



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2020
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Attendance

Committee:

David Rawcliffe, Chair
Peter Miasek, Vice Chair
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8
Amit Arora
Anthony Ko
Colin Cassar
Doug Wolfe
Elisabeth Tan
Gordon Lawson
Jozsef Zerczi
Paul Salvo

Staff:

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation
Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation
Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Agency:

Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory Committee
Reena Mistry, YRDSB and YCDSB
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
Darryl Young, York Region Transportation
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health

Regrets:

Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Daniel Yeung
Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan

The Cycling & Pedestrian Committee convened at 7:04 PM with David Rawcliffe in the Chair.

1. Disclosure of Conflict of Interest

There was no disclosure of conflict of interest.

2. Approval/Modification of the Agenda

It was noted that 6.9 will be covered under 6.1 and 6.4.

3. Review of Minutes from the August 6, 2020 Meeting

It was noted that the following items will be placed on the September 29, 2020 Development Services Committee Agenda:

- The July 16, 2020, Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Minutes with the Committee's recommendation to Council pulled out and placed on the Agenda;
- The August 6, 2020 Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee Minutes to be received for information purposes (the recommendation made to staff in Minutes is referenced in the Road Safety Update – Staff Report);
- A Staff Report that provides a Road Safety Update.

The Committee discussed the Sub-Committee preparing and making deputation at the September 29 Development Services Committee meeting on its motion, and on the Staff report. The Sub-Committee was comprised of Peter Miasek, Elisabeth Tan, and Sari Liem (will only participate in the deputation if permission is obtained from York Region Public Health).

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

That the Minutes from the August 6, 2020 Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee be received as presented.

Carried

4. Pertinent Information from Guest Speakers

This item was not discussed.

5. Business Arising From the Last Meeting

This item was not discussed.

6. Standing Items and Ongoing Projects

6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

Staff provided an update on the City's ongoing active transportation projects, and provided the following responses to Committee inquiries:

John Street Multi Use Pathway and Feasibility Study for Trail Connections

- The construction of the John Street Multi Use Pathway, and the design work for the Unionville Main Street/ Highway 7 underpass have been deferred due to budget constraints;
- The City will not lose its provincial grant for the construction of the John Street Multi Use Pathway, as the deadline for the work to be completed has been extended due to COVID-19.

Sidewalk Completion Program

- The Communication Plan is an important component of the Sidewalk Completion Program and will be rolled out this Fall.

Markham Centre Multi Use Pathway

- The Markham Centre Multi Use Pathway will be located between Highway 7 and the 407 within the Rouge Valley.
- Having separate trails for pedestrians and cyclist in Markham Centre would substantially increase the cost of the project, as more land would be required;
- It is not a City practice to separate cycling and pedestrian trails nor is it a practice of many municipalities;
- The surface will likely be asphalt.

Members expressed concern regarding the risks associated with cyclists and pedestrians sharing multi-use pathways,

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Reena Mistry, from York Region District School Board and York Catholic District School, provided an update on the Active School Travel Pilot Project. Some of the highlights of the update included:

- Additional bike racks were installed at 9 schools;
- New traffic safety tools are being used at 4 schools;
- Some aspects of the programs are reduced due to COVID-19 restrictions, such as data collection, handing out giveaways, celebrations and etc.
- Initiated “Walking Wednesdays” program on September 16;
- Parent volunteers erected family connection signs (signs meant to be used as family meeting spots);
- Majority of funds have been spent;
- Was successful in having the active school safety guidelines circulated with the re-opening of the schools;
- There is no data on the usage of the program, but will try to monitor the program going forward;
- New Members are welcome to join the Sub-Committee.

It was also noted that Markham Cycles donated 35 repaired bikes and helmets to Copper Glen Public School and Randall Public School, and offered a free webinar on bike safety.

The Committee suggested expanding the program to high schools, that there is a need to install video cameras near bike racks at school, and that the bicycle shop on Main Street Markham may be interested in getting involved with this program.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan – Updates

An update on the Active Transportation Master Plan was provided.

6.4 Reports to Council

Staff shared a list of upcoming Council Reports related to active transportation. It was highlighted that the “COVID-19 Traffic Operations Project Updates” will inform Council the effectiveness of various AT measures, and recommends similar implementation for next year.

It was also mentioned that the “Road Safety Update” report will be tabled with CPAC July and August meeting minutes at the September 29 DSC Meeting. A Road Safety Subcommittee is formed by Peter Miasek, Elisabeth Tan and Sari Liem. The Subcommittee will make a deputation at the DSC Meeting.

6.5 EA Updates

Staff provided an update on a list of City and Regional Environmental Assessments projects in Markham.

In response to an inquiry from the Committee regarding the intersection at McCowan Road & Highway 7, staff advised that York Region Staff committed to undertaking safety review of McCowan in this area (including this intersection) at a Cycling & Pedestrian Meeting held last year.

Diana Kakamousias, York Region will follow-up with York Region Staff on this matter.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

This item was not discussed.

6.7 Cycling Gaps Committee

This item was not discussed.

6.8 York Region Projects – Bike Share Presentation

Darryl Young, York Region provided a presentation entitled “An Evaluation of Bike Share Program Potential in York Region”. A copy of the presentation will be circulated to the Committee for information purposes.

Some of the highlights of the presentation included:

- Vaughan, Richmond Hill, and Markham have the highest ridership potential;
- Areas with the highest bike share potential have high density, transit, and walkable destinations within 5 KM from each other;
- The Yonge Street Corridor would be a good location for a bike share program today;

- Markham GO, Unionville, Markham Civic Centre, and Langstaff Thornhill are areas that could potentially support a bike share program in the future;
- Envisioned as a local municipality-led pilot project with in-kind, and limited financial support from York Region.

Mr. Young provided the following responses to the Committee's inquiries:

- It is anticipated that e-bikes will be borrowed to go to the transit station or to the shopping mall, and dropped off at these locations;
- A forum of municipal representatives from various GTA municipalities have been meeting and sharing information on e-scooters;
- An update on e-scooters is anticipated to be provided to York Region Council, but it will not include recommendations;
- This summer, Toronto decided to refer action on e-scooter approval back to staff to develop an approach to reduce safety and liability concerns, by 2021. York Region is waiting for more Canadian municipalities to implement e-scooter sharing programs prior to considering this type of a program in the Region.

6.9 Pedestrian & Cycling Safety Measures

This item was not discussed.

7. Info Item/New Business/Announcements

7.1 Cycling & Pedestrian Program and Projects for 2021

This item was deferred to the next meeting, but it will be prioritized at the next meeting.

7.2 Federal COVID Resilience Funding

Peter Miasek, Vice-Chair advised that the Federal Government is providing COVID Resilience Funding to municipalities, which can be used towards active transportation. He inquired if the City would consider applying for funds under this program.

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager of Transportation advised that it is his understanding that the program will be a cost-sharing program administered by the Province, but information on the program has yet to release. The City will review the program once more information is available.

7.3 Status Markham Budget 2021 Planning

City staff continue to make refinements to the budget. All projects are under review due to budget constraints. The Budget would typically be approved at the end of 2020, or in early 2021. However, the schedule to approve the budget has yet to be released.

7.4 Next Steps on Trail & Cycling Map

Committee requested that the interactive trail map on the City's website be updated to be consistent with the new trail map, and to include the type of trail.

Staff committed to work with ITS to update the interactive trail map.

8. Adjournment

The Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.