



Get to know Sidney's new Community Police Officer, Constable Tim Cosgrove, and his old-fashioned approach to relationship building. [SEE PAGE 3](#)

Check out the draft Active Transportation Plan

Sidney's draft Active Transportation Plan is ready for public review. This is an opportunity for community members to consider what types of improvements are important to them and share their comfort level with potential investments and changes.

For instance:

- Do you support sidewalks being provided on streets like Calvin Avenue and Wesbrook Drive?
- Would you like to see crosswalk improvements at intersections like Canora Road and Northbrook Drive?
- How do you feel about the development of bike lanes in key corridors, such as the downtown portion of Fifth Street?

The draft plan makes practical recommendations for the next 10 years and includes maps for proposed long-term pedestrian and cycling networks. Proposed initiatives are intended to help more people feel supported and comfortable choosing active transportation, such as walking, cycling, and travelling with the assistance of a mobility device.

Driving will continue to be an important way of getting around town. The draft plan recognizes the importance of vehicles in Sidney and aims to create balanced streets with space for all transportation modes.

Transportation consultants from Urban Systems drafted the plan with input received from community members and stakeholders in the spring of 2022. The plan also reflects the recently updated Official Community Plan and Climate Action Plan, both of which include direction to improve active transportation infrastructure throughout the community.

Active transportation has many advantages: it contributes to our health and makes our community more social. It reduces greenhouse gas emissions, vehicle congestion, and demand for parking spots. For those who cannot drive or afford vehicle ownership, active transportation supports critical independence.

When building new public infrastructure, there are always tradeoffs. The development of new sidewalks and cycling infrastructure can impact vehicle parking and traffic flow. Public input will help Council gauge community support for proposed initiatives before a plan is finalized.

Finalizing the plan will not necessarily commit the Town to funding all of the projects outlined in it; many of those decisions would still be based on the availability of funding.

An online survey is open until March 17th for community members to share their perspectives on active transportation. Learn more about how to get involved in the draft plan on Page 4.

WHAT'S INSIDE?

NO MORE FEES FOR BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWALS [SEE PAGE 7](#)



SIDNEY SISTER CITIES LOOKING FOR NEW MEMBERS [SEE PAGE 8](#)



PULL-OUT MAPS FOR DRAFT ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION PLAN [SEE INSIDE](#)



SAVE ON ENERGY UPGRADES

Even in a warmer climate like Sidney, winter heating bills can be a burden. Often these bills can be trimmed by reducing drafts around windows and doors, and improving insulation. Sometimes it makes sense to switch to a more efficient energy source, like a heat pump.

But how do you know what steps are worthwhile? How do you make sure you're not missing out on energy rebates?

That's where the Capital Regional District's Home Energy Navigator program fits in. This new program is free. Community members can call 1-866-381-9995 to register over the phone or join online at www.homeenergynav.ca. From there, you will be connected to a local energy expert who will meet with you virtually or over the phone.

The energy expert can help determine:

- Which upgrades are right for your home;
- Whether you are eligible for rebates;
- How to review quotes and select a contractor; and,
- How to prioritize different upgrades by creating a retrofit roadmap.

Most Sidney homeowners are eligible for the program if their property is a detached home, side-by-side duplex, townhome, or mobile home on a permanent foundation. Community members can also benefit from top-up rebates funded by the Town that enhance existing rebates.

Taking steps to lower your heating bills may be less of a hassle than you think!



Message from Mayor and Council



Back row from left to right: Councillor Scott Garnett, Councillor Richard Novek, Councillor Steve Duck, Councillor Chad Rintoul. Front row from left to right: Councillor Sara Duncan, Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith, Councillor Terri O'Keeffe.

On October 15th, the community elected a new Council to serve the Town over the next four years. The following is an excerpt from Mayor Cliff McNeil-Smith's Inaugural Address shared during Council's Inaugural Meeting on November 7th. The full address is available online at www.sidney.ca.

I know I speak for all seven of us when I say it is an immense honour to serve the citizens of our wonderful Sidney community for the next four years.

There are two important underpinnings to all the work that Council will undertake and consider during its term. We will ensure we provide good governance with an open, respectful, and engaging approach to all municipal business. We will also ensure we provide good fiscal management for the taxes that residents and business pay each year.

As we look ahead to the next four years and continuing to make our community a better place, some of the Town priorities are a continuation of work that began last term.

A significant priority that flows from this year's adoption of an updated Official Community Plan is a review of the Town's Zoning Bylaw. This will implement key land use and built form policies contained in the new Official Community Plan.

Last term we completed a strategic priority to hire a Climate Action Coordinator, and to significantly update and approve our new Climate Action Plan. Along with Council approving a staff recommendation to create

a new Climate Action reserve in the 2022 budget, staff will bring forward initiatives from the many recommendations in the plan for Council's consideration.

Earlier in 2022 we initiated a strategic priority to develop an Active Transportation Plan. Staff and a consultant will be bringing that forward to Council to review options and initiate a public engagement process.

Another strategic priority from the last term was a downtown parking study. The study is underway and a report and recommendations will be brought to Council in 2023.

A significant infrastructure project planned for 2023 is the Beacon Avenue West/Galaran Road Roundabout and realignment of Stirling Way. This is a partnership between the Town of Sidney, District of North Saanich and the Victoria Airport Authority. We anticipate the project will initiate and complete before the end of 2023.

The replacement of the Fourth Street public washrooms and a new permanent downtown waterfront washroom facility are both planned to be completed before next summer.

These strategic initiatives represent just some of the highlights and variety of work completed last term and work carrying on to completion in the early part of this new term.

I know my colleagues and I are eager to get under way in this new term and we look forward to serving our community well over the next four years!

Get to know Sidney's new Community Police Officer

BY: CONSTABLE TIM COSGROVE

Bio: Tim can often be seen doing foot patrols in Sidney, where he serves as the newly appointed Community Police Officer. He has been an officer with the RCMP for the past 13 years, serving the communities of Ladysmith and Port McNeil. In 2020, Tim moved with his wife and three kids to southern Vancouver Island to join the Sidney North Saanich RCMP. He is no stranger to the coastal lifestyle, having grown up and honed his warm way with people in Nova Scotia.

What are some of the responsibilities of community policing?

Families often see me around neighbourhood schools where I serve as a school liaison. In October, I visited local elementary schools to give presentations to kids on pedestrian and cycling safety.

Throughout the school year, fellow officers and I have been focusing a lot of our attention on monitoring and enforcing traffic laws in school zones, so kids are safer getting to school.

When youth are involved in criminal offences, I work with Saanich Peninsula Restorative Justice to explore whether restorative justice - as an alternative to the traditional court system - would be preferable for victims, offenders, and the community. When done well, restorative justice can reduce further harm and lower the chances of re-offending.

I also manage programs such as Speed Watch, which was reinstated in Sidney this November thanks to the commitment of local volunteers. As part of this program, volunteers use portable radar equipment to monitor speeds in school zones as well as streets where speeding is a common issue, like Lochside Drive. These are areas where officers also increase enforcement to help change driver behaviour.

Another local program I oversee is Project 529 which enables members of the community to register their household bicycles to deter theft and improve the chances of getting a bicycle back if it is stolen.

My favourite aspect of this type of policing is the public interaction. Whether interacting with kids, business owners, or seniors, I am always learning something from the people who make up this community.



Regular conversations with business owners helps keep Constable Cosgrove informed about local issues.

What are some of the local issues you are currently working on?

One of the main areas of focus for me right now is fraud awareness. Fraud is currently the fastest growing preventable crime trend affecting our community, with local residents losing hundreds of thousands of dollars each year to scams. Fraudsters often claim to be with agencies such as Canada Revenue, BC Hydro, or major banks. The average age of victims locally is 61.

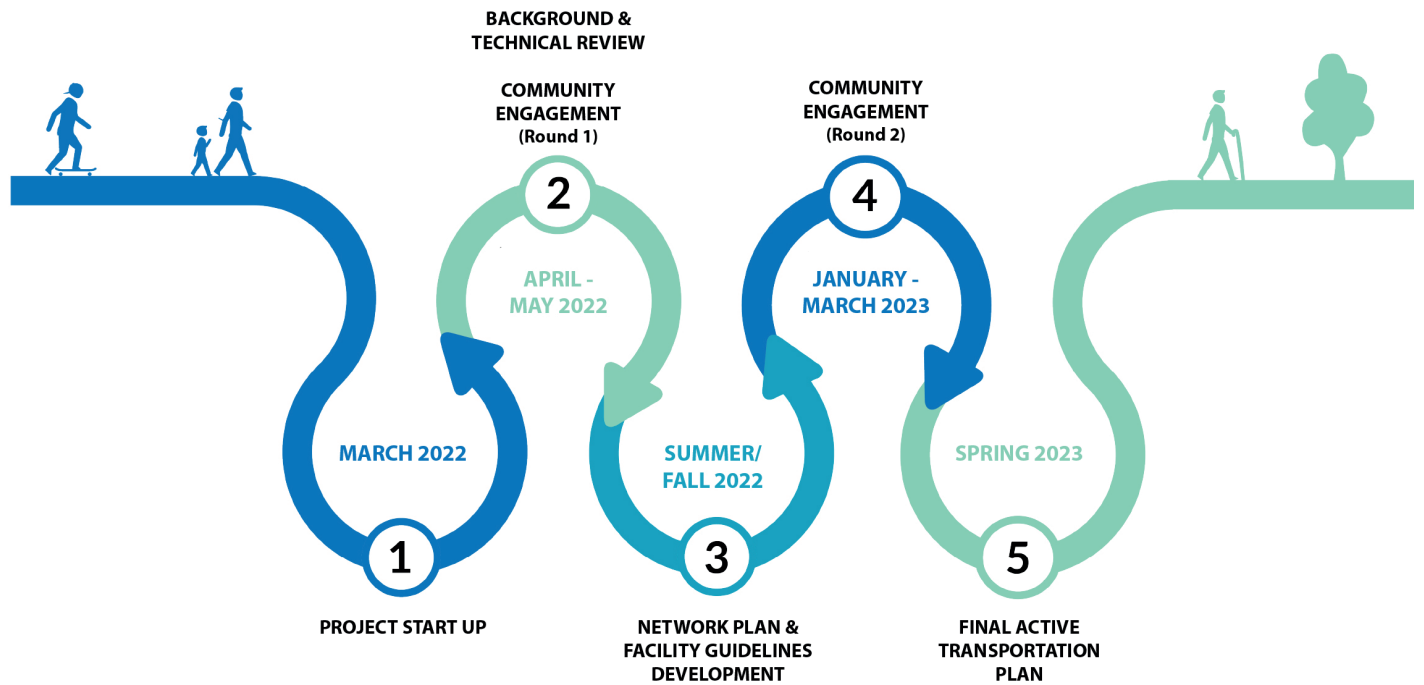
Over the last year, I have been working with fellow officers to educate as many seniors as possible on how to protect themselves against this crime, often making presentations to community groups and residents in assisted living facilities. I will continue raising awareness around fraud into the new year.

Unfortunately, shoplifting and property crime continue to be a real issue for Sidney residents, business owners, and police. In order to maintain the beautiful, walkable shopping district we enjoy downtown, incidences of theft and vandalism need to remain low.

Over the last several months, we have increased the number of police foot patrols in the business core of Sidney. I have made attempts to meet with as many business managers, staff members, and owners as possible, letting folks know that they can reach out to police with questions about theft prevention or concerns about unwanted customers. In the new year, these foot patrols will continue and I plan to visit any stores that I have missed.

How can someone in the community connect with you?

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to send me an email at tim.cosgrove@rcmp-grc.gc.ca or call the Sidney/North Saanich Detachment at 250-656-3931. Please also feel free to stop me on the street with any questions you may have. I love getting to know people in the community and have been overwhelmed by the friendly welcome I've received since coming to Sidney!



WHAT WE'VE HEARD SO FAR

Last spring, more than 230 people filled out an active transportation survey, painting a picture of how community members currently walk, bike or roll in Sidney. Some key takeaways from the survey include:

- Walking is very popular in Sidney! Fifty-nine percent of respondents identified walking as one of their primary modes of commuting, followed by driving (55%) and cycling (28%).
- Safety is a key barrier to cycling in Sidney. While 89% of respondents reported feeling very safe or mostly safe walking in the community, only 46% said the same about cycling in town. The most-cited barriers to cycling in Sidney weren't rainy days, or physical limitations. The top three challenges identified by respondents were speed and/or proximity to vehicle traffic, lack of bicycle routes or pathways, and lack of safety/protection at intersections.
- Wider sidewalks make a difference. Respondents frequently noted that many sidewalks in Sidney are not wide enough to allow people with mobility aids like scooters, strollers, walkers or wheelchairs to comfortably pass one another.



LEARN & SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD FOR THE DRAFT PLAN OPEN UNTIL MARCH 17TH

CHECK OUT THE DRAFT PLAN

- Review the draft plan at www.sidney.ca.
- View a printed copy in person at Town Hall.

ATTEND THE OPEN HOUSE

Mary Winspear Centre
Wednesday, February 22nd
4:30pm to 6:30pm.

STOP BY A POP-UP INFO TENT

- Corner of Beacon Ave and Fifth Street
Saturday February 11th
11am to 1pm
- Corner of Henry Ave and Seventh Street
Wednesday, February 22nd
2:00pm to 3:30pm.

TAKE THE SURVEY

- Take the online survey at www.sidney.ca
- Email activetransportation@sidney.ca

Below is a glossary of some key terms that appear in the draft Active Transportation Plan.



CURB RAMPS

Smooth and gently-sloping curb ramps should be in place at all street access points to support accessibility, with tactile features such as score lines to assist people who are visually impaired.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, there is a proposal to upgrade all curb ramps in downtown Sidney that do not comply with accessible design criteria.



PEDESTRIAN-ACTIVATED CROSSWALK LIGHT

Pedestrian-activated lights at crosswalks help pedestrians make themselves more visible to vehicles and cyclists approaching the crosswalk. There are currently 20 pedestrian-activated crossing locations in Sidney.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, new pedestrian-activated crosswalk lights are recommended for several locations, including the intersection of Third Street and Mt Baker Avenue.



LEADING PEDESTRIAN INTERVAL

A leading pedestrian interval is an advanced walk signal that allows people walking or rolling to begin crossing a signalized intersection before vehicles. This head start helps to ensure they are readily visible to motorists turning right.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, there is a proposal to implement a Leading Pedestrian Interval at three of Sidney's signalized intersections.



PROTECTED BIKE LANE

Protected bike lanes provide a dedicated space for cyclists with a physical separation from motor vehicles. This barrier provides additional safety and comfort for people cycling.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, there is a proposal to create a protected bike lane along the downtown stretch of Fifth Street.



PAINTED BIKE LAKE

Painted bike lanes create dedicated space for cyclists on roadways but do not provide a physical barrier between vehicles and bikes. There are approximately 9km of bike lanes in Sidney, including the southern boundary of Sidney along Lochside Drive and continuing along Fifth Street.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, painted bike lanes are proposed for various locations, including Bevan Avenue.



BIKE BOULEVARD

Bike boulevards are streets with low motor vehicle volumes, and speeds where people of all ages feel comfortable cycling. When a street could serve as part of a connected cycling route but traffic volumes and speeds are not safe for road-sharing, traffic-calming and traffic diversions are sometimes considered to create a bike boulevard.

Within the draft Active Transportation Plan, there is a proposal to create bike boulevards in various locations, including Amelia Avenue.



Get to know Sidney 2040, your Official Community Plan

SPOTLIGHT ON: HARBOUR ROAD

The Town's new Official Community Plan: Sidney 2040 was adopted in June 2022 after a two-year process involving residents, businesses, community groups, advisory committees, and First Nations. With each edition of Town Talk, we will explore an aspect of the plan so community members can become more familiar with it.

Harbour Road, tucked into the northeast corner of Sidney, is home to much of the community's marine industry. This small industrial area plays a crucial role in Sidney's economy with a working harbour, marine industrial businesses, a federal Parks Canada office, restaurants, and more.

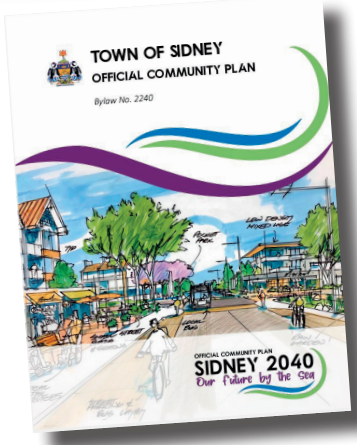
Like any waterfront location, Harbour Road has faced development pressure in the past as a desirable place to build housing. However, given the area's economic importance to the community, the Official Community Plan contains a number of policies to preserve this area as a vibrant hub of employment and marine activity.

For instance, policies within the plan provide guidance to ensure that:

- Industrial and commercial uses in the Harbour Road Marine area will maintain or support the area's marine industrial orientation.
- Residential density on waterfront lots in the Harbour Road Marine area will be limited to no more than one residential dwelling unit per lot.
- The Town will encourage property owners and businesses to take advantage of eco-tourism and cultural tourism opportunities that may arise in the Harbour Road Marine area.

If you aren't familiar with the Harbour Road area, take a stroll down this unique part of town where you can grab a meal, see a sail being made, and watch large ships undergoing maintenance on dry land.

Explore policies related to the Harbour Road Marine area on page 44 of the OCP at www.sidney.ca



NO MORE FEES FOR BUSINESS LICENCE RENEWALS

Sidney's Business Licence renewal process is underway until February 28th. The renewal process is now free! Council eliminated the annual \$100 renewal fee in November in support of Sidney's business community. Since the waived revenue will be made up through general tax revenues, small businesses will benefit the most from the waived fee.

Businesses will continue to be required to renew their business licence annually to ensure businesses are keeping their records updated with the Town and undergoing regular fire safety inspections.

Businesses can renew their Business Licence online at www.sidney.ca/business/renew or in person at Town Hall.

Initial application fees for new businesses will remain in effect.



THANK YOU SIDNEY BUSINESSES FOR ELIMINATING MANY SINGLE-USE PLASTICS!

This January, Sidney's new Single-Use Plastics Bylaw came into effect, prohibiting the distribution of many single-use plastic items such as plastic checkout bags, foam containers, plastic drinking straws, plastic stir sticks, and plastic utensils.

Sidney businesses have done an exceptional job making the transition and communicating the change to customers. Thank you to members of our vibrant business community for helping to keep our parks, streets, and beaches clean!



SIDEWALK EXPANSION TAKES CARE OF PINCH POINT ON BEACON AVENUE

One of Sidney's busiest sidewalks will have some more breathing room for community members travelling on foot, in a stroller, or by mobility aid.

After piloting a wider sidewalk along Beacon Avenue between First Street and Second Street made out of plywood and concrete barriers, the Town received enough positive feedback to make the expansion permanent (and more attractive).

In November 2022, the plywood walkway was replaced with interlocking bricks. This stretch of sidewalk that connects people to the waterfront and local businesses is now a safer and more welcoming place.

SNOW REMOVAL REMINDER

If we experience more snowfalls this winter, please do your part to keep the Town safe and accessible by clearing snow and ice from the sidewalk along your property, business, or home. This is a requirement under the Traffic Regulation Bylaw (sec. 51). If you can, please consider extending a hand to neighbours who need assistance with snow clearing.

The Town will keep major and collector streets open and will clear snow and ice from as many local streets as possible, particularly those in the downtown area.





MESSAGE FROM THE SIDNEY MUSEUM

The Sidney Museum needs your input! The heritage signs along Sidney's Waterfront Walkway are badly weathered. The content of the signs could also use an update.

With funding support from the Town of Sidney, the Museum is redesigning the existing signs to create beautiful and informative heritage panels that tell a more complete story of the region.

We would like to hear what residents of Sidney and the Saanich Peninsula have to say, both about the content of the current heritage signs and potential direction for new signage to take its place.

Please share your thoughts by filling out a quick online survey posted at www.sidneymuseum.ca. The survey is open until April 2023. Thank you!

MESSAGE FROM SIDNEY SISTER CITIES ASSOCIATION

Sidney Sister Cities Association works on behalf of the Town of Sidney maintaining relationships with Niimi, Japan; Cairns, Australia; and Anacortes, Washington State.

The association hosts student and private visits, participates in art and culture exchanges and visits our sister cities when possible. The association also participate in community events on the Peninsula.

Now planning for the future, the organization is looking for new members who are interested in helping to continue and expand the friendships overseas. Email sscapix@gmail.com or check out the association on Facebook to learn more.

BLACK PIONEERS OF THE SAANICH PENINSULA

Saturday, February 4th, 2 pm to 3 pm

Sidney Library

Join Karen Hoshal, descendant of the Alexander pioneer family, as she shares the history of her family and other black pioneers of the area. Karen is a past president of the BC Black History Awareness Society. Free. No registration required.

WATERSHED WONDERS

Friday, February 17th, 10 am to 4 pm

Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea

With local schools out, the Shaw Centre for the Salish Sea is celebrating all things watershed! Games, activities and presentations will highlight connections between land, sea and ourselves.

FAMILY DAY WEEKEND

February 18th to February 20th, 10 am to 4 pm daily

Sidney Museum

The Museum is excited to offer a number of Family Day activities related to our annual LEGO exhibit! Take part in our Sidney-wide LEGO scavenger hunt, visit the Sidney Pier Hotel to see the Victoria LEGO Users Group building a number of dioramas, or visit the Museum where LEGO Certified Professional Robin Sather will be building a LEGO model of the Sidney - Anacortes ferry 'Harvester King'.

SIDNEY EMPLOYMENT EXPO

Thursday, March 2nd, 3 pm to 6 pm

Mary Winspear Centre

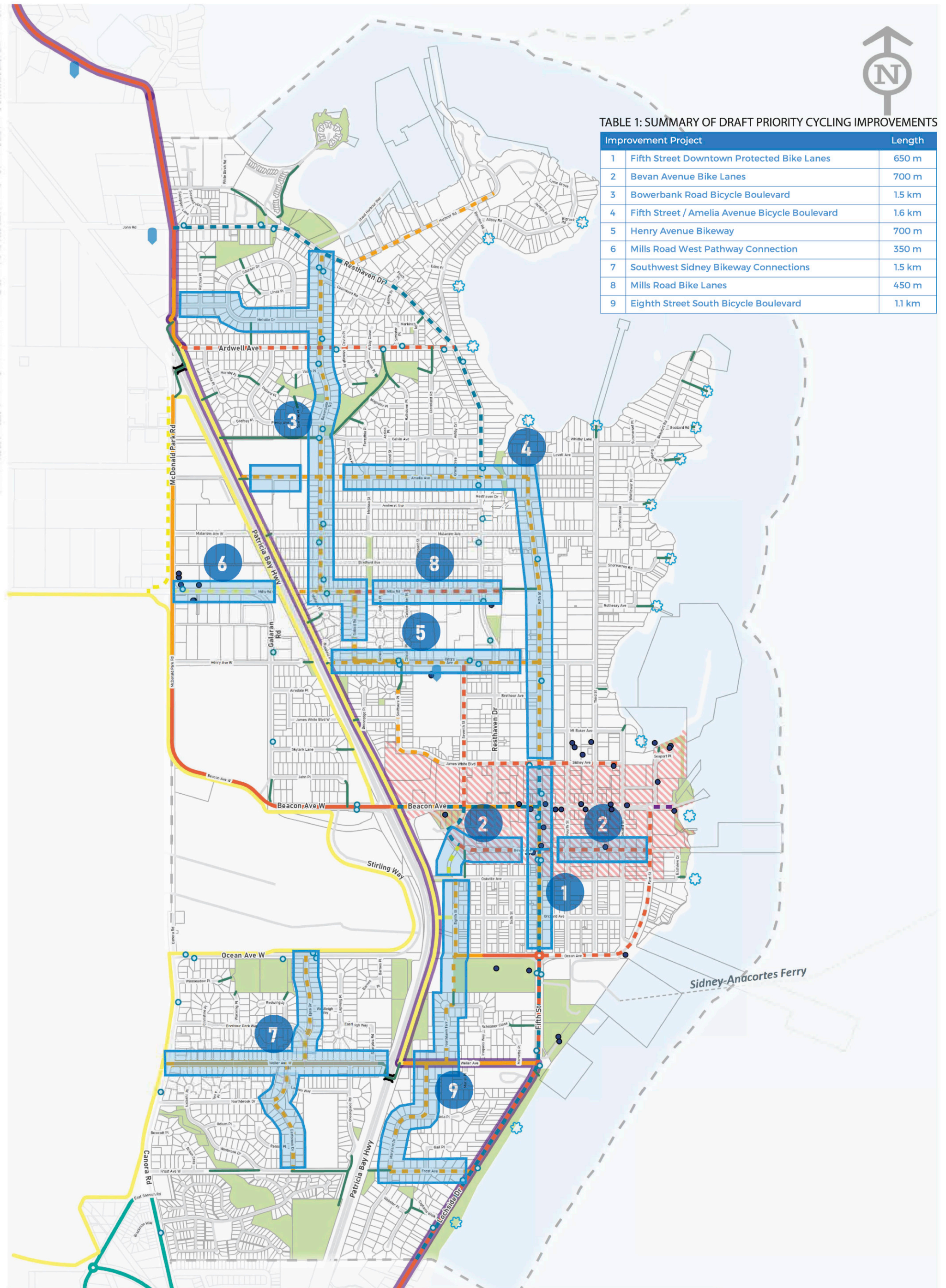
This free event, presented by the Sidney Business Improvement Area Society and Beacon Community Services, is a chance for local job-seekers and people considering making a career shift to connect with local employers looking for a range of skill sets and interests. Learn more at: www.sidneybia.ca/sidney-employment-expo-2023/



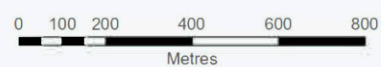


TABLE 1: SUMMARY OF DRAFT PRIORITY CYCLING IMPROVEMENTS

Improvement Project	Length
1 Fifth Street Downtown Protected Bike Lanes	650 m
2 Bevan Avenue Bike Lanes	700 m
3 Bowerbank Road Bicycle Boulevard	1.5 km
4 Fifth Street / Amelia Avenue Bicycle Boulevard	1.6 km
5 Henry Avenue Bikeway	700 m
6 Mills Road West Pathway Connection	350 m
7 Southwest Sidney Bikeway Connections	1.5 km
8 Mills Road Bike Lanes	450 m
9 Eighth Street South Bicycle Boulevard	1.1 km



DRAFT PRIORITY CYCLING NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS



- Multi-Use Pathway
- Protected Bike Lane
- Bike Lane
- Bicycle Boulevard
- Connector Pathway
- Bridge
- Regional Trail
- - - Proposed Bike Lane
- - - Proposed Protected Bike Lane
- - - Proposed Bicycle Boulevard
- - - Proposed Multi-Use Pathway
- - - Shared Street
- Bus Stop
- Bike Rack
- ★ Beach Access
- 🏠 School
- Park
- ▨ Downtown Core Area
- Priority Projects

For your reference, a list of these draft priority projects is provided on the back side of this sheet.

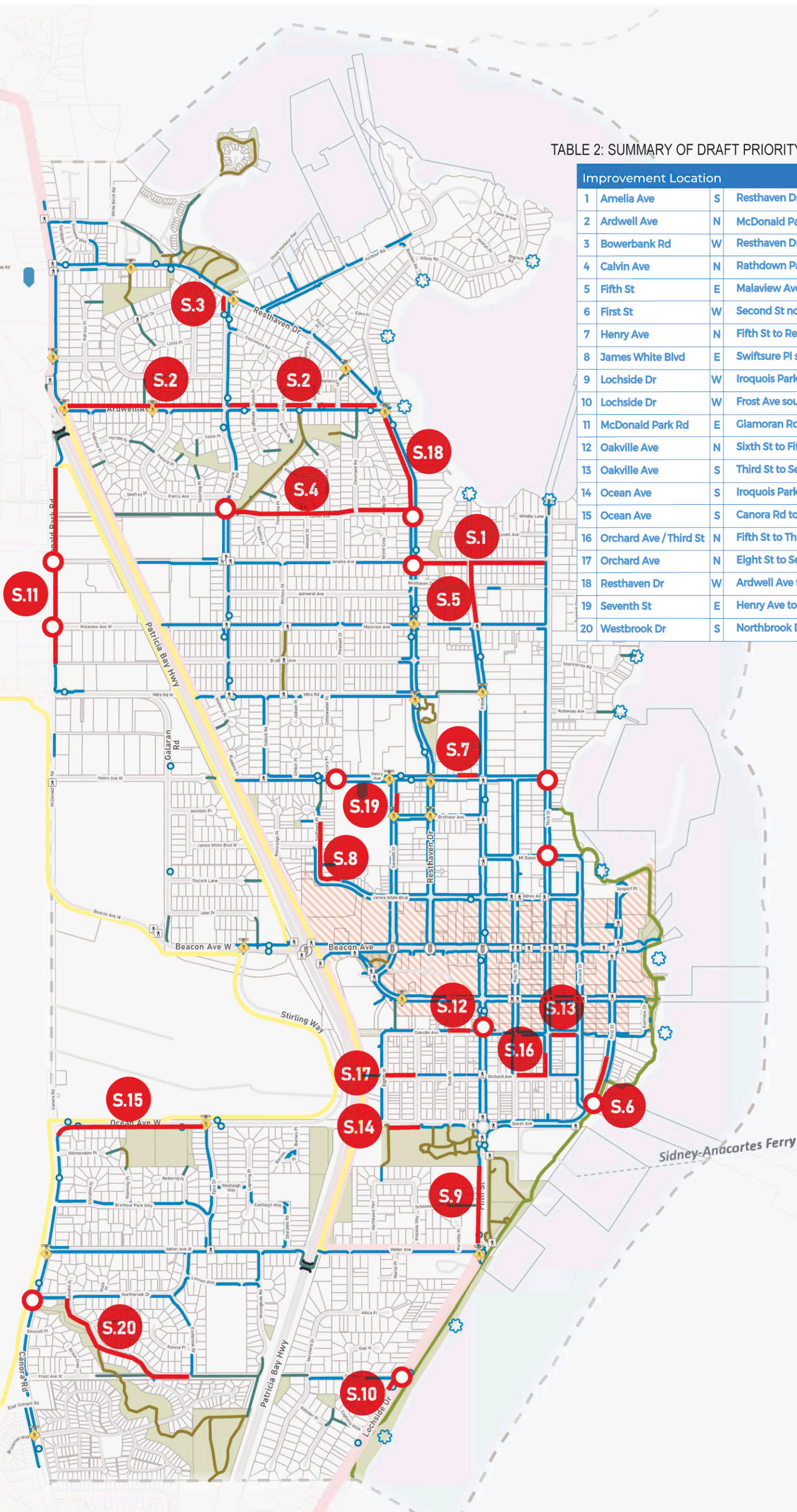
Note: this map is shown on page 52 of the Draft Active Transportation Plan



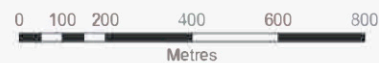


TABLE 2: SUMMARY OF DRAFT PRIORITY SIDEWALK IMPROVEMENTS

Improvement Location				Length
1	Amelia Ave	S	Resthaven Dr to Fourth St	370m
2	Ardwell Ave	N	McDonald Park Rd to Resthaven Dr	900m
3	Bowerbank Rd	W	Resthaven Dr south (bus stop)	80m
4	Calvin Ave	N	Rathdown Park to Resthaven Dr	480m
5	Fifth St	E	Malaview Ave to Amelia Ave	190m
6	First St	W	Second St north	140m
7	Henry Ave	N	Fifth St to Resthaven Dr	90m
8	James White Blvd	E	Swiftsure Pl south	160m
9	Lochside Dr	W	Iroquois Park to Weiler Ave	230m
10	Lochside Dr	W	Frost Ave south (bus stop)	30m
11	McDonald Park Rd	E	Glamoran Rd to Mills Rd	400m
12	Oakville Ave	N	Sixth St to Fifth St	60m
13	Oakville Ave	S	Third St to Second St	80m
14	Ocean Ave	S	Iroquois Park frontage	90m
15	Ocean Ave	S	Canora Rd to Epco Dr	420m
16	Orchard Ave / Third St	N	Fifth St to Third St	240m
17	Orchard Ave	N	Eight St to Seventh St	90m
18	Resthaven Dr	W	Ardwell Ave to Calvin Ave	300m
19	Seventh St	E	Henry Ave to Brethour Ave	90m
20	Westbrook Dr	S	Northbrook Dr to Eastbrook Dr	450m



DRAFT PRIORITY SIDEWALK NETWORK IMPROVEMENTS



- Sidewalk
- Pathway
- Connector Pathway
- Waterfront Walkway
- Multi-Use Pathway
- Regional Trail
- Bridge
- Traffic Light
- Crosswalk (Hatched)
- Pedestrian Activated Crossing
- Bus Stop
- Beach Access
- School
- Park
- Downtown Core Area

- Priority Sidewalk Improvement
- Priority Crosswalk Improvement

For your reference, a list of these draft priority projects is provided on the back side of this sheet.

Note: this map is shown on page 49 of the Draft Active Transportation Plan.

