

Notes from
CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Unofficial meeting of the Committee

April 17, 2025, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Virtual meeting

Chair: Peter Miasek

Notes: Steve Glassman

Attending:

Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair
Andrew Dang, Vice Chair
Joska Zerczi
Anthony Ko
Joseph Lisi
Councillor Ritch Lau, Ward 2
Kevin Lee, Markham Cycles (CICS)

Staff and guests:

Eric Chan (Senior Manager, Transportation)
Billy Cheung (YR)
Ryan Wong (YR Transportation)

Regrets:

Amit Arora
Doug Wolfe
Brenda Kazan
Cliff Chan
Kim Adeney – AAC
Daniel Yeung
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
PC Shawna Leitch, YRP
Sonia Sanita, YR Public Health
Kathryn Shaw-Edmond, YRDSB
PC Patricia Graham, YRP
Sara R (SCMRH)
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute
Fion Ho - staff

1. OPENING Remarks

The chair read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement. The minutes of the last unofficial meeting, March 20th, were approved without changes. We welcomed Ryan Wong who replaces Diana Kakamousias as York Region (YR) Transportation representative to CPAC. Billy Cheung, also staff at YR, joined as a guest to discuss a new item, which was added to the agenda as item 2.1, 9th Line railway crossing, and then the meeting proceeded.

2. ACTION ITEMS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS

2.1 9th Line RR crossing – York Region Project

Billy Cheung joined the meeting to advise CPAC and obtain feedback on a project aimed at improving cyclist safety at a rail crossing on 9th Line near 19th Avenue. The cycling facility is a paved shoulder and it is recognized that many spills and accidents occur as they cross the tracks, as the tracks intersect 9th line at an acute angle. Staff proposed adding a “refuge” area or small extra paved area so that cyclists can turn a bit and make the crossing at a 90-degree angle. Feedback was that (1) the section between the rails needs to be filled in with boards or rubber so that cyclists have a fairly level crossing; (2) that painted lines or areas, perhaps using green paint, and signs could help guide cyclists to swerve to the refuge area to be able to cross the track at a better angle, and (3) that the approach to the refuge area itself may be designed to actually guide the cyclist through, using the preferred swerve to the right followed by the ninety degree angle. Billy expressed interest in the ideas and promised to send Peter final drawings of this quick fix project, in about a month.

2.1 – Additional Material – Other YR Stand-Alone Projects

With the presence of Ryan, we took the opportunity to get an update on other York Region stand-alone cycling projects in Markham (i.e. not associated with road widenings):

- 14th Ave between Warden and McCowan. The project team discovered that there would be a lot of work, potential costs and expropriation of private land in the section between Kennedy and McCowan. As a result, this portion is now of lower priority, with the hope that we can build a bike facility when some other major roadwork or sewage infrastructure is being upgraded. The section from Kennedy to Warden does not have backyards abutting the right of way but is also now reduced in priority, as it has grading challenges. Ideally it should connect to another in-boulevard facility so it is not orphaned.
- Don Mills between Steeles and John. In design since last year. Update meeting to be held next week
- New RFP on cycling facilities to be released Q3. Markham projects are: (1) Warden Ave (Hwy 7 to 16 Ave) -High Priority; (2) 9th line (407 to Boxgrove Bypass) along with 14th Ave (Don Cousins to Boxgrove Bypass) – Medium High, but has culvert challenge; (3) Markham Road (14th to Steeles) – Medium Priority;
- Intersection at 14th and Donald Cousins has already been reconstructed with cross rides. Because it is near the trail system, decorative benches, repair station and public art have been installed.

- Joska suggested that a nearby intersection at Boxgrove Bypass and Donald Cousins deserves similar improvements.

Ryan discussed the development of some standard designs which will allow quite a few initiatives to be implemented in the Region.

2.2 Markham Centre Trail (MCT) Phase 4 - near Apple Creek

Councillor Lau's issue, first discussed in January, relates to the concerns of about 30 homeowners along a proposed new section of the trail near Crispin Court and Granville Gate. Concerns about privacy (location of the trails near their backyard fence lines), disruption to nature and wildlife, and cost are some of the residents' issues. A well-attended Public Information Meeting (PIC) was held on April 8th to review this project. Staff presented an alternate route using an existing trail further west, which satisfied the residents.

A new issue emerged at the PIC. About a dozen residents from the South side attended (Montgomery Court) and were upset about the potential changes to the existing trail, close to their homes, and privacy and security issues. Staff agreed to study an alternative on the east side of the creek, although it may be challenging due to environmental, cost and steep slope issues.

Councilor Lau appreciated the support from Anthony, Joska and Peter who attended and supported him during this meeting.

There will be another PIC as the consultant and project team comes to a final resolution on the 60% design in August or September.

2.3 Micromobility pilot project

Peter attended the April 8th DSC meeting in which the OVIN project, and the Scooty pilot were approved for an extension to October 31, pending Council approval April 22. Peter suggested to the project team that the trial be enlarged to include paved trails, and also that some more docking stations be added. This input was acknowledged.

2.4 Study on Winter Pathways Network

The CPAC motion was approved by DSC on April 8th, and anticipated by council April 22. Next step is to ensure the study is included in the 2026 budget.

2.5 Bill 212 and Federal Infrastructure Funding

Peter sent a letter to the Minister of Transportation regarding proceeding with the planned traffic calming measures. The letter was sent to the

newly reappointed minister, and to the new Minister of Red Tape Reduction. No response yet.

Peter reported that, upon further clarification by MTO, all three planned traffic calming measures involving lane removal (Carlton Rd, Markham Rd, Allstate Parkway) are now green lighted. They will go to tender this summer.

3. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

3.1 Markham Cycling Day (June 15, 2025)

Joseph reported that the subcommittee has been very active, and the event plans are progressing well. Soon registration forms and route maps will be released. They are still working on outreach and looking for other groups (such as schools, school boards, York Region, and Vision Zero leaders) to contact and network with. Ryan advised that YR will be at the event again this year with a booth and YRT bus.

3.2 Jane's Walk May 3-4

Andrew indicated that the subcommittee met and has now arranged three walks: Old Thornhill (David Rawcliffe), Markham/ Mount Joy (George Duncan) and Downtown Markham (Randy Peddigrew). Fion has arranged production of a poster, and graphics for Markham libraries and community centres, along with about \$600 in Social Media advertising. The group suggested that speakers use portable megaphones, which Fion can arrange; Andrew to look into this. Andrew also reported that some of our inventory of pedestrian safety reflectors be given away at each walk.

3.3 Vision Zero – and Ontario Road Safety Forum

Peter was joined by Amit and Anthony at the “Ontario Road Safety Forum” held April 3 at U of Toronto. Peter and Anthony reported on the following key learnings

- A study by TMU showed Bloor St W. bikelanes added to auto travel times but increased cyclist safety;
- Leading Pedestrian Intervals (signals giving pedestrians an 8 second head start versus cars) do a good job in reducing injuries;
- High rate of collisions for scooter riders, reinforcing that a huge amount of education is needed for safe scooter use
- A model of midblock transit stops was developed for Toronto, and the outcome of the study was that most of these actually add danger to pedestrians and should be removed or modified;
- The TMU study of pedestrian/cyclist crossings at highway interchanges (on and off ramps) has been presented to MTO and is

under review. We look forward to the release of the MTO report to the public so that we can continue our advocacy for remediation at our most dangerous locations.

4. NEW BUSINESS

4.1 New Parks Bylaw

A new Parks Bylaw was presented to General Committee April 1 that prohibited e-bikes (all types), scooters, roller blades and other forms of micromobility in parks. Eric explained that there were errors in the relevant clauses VIII.L and VIII.M. For bicycles, engineering proposes a two-step process on these amendments:

-For now, amend the bylaw so that

- all forms of bicycles are not permitted on some park trails
- bicycles and power-assisted bicycles permitted on selected park multi-use trails, based on width, connectivity
- motor-assisted bicycles not permitted on any park trail or MUP

-In the future, when the TMP micromobility strategy is complete, amend these clauses as recommended, e.g. e-scooters

Appropriate signage will be developed to differentiate the permissions. There may be some citizen pushback on the bike prohibition.

4.2 Preliminary CPAC expenditures for 2025

Using materials prepared and circulated in advance of the meeting, the group was charged with finding what items need to be addressed so that the CPAC expenditures do not lapse at year end.

Actions were decided to advance several items:

- Markham Cycling Day supplemental support – TBD
- Jane's Walk – see item 3.2
- Active School Transportation- although the file is less active, Joseph will contact Kathryn to see if they need support this year;
- Mobile signs re trail etiquette - \$4300 last year. Peter to discuss with Fion;
- Bike maps - Peter will check with Fion to determine if maps need to be revised and printed this year;
- Eric is looking into the design of bike racks and what parks might need racks – report in June;

- At the upcoming Markham Cycles advisory meeting, Kevin suggested a discussion of any educational support that may not currently be on Keenan's activity list. This may include developing more printed educational materials, e-scooter training with Scooty, or possibly CPAC supporting additional paid training staff;
- Anthony to do Google search on other suppliers for "How to ride a bike";
- Peter to touch base with Alfred to see how Cycling without Age is progressing for the year;
- Social media campaign by City on safety. Peter to discuss with Fion;
- "Miscellaneous" budget includes possible conferences, books, and other expenses that CPAC may incur – typically less than \$1000.

4.3 ATMP Cycling project status

In the agenda, Peter prepared a summary of the ATMP 5-year plan, contrasted with actual accomplishments.

- With increased development, cycling must become a key transportation mode for short trips within Markham
- ATMP approved by Council, November 23, 2021
- ATMP Implementation Plan approved by Council June 14, 2022
 - Attachment C outlines first 5 years project priorities:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4	Year 5	Total
Km	49.7	8.8	7.6	9.8	7.3	83.2

- Actual length of approved City projects under design or construction is falling short:

Project	Km
Elgin Mills Woodbine/Warden	2.0
Victoria Square Woodbine S to Woodbine N	2.8
Calvert/Clegg/Allstate Pkwy/Ferrier/Gillingham & Ferrier	6.0
Carleton Kennedy to McCowan	2.0
Main Street Markham Bullock to 16 th	1.2
TOTAL	14.0

Actual implementation of specific projects are subject to the annual capital budget process, and requires staff resources. Eric advised that Council had approved two staff positions but only recently has one been filled. In fact, he noted that some projects are not capital intensive, but are behind because staff is needed for implementation. Eric is optimistic that there will be a noticeable catch up, especially as TMP moves ahead and identifies best practices on project management.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 PM. The next meeting will be an official in-person meeting, May 15 at 7:00 pm.

Addendum to Meeting Notes – Key Actions to be Tracked

April 17, 2025

1. Expenditure plan to be priority at May meeting (Peter, all)
2. Report on the MTO report re on and off ramps at 400 highways when released (peter)
3. Report on bike racks (design and location possibilities) – June (Eric)
4. Review 9th Line design when available
5. Review Apple Creek southern trail design when available
6. Follow new Parks Bylaw (Eric)
7. Advise on 2026 cycling infrastructure plan, when ready (all)

March 20, 2025

1. Eric to pursue idea of broadening CPAC mandate (Eric)

January 16, 2025

1. Write Salia Kalali re new RVT signage project (Peter)
2. Bring back CPAC rename idea when ready (Eric)

December 19, 2024

1. Prepare bike rack proposal for January/February 2025 including location recommendations and type of installation. See Nov 21 minutes. (Joska + committee)
2. Write YRT re shuttle buses to GO station (Peter + Joska)

October 17, 2024

1. Check gravel soft spots on RVT in spring (Joska)

June 20, 2024

1. Discuss Cycling Without Age storage at Crosby CC (Reid)
2. Assess continuous sidewalk as part of Road Safety Plan (staff)
3. Find out more information about bike rentals in condos (Reid)