

PROJECT UPDATE

The Véloroute Voyageur Cycling Route is Ontario's next major cycling tourism experience spanning over 630km from Sudbury to the National Capital Region. Following the path of the Voyageurs over 400 years ago along four heritage waterways and sharing alignment with the Trans Canada Trail at the east and west ends, the Route celebrates a national significance experienced at a human-powered pace.

The vision is that the Voyageur Cycling Route will become part of the foundational provincial cycling network supporting the goal of the Province to establish Ontario as a premier cycle tourism destination while creating healthy, active and prosperous communities. La Véloroute Voyageur will enrich the quality of life in Ontario communities through environmentally sustainable economic opportunities while promoting awareness and behavioural shifts, improving cycling infrastructure and making highways and streets safer.



Discovery Routes Trails Organization based in North Bay, Ontario is coordinating the implementation of the Voyageur Cycling Route under the direction of a stakeholder-based working group.

Route Implementation – Northeastern Ontario

Implementation of the cycling route is advancing across Northeastern Ontario with the installation of wayfinding signage by municipalities along 200km of the route east of Mattawa throughout 2017. MTO has made a commitment to produce and install wayfinding signage on sections of the provincial highways that form part of the cycling route. The signage program is a collaboration between all levels of government and has garnered financial support from agencies and programs including Canada 150, NOHFC, Tourism Northern Ontario and Trans Canada Trail Foundation.

Cycling facility improvements have taken place in the Municipality of Callander and City of North Bay as a result of funding through MTO's 2016 Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program. Additional cycling infrastructure upgrades as recommended in the feasibility study continue to be encouraged on municipal roadways through the municipal budget process and through provincial commitments. Project partners continue to urge MTO to undertake recommended upgrades on moderate volume highways, and have identified two high priority sections of Highway 17 between North Bay and Sudbury where no alternate routing exists. As local municipalities increase investments in cycling infrastructure and develop cycling supports, MTO's investment in provincial infrastructure is all the more critical to the continuity of the provincial cycling network across rural and Northern Ontario.

Route Expansion – Eastern Ontario

Discovery Routes has developed a partnership with the Ottawa Valley Cycling and Active Transportation Alliance and Eastern Ontario Active Transportation Network partners to expand the Voyageur Cycling Route through Renfrew County and Lanark County to Ottawa to close an essential gap in the provincial cycling network and establish an Eastern Ontario loop in the Trans Canada Trail. With funding support from the Ontario Trillium Foundation, Discovery Routes is collaborating with local partners to mobilize road and route authorities across Eastern Ontario and coordinate the Voyageur Cycling Route eastern expansion.

Community and stakeholder consultations are underway to determine the preferred route alignment between Mattawa and Ottawa through Renfrew and Lanark counties with connections to existing cycling infrastructure in the National Capital Region. A route options map has been prepared that identifies a number of on-road and off-road options for the Voyageur Cycling Route expansion.

A route options study will be undertaken early in 2018 to determine the required cycling facility improvements along all identified route options east of Mattawa; estimate the capital costs for recommended upgrades of all route options; determine the feasibility of implementing the preferred route considering past and planned cycling infrastructure investments and economic realities of regional and local governments; and prepare an implementation plan for cycling route expansion.

To better understand how cycling route designation and investments can influence and encourage more cyclists to cycle more often, the project involves an evaluation of cycling rates prior and post implementation of the Voyageur Cycling Route to measure changes in frequency of cycling.



For more information on the Véloroute Voyageur/ Voyageur Cycling Route contact:

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