

EVIDENCE

An evidence-informed approach to healthy public policy development is achieved by incorporating the best available evidence in policy decision-making. Across the cases¹, evidence was used to define and provide solutions to pressing

problems, including the relationship between health and the built environment. Multiple players brought different types of evidence forward to illustrate problems and solutions.

TYPES OF EVIDENCE USED ACROSS THE CASES

- ➔ Scientific
- ➔ Expert consultation
- ➔ Models from other jurisdictions
- ➔ Local data
 - Bicycle counts
 - Population forecasts
 - Employment growth
 - Demographics
 - Costs
 - Travel behaviour – Transportation trip analysis, travel times, mode share trend analysis
 - Site-specific impacts
- ➔ Stakeholder consultation

VANCOUVER, BC

Best practices were useful to understand others' approach to policy change, how it was working, and whether such change was feasible, information that was a useful input into the development of the policy.

RD RED DEER, AB

City staff regularly brought to council local-level data pertaining to how the bike lanes installation sites were impacting traffic flows.



- Local feedback – Public support or concerns about projects
- Traffic fatality data
- Collision assessments – From insurance companies

- Data on the impact of interventions – How pilot project installation impacted traffic flow
- Traffic data

RD RED DEER, AB

Project staff also brought to council public feedback they collected, about their support or concerns for changes. This approach created a transparent process and allowed opportunities for joint decision-making between project staff and council, which helped increase council buy-in.

HAM HAMILTON, ON

We don't just willy-nilly take streets away from cars. We do a lot of careful analysis. We look at traffic impacts, changes to traffic volumes, travel delay, safety impacts. We don't want the city to become gridlocked.



EVIDENCE

EVIDENCE WAS BROUGHT FORWARD BY:

- ➔ Public health
- ➔ Primary Care Networks
- ➔ Academic institutions
- ➔ Municipalities
- ➔ Regional and provincial planning departments
- ➔ Business councils
- ➔ Consultants

EVIDENCE FOCUSED ON THE BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

- ➔ Affordability
- ➔ Accessibility
- ➔ Availability of modal choice
- ➔ Health
- ➔ Environment
- ➔ Sustainability
- ➔ Community
- ➔ Safety
- ➔ Resiliency
- ➔ Quality of life
- ➔ Economic

AC ALL CASES

Evidence pertinent to chronic diseases and the relationship between chronic disease and physical activity resulted in public health and health providers looking at environmental design to find solutions across the cases.

HAM HAMILTON, ON

The Hamilton Chamber of Commerce provided evidence linking walkable communities to the economy-generating creative class and promoted this message to the community with a report titled *Walkability and Economic Development: How Pedestrians and Transit-oriented Environments Attract Creative Jobs in Hamilton*. This provided valuable evidence for the potential economic gains by attracting desirable qualified professionals to enable growth of businesses in the creative sector.



¹ Propel Centre for Population Health Impact. (2014). *Understanding healthy public policy processes: A multiple case study of the use of road modifications to improve active transportation*. Propel Centre for Population Health Impact, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario.