What is a Connectivity Plan?

A Connectivity Plan focuses on the development of Active Transportation and Trail Planning. It is a strategic document created to develop and enhance infrastructure and policies that promote non-motorized modes of transportation, such as walking, cycling, and other forms of active movement. It aims to improve connectivity, safety, and accessibility for residents using trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and paved pathways. This plan will help design and build a complete community by encouraging healthier lifestyles, reducing environmental impacts, and fostering sustainable urban design.

Key elements of the Connectivity Plan will include:

- **Vision and Objectives:** The plan outlines a long-term vision for creating a network that supports the outcomes of a safe, convenient, and enjoyable active transportation options while promoting sustainability and public health.
- **Inventory and Analysis of Existing Infrastructure:** A detailed assessment of current trails, sidewalks, bike paths, and related infrastructure is conducted. This includes mapping out existing connections between neighborhoods, parks, schools, workplaces, and recreational facilities and identifying gaps in the network.
- **Connectivity and Integration:** The plan focuses on improving connections between key destinations (e.g., schools, workplaces, commercial areas, parks) through a well-integrated system of multi-use pathways, sidewalks, and on-road cycling routes. This helps create a seamless and continuous network that encourages active transportation.
- **Safety and Accessibility:** A key priority is ensuring the safety and accessibility of the active transportation networks for users of all ages and abilities. This includes addressing road crossings, signage, lighting, traffic calming measures, and ensuring compliance with accessibility standards.
- **Environmental and Health Benefits:** The plan emphasizes reducing the community's carbon footprint, lowering vehicle congestion, and promoting healthier lifestyles by increasing opportunities for walking, cycling, and other forms of active movement.

- **Design Standards and Best Practices:** The plan often incorporates design guidelines for constructing and maintaining infrastructure such as trails, sidewalks, bike lanes, and related facilities, ensuring they meet provincial and municipal standards and follow best practices for user safety and comfort.
- **Trail Development:** In addition to urban sidewalks and bike paths, the plan will include a focus on natural and recreational trails, which provide residents with access to green spaces, rivers, and scenic areas. This will entail both creating new trails and enhancing existing ones.
- **Implementation and Funding:** The plan will includes an action-oriented roadmap that outlines priority projects, funding sources, potential partnerships, and a timeline for implementation. Funding can come from municipal budgets, provincial or federal grants, and partnerships with organizations or developers.