Exchanging Locally Informed Recreational Trail Development Practices to Build a Better Trans Canada Trail

"[...] supporting success at the local level in the continued improvement and enhancement of this national network." (Trans Canada Trail, 2019)

Timothy Hunting
MSc Candidate, RPD
Supervised by,
Dr. Ryan Gibson

ONTARIO
AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Outline of presentation

- Brief overview of the The Great Trail (TCT)
- Project Inspiration and Problem Statement
- Research Design
- Implications for Rural Ontario
- Key Takeaways

Brief Overview of The Great Trail

- History
- Scale of project
- Funding, Development, Activities

(Trans Canada Trail, 2019)

Brief Overview of The Great Trail Cont'd

- Connection Completed July 1, 2017
- 100% connected? 24,000km of trails?
 - ◆ 8500km of roads and highways
 - ◆ 5000km of ATV accessible trails
 - ◆ 7500km of water passages
- Deeply Connected 2018-22 Plan

(CBC, 2017)

Anecdotal but Powerful User Feedback

"Single lane traffic in each direction with no shoulder and lots of heavy goods vehicles. Honestly some of the worst most dangerous touring conditions...I know I picked one of the bad sections, as there are very few alternate roads here, or none." - *Allan Shaw*

"Don't. Don't come. It's too dangerous. Unless you want to ride down roads and highways, please don't come." - *Edmund Auger* (CBC, 2017)

Most rides on highways with limited shoulder space and most rides felt unsafe; however, TCT sections were safe and well maintained. - *Dominique Danco*

Problem Bullet Points

1. Road Safety
2. Participation
3. User Interactions
4. Funding
5. Economic Synergy
6. Various Opportunities Missed

Research Gap

- Theory and empirical research (Tennøy et al., 2016)
- Recognition of tacit knowledge sharing & collaboration for trail development (Fáhrus & Ryan, 2006)
- Current state of the TCT

Applied research

Effective tools for tacit knowledge sharing and collaboration

An improved TCT

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Engaging communities
in research process >>

CE Tool >>

A step forward towards
a better TCT >>

Recurring Survey Community Exchange

1. Primary survey investigation

Long form questionnaire regarding their respective recreational trail elements

2. Completed survey exchange

Surveys are reviewed and feedback provided by partnering municipalities

3. Post Feedback Reflection

How did the received feedback and the impression of the partnering municipality influence knowledge for future trail developments

Intended Municipal Participants

Similar

Guelph, ON + Waterloo, ON

- Rural and Urban Trail Segments
- Similar Populations
- Located in close proximity to one another

Victoria, BC + Charlottetown, PE

- Considered the best TCT segments
- Both capital cities
- Both islands with waterway connections

Diverse

Inuvik, NT + Montréal, QC

- Wilderness vs urban based trail segments
- Vastly different populations
- 6,675 km between one another

Lunenburg, NS + Hamilton, ON

- Rural vs urban trails
- Local WHS vs proximal tourist destination
- TCT participation

Potential results to come

Acquire various tacit knowledge on trail development

- Are there common opportunities and issues to trail development?
- How do the contexts of these municipalities illustrate similarities or differences?
- What are the key components to a community's trail development capacity or lack thereof?

Effectiveness of a direct tacit sharing mechanism

- Did the adapted CE model reveal novel insights and feedback?
- Did this exercise create tangible momentum for future development?
- How does it compare to other development practices, such as external consultancy?

Implications for Rural Ontario

2200 km, 62 trails

- Health and quality of life
- Conservation/stewardship
- Economic development
- Conduit for active transportation goals

(Town of Caledon, 2015)

Presentation Takeaways

The TCT is a massive & exciting project, but there is a need to have better standards

Recreational resources can play an important role in solving various planning issues

Interjurisdictional planning is complicated, especially when local management is involved

Sharing tacit knowledge may help with overcoming various difficulties related to the above points

(Trans Canada Trail, 2019)

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Thank you!