



CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2025

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

7:00 – 9:00 PM

Citizen Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair
Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair
Amit Arora
Anthony Ko
Daniel Yeung
Doug Wolfe
Joseph Lisi
Joska Zerczi
Cliff Chan, MEAC
Cr. Reid McAlpine
Cr. Ritch Lau

Agency:

Kathryn Shaw-Edmond
Kevin Lee, Markham Cycles (CICS)
Moaz Ahmed (Scooty)
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health
Sergeant Shawna Leitch, YRP
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute

Staff:

Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation Engineering
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

Regrets:

Andrew Dang, Co-Vice Chair
David Mok
Keenan Mosdell, Markham Cycles
Kim Adeney, AAC
PC Patricia Graham, YRP
Reena Mistry, YRDSB

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:03 PM on February 20, 2025, with Peter Miasek presiding as Chair.

1. INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Peter Miasek, Chair, read the Indigenous Land Acknowledgement.

2. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented:

4. REVIEW OF MINUTES:

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

seconded by Joseph Lisi

That the Minutes of the official November 21, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

seconded by Joseph Lisi

That the Minutes of the informal December 19, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine

seconded by Joseph Lisi

That the Minutes of the informal January 16, 2025, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.

CARRIED

5. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

5.1 Markham E-Scooter Pilot from Scooty.

Moaz Ahmad, Co-Founder & Chief Community Officer of Scooty provided an update on the E-Scooter Pilot which was a demonstration project funded by the Ontario Vehicle Innovation Network (OVIN) and Scooty was the service provider of the project. This pilot project will be wrapping up by the end of March 2025.

Future pilot projects/programs, if any, would be conducted by the City of Markham's Transportation Services, with input and feedback from CPAC. Moaz advised that Scooty has received a lot of positive feedback from the City of Markham on the pilot project. There is interest in conducting similar pilot programs by the City rather than an OVIN Demonstration Zone pilot.

Using PowerPoint slides, Moaz provided answers to the questions raised by members of the CPAC in December 2024. He requested that these not be circulated to the public at large. The Chair will send the information to individual CPAC members upon request.

Responding to a question from Peter Miasek, Chair, CPAC, Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation suggested that staff would like to see the final report from Economic Development to OVIN summarising the pilot prior to deciding on a future pilot. He further advised that the results presented by Moaz were very

helpful. Eric advised that staff will follow up with Economic Development to find out when such a report is likely to be received.

Responding to a question about Enterprise Blvd, Moaz advised that, in consultation with staff, Scooty allowed riding on the sidewalk at 15 kph as well as on the roadway at 20kph, in order to increase rider safety and comfort.

Cr. Reid McAlpine suggested that, as a Member of Council, he would be in favour of putting in place another pilot program and expanding it carefully in a database and evidence-based way. One would need to carefully consider the places that people would like to go to. He suggested including the trail system within the geofenced area, along with limiting the speed and posting speed limit signs on the trails for privately owned electric vehicles and cyclists. This would send a message to the users that speed is a concern. This would involve a robust public education / communication program informing users accordingly.

Responding to this suggestion, Moaz advised that the City of Toronto has signage indicating a 20 kph speed limit on their trails. Moaz agreed to share this information with the Chair of CPAC to be disseminated to the members of CPAC. He further advised that Scooty, as a service provider, has reduced the speed to 15 kph speed limit on Enterprise sidewalk in Markham. He further advised that if the City is introducing a similar pilot or program, there is no requirement that it must be a city-wide pilot or program. Such pilots or programs can be restricted to certain trails or sections of the City, to be determined by the City. The City should have control and ownership of such pilot/programs and the results thereof. This would be a good way to make it a sustainable and effective program. Moaz indicated that Scooty would be willing to share a more robust micromobility program with the City.

Cr. McAlpine suggested that it would be a good idea to survey pedestrians to get a sense of how safe they feel with bicycles using the same trails at a particular speed they are riding at. Such a survey/s will help determine the appropriate speed such electric vehicles should be travelling at on trails. Joska suggested that speed depends on the situation.

Moaz advised that Cr. Rea did a survey with her residents in Ward 4 to seek their opinion on this matter. CPAC will discuss the results when available. He further suggested that a City-wide survey would be an excellent way to get some feedback on this issue. It would be a good idea to share this with residents to inform them on what this is all about and what the City's goals are on this initiative.

Responding to a question from Peter Miasek, Chair of CPAC, Moaz advised that when service providers approach the City with such programs, the City is advised that there will be no cost to the City, in fact, the City may benefit from receiving revenue out of such programs, e.g., trip fees, vehicle fees, administration fees,

etc. The biggest benefit out of such programs is that shared micromobility is the best option of getting around the City and learning how to make that program work.

6. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

6.1 Winter Pathway Network for Walkers

Cr. Reid McAlpine spoke to the following motion. There are some changes from the motion presented January 16 following comments from Eric Chan, Senior Manager of Transportation and staff from Engineering and Operations Departments.

Moved by: Cr. Reid McAlpine

Seconded by: Anthony Ko

Whereas, when weather allows, Markham residents benefit from an extensive system of parks and green spaces, and pathways through those parks and green spaces.

Whereas most of our park assets are not accessible for as many as 4 months a year due to winter weather.

Whereas outdoor winter activity should be encouraged to address the physical and mental health of residents.

Whereas City Council has endorsed an Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) in 2021 that recommends pedestrian and cycling network capital improvements to encourage people of all ages and abilities to walk and cycle.

Whereas the ATMP includes a recommendation on “Implement a pilot project to provide winter maintenance of a cycling spine network to evaluate costs and uptake.”.

Whereas the City of Markham implemented the winter maintenance pilot project for some paved park pathways since 2021, and provided a feasibility analysis (See appendix 1, staff report May 10, 2021, and appendix 2, staff memorandum July 13, 2021).

Whereas the 2021 reports analysed paving and maintaining all park pathways and at that time the cost was determined by council to be excessive.

Whereas the council-endorsed Greenprint Sustainability Plan suggests aggressive measures to reduce the environmental impact of city activities.

Whereas the council-endorsed Markham Municipal Energy Plan includes a commitment to net zero emissions by 2050.

Whereas Markham is currently developing the Vision Zero Road Safety Plan, School Zones Safety Guide and the Transportation Master Plan, all of which would have a variety of means to provide a safer walking and cycling network.

Whereas the city is committed to the development of “complete communities” such that extensive walking facilities are provided and walking is encouraged for short trips.

Whereas walking facilities of all types should be considered as part of the city’s transportation network 365 days a year, as are roads.

Whereas the current service level includes ploughing only a limited number of already-paved pathways that do not constitute an integrated network designed to serve significant destinations.

Whereas networked transportation systems that serve destinations are typically more heavily used than non-networked transportation assets, such as dead-end streets.

Whereas park and open space pathways often provide more direct routes to destinations than the ploughed sidewalk network.

Whereas the city sponsors an Active School Travel program to encourage walking to and from schools, while approximately 40% of the school year (ten months between September to June) is in the winter (four months between December and March).

Whereas pathways linking ploughed city sidewalks to school yards are generally not ploughed.

Whereas unploughed park pathways are often heavily used but pose a safety risk due to icing and uneven surfaces.

Whereas many local streets in mature neighbourhoods do not have sidewalks that might otherwise be ploughed in the winter.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommends that Markham Council direct staff to commission a feasibility study taking into consideration the engineering, operations and financial aspects with the aim of identifying a network of existing unpaved pathways to be paved and/or ploughed through parks and green spaces that links destinations, especially those frequented by children and youths throughout the city, such as public and secondary schools, community centres, shopping centres, and all roads with transit stops.

And be it further resolved, for clarity, that it is not recommended that all existing unploughed pathways be paved and ploughed; only those identified in the feasibility study that are considered part of a complete active transportation

network serving appropriate destinations, should be considered for paving and ploughing.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that the City work continue with the school boards to address unploughed pathways between ploughed city facilities and school yards.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that Markham Council direct staff to include a 2026 capital budget submission to undertake the feasibility study.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends that staff report back to Markham Council in 2027 on the findings and recommendations of the feasibility study, and that staff update the Markham Active Transportation Master Plan to include the identified existing unpaved pathways as part of a prioritized multi-year capital implementation program.

And be it further resolved that CPAC recommends to Markham Council that this motion be shared with the directors and all trustees of the York Region District School Board and the York Catholic District School Board.

CARRIED

Responding to a question from Cr. McAlpine as to when this motion will be sent to Clerks, John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT) advised that the minutes will be sent to Clerks after they are approved at the next Official CPAC meeting in May 2025.

Cr McAlpine subsequently moved the following motion:

**Moved by: Cr. McAlpine
Seconded by: Doug Wolfe**

That this motion be forwarded to Clerks before the minutes are approved at the next quarterly meeting.

CARRIED

7. STANDING ITEMS & ONGOING PROJECTS

In view of time constraints, Peter Miasek advised Fion to circulate the slides for the following agenda items to the CPAC members so they can forward questions, if any, for consideration at the next CPAC meeting.

7.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

- **Markham Transportation Master Plan**
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that the study contains developing a micromobility strategy that would consider regulations, requirements, working with different stakeholders culminating into a plan that will provide staff with next steps in the project. Fion also alluded to

the project's schedule that included various engagement opportunities that were completed and planned for in the future. She further alluded to an online survey that is available at:

<https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/markham-transportation-master-plan> and encouraged CPAC members to participate and share with friends and family.

- Vision Zero Road Safety Plan

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that a PIC is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, March 25, 2025, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Markham Civic Centre (Canada Room)

- City-Wide Parking Strategy

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that a Council Workshop has been planned for Q2 of 2025 on the City-Wide Parking Strategy with a scheduled delivery by the end of 2025. Information about this initiative is available on <https://yourvoicemarkham.ca/markham-citywide-parking-strategy>.

- Markham Centre Trail Updates

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that the Phase 3 Trail construction (Birchmount – Warden south side of river) is expected to be completed by spring of 2025.

Regarding the Phase 4 Design near Apple Creek discussed last month, several CPAC members have visited the site and also question why the proposed trail is not on the east side of the creek. Capital Planning Group will respond to CPAC at its March meeting.

Cr. Ritch Lau encouraged CPAC members to attend a PIC in mid-April, when he is also expecting residents from Montgomery Court to speak in support of the new trails. Responding to a question from a CPAC member, Cr. Lau agreed to email details of the PIC to CPAC members.

- Active Transportation Funding and Bill 212

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation provided updates on the federal Active Transportation Funding and Bill 212 status received from the province. The 7 ATF priority locations will proceed as scheduled and have received an extension for completion by January 2027. A 2025 Capital Project List has been submitted for ATF.

Responding to a question from Cr. McAlpine, about the three traffic calming projects, Eric Chan, Senior Manager, Transportation advised that they are being delayed due to uncertainty about Bill 212 and whether Markham will be prescribed in regulation to seek provincial approval.

Joska noted that the three traffic calming projects where traffic lanes are being reduced are directed at traffic safety, thus providing some extra space to for bicycle lanes. Cr. McAlpine suggested that Joska prepare a motion requesting the Chair of CPAC to write a letter to the province, including Markham MPP, Billy Pang and the Minister of Transportation that this project be completed in 2025, your regulations are unclear and we don't want it to be delayed till 2026.

Moved by: Cr. McAlpine
Seconded by: Joska Zerczi

That the Chair of the CPAC send a letter to the province and the Minister of Transportation about completing the traffic calming projects in 2025.

CARRIED

7.2 School Programs & Pilots
No update

- 7.3 Reports to Council
- Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation provided an update of three upcoming reports due to the Development Services Committee in Q2/Q3 of 2025 on the School Zone Safety Guide, Vision Zero Road Safety Plan and the City-Wide Parking Strategy. Details will be provided to the CPAC when available.

7.4 EA Updates
No updates

- 7.5 Markham Cycling Day
- Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation advised that Markham Cycling Day, the City's signature event, is scheduled to be held on Sunday, June 15, 2025. The Committee is in the process of finalizing the logistics for the event, including the location, route and format of the event. Fion invited CPAC members to participate in this City of Markham signature event. Interested members were requested to reach out to her.

Joseph Lisi advised that Enbridge has volunteered to do the Barbeque for the Markham Cycling Day event. The Garden Basket, in collaboration with Maple Leaf Foods, has agreed to supply the food for the barbeque at a very low cost.

Fion thanked Joseph for initiating this arrangement with The Garden Basket and agreed to continue offline conversations with Joseph on this.

Peter Miasek advised that there are other food businesses on Main Street

who would like to participate as sponsors/donors, so it is good to have several options for food.

7.6 York Region Projects

No update

7.7 Subcommittee Updates

- Janes Walk. (received by email during meeting). Andrew Dang advised that the subcommittee is planning to meet within next week to create plans. CPAC members are encouraged to continue to send route recommendations to Andrew.
- No other updates

7.8 Markham Road Safety Plan

No update

7.9 Markham Cycles/CICS

No update

7.10 City Budget for AT related items – 2025

No update

7.11 CPAC Budget Review – 2025

No update

7.12 E-Bike/E-Scooter Pilot at Markham Centre

See Item 5.1

8. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

8.1 E-Bike/Scooter Survey from Councillor Rea

Deferred to next meeting when full results available.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Next informal meetings: March 20 and April 17, 2025.

Next formal meeting: May 15, 2025 (in-person).

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Addendum to Minutes – Key Actions to be Tracked

February 20, 2025

1. Encourage Economic Development to complete report on OVIN pilot (Eric)
2. Bring Winter Pathways motion to DSC (Reid)
3. Review Apple Creek trail at our meeting in March (Peter)
4. Prepare letter for province on traffic calming projects (Joska, Peter)

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, 2024 minutes. (Joska + committee)
2. Jane's Walk subcommittee to meet and focus on the May 2025 events, obtaining commitments from walk leaders, and then to begin working on publicity in the late winter/early spring (Andrew + Committee)
3. 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)