

BUILDING HEALTHY COMMUNITIES



Road Safety

Road design has a powerful impact on how we move around. York Region recognizes that safety can be improved for everyone when traveller behaviour is supported by operational and safety measure enhancements. A safe system approach can prevent roadway injuries and deaths when engineering improvements, enforcement, and education are combined. Features such as curb extensions, automated speed enforcement, median treatments, and pedestrian/bike and traffic signal strategies can reduce collisions.

Road design influences if, and when, people cycle, wheel, walk or drive, and how safe vulnerable road users are when they take part in these activities. Safer streets mean children can walk or cycle to school with less risk of injury. Road safety is everyone's responsibility.

DID YOU KNOW?

- In 2019, York Region and its local municipalities experienced nearly 10,000 reported motor vehicle collisions, with one in four resulting in either injury or death. (Source: York Region Vision Zero Traveller Safety Plan)
- Signalized Crosswalks and traffic lights make wide roads safer to cross, especially for children and older adults.
- When people live in compact, complete communities, they don't drive as often. With fewer cars on the road, streets are safer for pedestrians and cyclists. Furthermore, with fewer cars, air quality is improved and public transportation is more efficient.
- In York Region (in 2016), 78% of commuters used cars, 11% rode public transit, 4% travelled by school bus and 7% walked or cycled during a typical weekday morning rush hour.

PUBLIC HEALTH

1-877-464-9675

york.ca/HealthyBuiltEnvironment

25-PH3-057


York Region

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You make a difference when you...

- Walk around your neighbourhood to assess how safe and easy it is to be a pedestrian
- Talk to your neighbours about road safety in your community. Discuss solutions to problems you identify
- Encourage your employer to support active transportation (walking or bicycling), carpooling, use of public transit and tele-working
- Learn more about your municipality's official plan and how this plan affects road safety
- Learn about smart cycling when exploring York Region on two wheels. Cycling is a safe, fun and environmentally friendly way to get around. Share the road, obey all Municipal by-laws and laws under the Highway Traffic Act and ensure you are equipped with appropriate safety equipment

Municipalities show leadership when they...

- Build roads with sidewalks and physically separated cycling lanes to protect pedestrians and cyclists
- Make sure sidewalks, bike lanes and public spaces are well-situated, linked to one another, well-designed and well-lit
- Keep frequently-used pedestrian intersections maintained and regularly upgraded for safety
- Develop (and build) compact and multi-purpose communities
- Set lower speed limits to minimize road injuries. All road users (especially pedestrians and cyclists) are safer when motor vehicles travel at slower speeds

BE AN ACTIVE PARTNER WHERE YOU LIVE, LEARN, WORK AND PLAY.
Participate in building healthy communities!