to grow the Small Rides and Pedestrian infrastructure, this plan offers a general project prioritization for consideration.

Communications and Engagement:

Public engagement for the Plan included an online survey (203 responses) and a pop-up booth at AirdrieFEST (120+ participants) in September 2023. Residents strongly supported walking and cycling but identified missing connections, safety concerns at intersections and better wayfinding and transit integration. Suggested improvements included expanding the pathway network, adding pedestrian bridges, and improving year-round maintenance.

This input has shaped the plan's recommendations, ensuring a safer, more connected, and inclusive mobility network.

As specific initiatives outlined in the plan progress, such as bylaw changes or capital plan updates, future engagement with the public and development industry, will take place.

Recommendation:

That the Community Infrastructure and Strategic Growth Standing Committee recommends that Council:

1. endorses the Airdrie on the Move: Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan; and
2. directs Administration to identify potential bylaw amendments and standards required to implement the plan and return to Council with a summary of those requirements and budget implications.

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Staff Presenter:	Jordan Furness
External Presenter:	N/A
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Reviewed by:	Mike Korman Jamal Ramjohn Stephen Utz
Attachments:	#1: Airdrie on the Move: Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan
	#2: What We Heard Report – Active Transportation and Micromobility
Linked Document:	Technical Research in Support – Active Transportation and Micromobility Plan – Oct 2024