

TRANSPORTATION: BIKE FRIENDLY STREETS



Friendly Streets: Working together towards more walkable, bikeable neighbourhoods is a collaborative program between *Cycle Hamilton* and *Environment Hamilton*. It is designed to engage community partners for safer cycling and walking/rolling/wheeling conditions in urban Hamilton. Originally started as a pilot project in 2017 and funded by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, the program focused on the neighbourhood surrounding Hamilton General Hospital, Gibson-Landsdale, Beasley and Keith. It started with some key questions: *"How can we improve walking, rolling, and cycling conditions, especially for the most vulnerable: children, newcomers, seniors; How can we make these conditions safer?"* Jumping into these questions, the group decided to pilot the program around the Hamilton General Hospital. They have also compiled the [Friendly Streets Hamilton Toolkit](#) where they have identified tools to engage and empower people in the creation of more walkable, bikeable neighbourhoods. The guidance presented builds from the crucial components of dialogue, collaboration, and action. *"Any initiative that promotes healthy means of transportation, notably cycling and walking is critical for the health of a community...A daily dose of fresh air and exercise, in the form of a safe bike ride to and from work goes a long way for my overall well-being."* -MT

SUCCESSES

Tangible results: *"Friendly Streets made it much easier to approach Hamilton General Hospital without having to travel along major arterial roads. The bicycle lanes and traffic light also make it much easier to approach the hospital from the east."* -JN



- Working closely with City staff (Local Ward Councillor) to consider the area around the Hamilton General Hospital as a 'hospital zone' which led to the installation of a signalized crossing area at Copeland and Victoria Streets
- Installation of bicycle paths and lockers
- Planting new trees and building a parkette to bring more greenspace to the surrounding neighbourhood

"This project goes beyond street safety. It looks at air quality, the health of the canopy, and lack of trees. And, a big part of this are the truck routes. We actually conducted 'truck counts' between 7am and 7pm to quantify the sheer number of trucks, heavy transport trucks that were going through the neighbourhood." -BE

PRACTICAL ADVICE



- Drum up as much as support as possible and build partnerships across different sectors (e.g., if this is an issue that is of priority for the City, for [local schools](#), and other organizations, involve those groups to build support)
- Glean insights from existing resources, toolkits (e.g., [CAPE Active Travel Toolkit](#)), and other local initiatives (e.g., [Hamilton Bike Share](#))

FUTURE GOALS

"Everyone benefits from streets that are safer and more friendly for people who choose to walk, bicycle, or roll... It's important to determine what the aspirations are for each stakeholder and to find alignment and synergy so that you can work towards a shared vision." -ED



- Street safety, improved active transport, and greenspace are not often accessible to people of colour: Improving belonging is important for diverse communities to participate in these conversations
- Next step: 'Friendly Streets for Black, Indigenous, and People of Colour (BIPOC)'

Team members:

Beatrice Ekoko (BE), Project Manager, Environment Hamilton (2017-2021)
 Elise Desjardin (ED), Project Manager, Cycle Hamilton
 Dr. Marianne Talman (MT), Hamilton General Hospital
 Dr. John Neary (JN), St. Joseph's Hospital

