

BIKEWAYS & PATHWAYS MASTER PLAN

environmental decisions. The results of the Community Needs Assessment also served to create a classification system and define priorities and recommendations.

THE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Bikeways Parks & Pathways Master Plan is a comprehensive document designed to assist the City in facilitating a strategic expansion and retooling of the overall bikeway and pathway system. The plan is inherently flexible and can be readily adapted to changing trends and user expectations. It has been developed as a visionary 10 year strategic plan, incorporating both short and mid term priorities for development.

Specific recommendations have been put forward to overcome existing barriers and demonstrate leadership. Included for consideration are education and awareness that can be achieved through implementing strategic communications, partnerships, and engaging community to support healthy lifestyles and alternative transportation through promoting the benefits of bicycle commuting and recreational use. Adopting a pathways classification system will set minimum requirements for a “Made-in-Lethbridge” pathway program.

The Master Plan also includes a separate section on education and promotion with recommendations together with potential sources of funding and partnership options.

THE PRIORITIES

Priorities have been categorized as short, mid, and long term to better formulate strategies that balance financial implications with managing growth, user benefit, conflict mitigation and integration with other City initiatives. Short-term priorities are those that require improvements to hazardous crossings and barriers that limit accessibility to primary destinations. These include some capital intensive undertakings that are time, planning and design intensive that should commence immediately in order to realize benefits in a timely manner. It will be beneficial to adopt the new pathway classification system to guide planning of new development and upgrade existing on-road and off-road pathways.

Mid-term priorities are those associated with future growth and can be constructed on an as-needed basis to increase network connectivity and accessibility for new communities. Long-term priorities are those that involve extensive planning and large capital budgets to address land acquisitions and other initiatives requiring feasibility studies that consider heritage impact, environmental sensitivity and evaluation of function. Related to specific development priorities are general considerations that address opportunities to review and coordinate

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internal efforts to take creative advantage of existing infrastructure and incorporating network opportunities in upgrading initiatives. Maintenance priority guidelines provide a framework for balancing resources and budgets with mobility and recreational priorities of users.



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