News Release – For Immediate Release

Imagining Ontario's largest public space makeover
How to design and build streets for the 21st century

Toronto, August 4, 2011 — The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of Clean Air Partnership, is embarking on a major project to advance the study of complete streets and to support their implementation in communities across Ontario.

This new initiative, the first of its kind in Ontario, seeks to accelerate the development of complete streets in Ontario by engaging the public, professionals, and politicians alike. By building momentum, capacity, expertise and action, TCAT works to create safer, healthier, and more accessible communities in our province.

This project is made possible by the Ontario Trillium Foundation, an agency of the Government of Ontario, and is supported by the Clean Air Partnership.

What's the issue, and what are complete streets?

Ontario has a strong highway and road-building legacy that has historically prioritized travel by automobile, resulting in serious environmental, health, and safety impacts. However, there is a simple, yet effective, way forward to address all of these challenges simultaneously. In recent years, an exciting movement has begun to take hold across the United States, Europe, and elsewhere, resulting in the adoption and implementation of complete streets policies. The concept of complete streets is simple, but powerful: as the largest public space in any city, all streets should be designed, built, operated, and maintained to consider the needs of all users of all ages and abilities: whether they get from point A to B by car, public transit, bicycle or on foot. Active transportation, in particular cycling and walking, are crucial elements of complete streets.

What's TCAT doing about it?

For close to two years, TCAT has been working to coordinate and focus community and government interest in complete streets in Ontario, and to articulate concrete complete streets policies that can help build safer, greener, healthier, and more accessible communities.

As a next step in this work, TCAT’s new project will create a “Complete Streets Policy and Design Hub” that will:

1) Identify the shortcomings of and potential solutions in Ontario communities’ existing policies, programs, and practices
2) Make TCAT’s analysis available as an online resource – a comprehensive “toolkit” of evidence-based solutions showcasing workable policies, street design visuals, research, guidelines, and success stories from around the world.

TCAT’s work is intended to act as a catalyst for identifying the next steps for action and implementation from all stakeholders by:

- Supporting local advocacy efforts and informing policy development by increasing awareness, knowledge, and community involvement in building complete streets
- Helping the dispersed, but growing, interest in complete streets gain traction and bring about concrete change
- Providing a credible and central go-to destination for anyone looking for information, research, or examples of/status updates on complete streets across North America

To follow our work and see how complete streets can benefit your community, visit www.torontocat.ca to sign up for TCAT News or join our Facebook page.

About TCAT

The Toronto Coalition for Active Transportation (TCAT), a project of Clean Air Partnership, conducts policy research and urban design work that supports the implementation of complete streets. TCAT has successfully organized four annual policy conferences, now known as the Complete Streets Forum. The forum features presentations from leading international and Canadian experts on complete streets, and it brings together over 200 people each year to share ideas of how to advance complete streets in North America. TCAT’s research is widely cited and our work has influenced actual on-the-ground improvements in the cycling and walking environment in Toronto, Canada’s largest urban centre. TCAT has developed a reputation for working constructively with community organizations as well as provincial and municipal government officials.

About CAP

The Clean Air Partnership (CAP) is a registered charity that works in partnership to promote and coordinate actions to improve local air quality and reduce greenhouse gases for healthy communities. CAP’s applied research on municipal policies strives to broaden and improve access to public policy debate on air pollution and climate change issues. Our social marketing programs focus on energy conservation activities that motivate individuals, government, schools, utilities, businesses and communities to take action to clean the air.

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