

Winter Cycling In Brampton

Lessons learned from Finland

Stephen Laidlaw Active Transportation Advisory Committee 2023

Walking and riding in winter climates.

Considerations

- An example of how to encourage transportation during winter months can be found in this presentation video, highlighting strategies in Oulu and Helsinki, Finland.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ppRQWxj6VDU>
- <https://1drv.ms/v/s!Aqk5GIKxZcKWjWIsKZpebHDYbYQiU>
- Please pay attention to a differing strategies compared to road clearing versus multi-use trail clearing.

Snow Clearing Strategies For Higher Density

Areas Of Brampton

On January 16 and 17, 2022, there was a snow fall event in the greater Toronto area, where some areas received an accumulation of 55 centimetres in 15 hours.

In Brampton, I along with others, documented the lack of snow clearing in a particular neighbourhood up to six days after the end of the snowfall. This area was east of the Bramalea City Centre and west of Bramalea Road, sometimes referred to as the “K” section.

This area includes Knightsbridge Road, King’s Cross Road, Kensington Road, Central Park Drive, and Team Canada Drive. This is a densely populated area of Brampton, which includes twelve high rise apartment buildings, three residences for seniors, a large medical building, a strip mall with a food store and two day care facilities, as well as the Bramalea Bus Terminal.

This is a walkable community, and yet, well after the snow event, sidewalks were not cleared, and pedestrians were forced to take to the roads, to travel.

The challenges of clearing the sidewalks after this particular event were evident. As the temperatures remained cold that week, there was no snow melting, to assist in clearing the sidewalks. I also witnessed several sidewalk plows having trouble plowing this amount of snow.

However, I think that we should be prepared for this type of snow fall.

What I am preposing is to identify certain higher density neighbourhoods in Brampton as priority snow clearing areas. Resources would be concentrated in these areas first, to serve the greatest number of citizens. Once these areas, with greater number of pedestrians, are cleared, then the other areas will be serviced.

Please provide any ideas or policies on this topic.

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