



Taylor Clysdale/Metroland

The Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program was dedicated to funding cycling infrastructure over the next four years.

Future funding for Acton-to-Georgetown bike path axed by Ford government

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What was an exciting feat for Halton Hills cyclists in March has now turned into a disappointment as Ontario Premier Doug Ford has announced the cancellation of the cap-and-trade program, which, in turn, will affect cycling infrastructure.

At a council meeting in March, Halton Hills learned it would be receiving \$225,000 for cycling infrastructure, which would include a bike path for Limehouse.

Halton Hills town councillor, Jane Fogal, says the town planned to apply for further funding for an extension of the path that would establish a cycling connection from Acton to Georgetown.

But any future funding for that extension from the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling Program is being cancelled, according to Jamie Stuckless, executive director of the Share the Road Cycling Coalition.

"This is not surprising. The new government was very clear on their intentions to cancel cap-and-trade throughout the elec-

tion; however, it is still disappointing to see the official announcement," Stuckless wrote in a release, asking Ontarians to reach out to their local MPPs.

In December 2017, the province invested \$93 million in cycling infrastructure. Projects that have been previously planned as a result of that funding will be able to proceed, but no new funding will be introduced.

The \$93 million was initially part of a larger investment of \$225 million in cycling infrastructure across Ontario over a four-year period, Stuckless added.

Fogal says that as a result of the government decision, the town will only be able to move forward with the portion of the path being built directly in Limehouse.

"What I wanted to do was continue to build it all the way to Trafalgar Road," Fogal said, adding that the portion of the road from the end of Limehouse (between Fifth and Sixth Line) east to Trafalgar Road creates precarious conditions for cyclists.

But she says that doesn't mean the town cannot fund the project through other means in the future.

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A

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