



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 19, 2020
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Attendance

Committee:

David Rawcliffe, Chair
Peter Miasek, Vice Chair
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair
Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Amit Arora
Anthony Ko
Colin Cassar
Doug Wolfe
Elisabeth Tan
Jozsef Zerczi
Paul Salvo

Guest Speakers:

Alain Cachola, Senior Manager, Capital
Alberto Lim, Senior Capital Engineer
Tricia Radbun, RJ Burnside
Yvonne Verlinden, TCAT
Keenan Mosdell, TCAT

Staff:

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

Agency:

Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation

Regrets:

Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Daniel Yeung
Mauricio Martinez
Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory Committee
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8

The Cycling & Pedestrian Committee convened at 7:03 PM with David Rawcliffe in the Chair.

1. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of conflict of interests.

2. APPROVAL/MODIFICATION OF THE AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

3. REVIEW OF THE MINUTES: OCTOBER 15, 2020

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

That the Minutes from the October 15 2020, Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved as presented.

Carried

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKER

4.1 Markham Centre Trail Environmental Assessment Study

Alain Cachola, Senior Manager of Infrastructure and Capital Projects, Alberto Lam, Project Manager, and Tricia Radburn, RJ Burnside Consultants were in attendance to provide a presentation on Markham Centre Trail Environmental Assessment Study. Mr. Cachola introduced the project, and Ms. Radburn delivered the PowerPoint presentation.

Ms. Radburn provided an overview of the Markham Centre Trail project and explained that project is currently in Phase 3 of the EA process. She further discussed some of the challenges and presented 3 alternative alignments. The current project focuses on identifying the conceptual trail and bridge designs. A second public open house is expected to take place in early 2021.

Peter Miasek asked about the possibilities of installing 2 separate pathways, one for pedestrians and one for cyclists within this trail, at least in some areas such as hills. Alain Cachola explained that a single 3m wide MUP is the current City's standard. Anything beyond this standard would require further discussion with TRCA and City staff. He further suggested that City staff would be open to discussion should there be changes and updates to this MUP standard. Ms. Tricia Radburn noted that an additional pathway may have an impact resulting in more disturbance on the natural environmental and woodland.

Councillor McAlpine suggested the need to standardize surface material. City staff has noted the comment and will work with Operations Department to ensure a standard approach is taken.

Elisabeth Tan inquired about winter maintenance for this trail. Alain Cachola responded that once the trail alignment is identified, City staff will work with the Operations Department to determine opportunities and cost after the EA is completed.

Joska Zerczi made a comment about connecting the trail beyond the Markham Centre Area in order to form a continuous network. City staff explained that the long-term plan is to connect the Markham Centre Trail to the existing trail network once fully constructed.

4.2 Markham Cycles – 2020 Program Review

Yvonne Verlinden, Centre for Active Transportation delivered a presentation to provide an update on the 2020 Markham Cycles Program. Yvonne explained that as a result of COVID-19, many of

the planned program was cancelled. Some programs were changed and managed to still be implemented for this year. This included: Bike Rescue Program, Cycle the City with youth, Back to School by Bike Giveaway, Bike Booth on Enterprise Blvd & Saturdays in Parks, Markham Cycles More, and virtual workshops. There are a few activities to be carried out in the remainder of the year including: winter cycling webinar, volunteer appreciation event, bike parking audit and reporting on 2020 activities to funders.

TCAT was successful in obtaining the Trillium Grow Grant for next 3 years. There are plans to grow the current bike programs to other areas in York Region. TCAT is exploring opportunities to be part of the Active School Travel pilot (as part of the AST Innovate stream), as well as planning the 2021 Markham Cycling Day event.

The Committee thanked Keenan Mosdell for his helpful and outstanding service at the Milliken Mills bike hub and throughout the bike tune-up booth events.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

5.1 Report on 16th Avenue Intersections (Kennedy/Warden)

As part of the 16th Ave EA – detailed design work, Peter Miasek has reached out to York Region requesting protected intersection (corner refuge island) designs at Kennedy Road and Warden Ave. Peter informed the Committee that the idea was rejected and the current plans are for a standard intersection with cross-ride markings through the intersection.

A sub-committee was suggested and formed to continue explore this issue. It was suggested that the Sub-committee consult with City staff prior to approaching York Region staff.

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

The following Sub-Committee was created to address matters pertaining to the intersections at Kennedy Road and Warden Avenue with members including:

Peter Miasek

Elisabeth Tan

David Rawcliffe

Carried

5.2 Report from Sub-Committees

a. Bike Share Sub-Committee

Peter Miasek advised that the Sub-Committee conducted a phone call with Toronto Parking Authority, and is working on assimilating information from bike share providers.

b. Vision Zero Sub-Committee

Steve Glassman advised that the Sub-Committee had one meeting and continues to explore the challenges and benefits of the “Vision Zero” brand.

c. Share Paths Sub-Committee

David Rawcliffe and Elisabeth Tan advised that the Sub-Committee is conducting research on problems with shared pathways, and on best practices with respect to shared pathways. For example, research best practices for splitting the pathway on or near hills where cyclist are often travelling at a higher speed. The Sub-Committee is working on a report that it strives to bring forward to the Committee in 2021.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek provided an update on the success and next steps with respect to the active travel to school pilot project at 9 Markham’s elementary schools.

Project Success

- Tier 1 - Marketing, Communication, and Education – The program achieved a high level of communication and education with students, parents and staff. ;
- Tier 2 - School Classroom Competition – Worked well in some school, but the competition was not held in all schools. The competition was challenging to coordinate, and it was difficult to provide incentives to encourage participation.
- Tier 3 - Family Connection System (family meeting spots to encourage walking school buses organized by families themselves) – It is too early to determine if the program is effective.
- Tier 4 - Engineering Enhancements (wayfinding signs, and traffic stencil) – The program was well received, and the artwork has been shared with York Region.
- Tier 5 - Traffic Engineering Enhancements (no stopping signage, red line paint, school zone road stencils, and ladder crosswalk) – Observed positive changes to driver behaviour at 3 out of 4 of the schools;
- Tier 6 - Walking Wednesday – Kiss and Ride Closure – The Student Council has requested that another walking day be added, and few parent complaints have been received. At this time, the program is only being offered at John McRae Public School.

Next Steps

There are 3 remaining tasks to complete before June 2021 as part of the current grant. The final report on the pilot project will be finalized in July-August 2021.

An application is being submitted to receive a grant up to \$30,000 from the Ontario Active School Transportation Fund – Innovate Stream. A meeting was held on November 12 to brainstorm ideas for the grant proposal.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan Updates

The Council report for the Active Transportation Master Plan is tentatively deferred to December 8. Related documents are in preparation, including an updated AT Facility and Intersection Design Guideline, Network Phasing Plan, and Staff Resourcing Plan. City staff also advised that the draft Pedestrian Charter is completed and will be circulated to the Committee for comment.

There was a question on how the design guideline will be different from York Region's version. City staff explained that the design guideline as part of this project is intended for local and collector roads, as well as focus on transition treatments at intersections.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Traffic Memo at Nov 9 DSC

A Council Report entitled "Traffic Operations Project Update" was brought forward to the Development Services Committee on November 9, 2020. The recommendation approved by Council was shared with the Committee. As part of the resolution, Council approved permanently prohibiting parking and reducing the speed limit to 30 km per hour on Main Street Unionville, and reducing the speed limit on Main Street Markham between Drive and Highway 7 to 40 km per hour. In addition, City Staff are directed to explore opportunities of an Open Street program for 2021.

7.2 Summary of Active Transportation Projects

Peter Miasek provided an overview of the Active Transportation Project table as of November 11, 2020, which was circulated to the Committee with the agenda package.

7.3 Discussion Items

Jozsef Zerczi requested that a trail connection from Rouge Valley Trail to Russell Jarvis Drive, and expressed concern in regards to students trying to cross the street at Wood Thrush Avenue, and Russell Jarvis Drive to get to Legacy Public School.

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation agreed to see if a connection to the trail can be added on Russell Jarvis Drive, as part of the City's sidewalk program. Staff are also working with the School Board and Parent Council to calm traffic in front of Legacy Public School. A formal pedestrian crossing is not yet warranted in this location. Staff will continue to monitor and explore different options.

7.4 2021 City Budget

City Staff presented a list of proposed 2021 budget items related to active transportation. It was advised that all of the Active Transportation Capital Budget Projects were approved by the Budget Committee and will be confirmed in December.

Peter Miasek asked about the budget status to develop the Road Safety Plan (\$250K), which was approved by Council in the Fall. Staff advised that they do not have the resources to manage this until later in 2021. This will be in a Phase 2 budget to be tabled this Fall.

7.5 Status of External Funding Sources

City staff provided a list of projects that received external funds. It was mentioned that Markham is coordinating an application for the provincial Covid Resiliency Fund.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting of the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be held on December 17, 2020 at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:00 PM.