



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

Attendance

Committee:

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

Staff:

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

Agency:

Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health

Regrets:

Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Mauricio Martinez
Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory
Committee
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:06 PM with David Rawcliffe in the Chair.

1. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures of conflict of interests.

2. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

There were no modifications to the agenda.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: NOVEMBER 19, 2020

The following changes were made to the November 19, 2020 CPAC Minutes:

- Add from Highway 7 to **Bullock** – item 7.1
- change “request” to “suggest” – item 7.3

Moved by Anthony Ko

Seconded by Peter Miasek

That the Minutes of the November 19, 2020, Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved as amended.

Carried

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

There were no guest speakers

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City’s Ongoing AT Project Updates

There was no update provided on this item.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Markham Active School Travel Program. The pilot program is being offered at nine Markham elementary schools until June 2021 with three remaining initiatives to complete. This includes an education and communication campaign, school banners at each school, and permanent family connection signs near the schools.

Peter also reported that an application was submitted for the Ontario Active School Transportation Innovation Fund Grant. He explained that grant will be used to expand the current school pilot program to more schools, and working with Markham Cycles, to have pop-up booths at the pilot schools to educate students on cycling safety and offer bike tune-up. The grant will also allow for the exploration of School Streets at a potential pilot school. The total budget of this expansion will be \$60,000 with grants covering \$30,000 and contribution from other funders.

Committee asked the following questions:

- Could the teachers ask the students how far they walk or cycle to school?

(Note: York Region Public Health is interested in quantifying this data to promote the health benefits of walking or cycling to school)

- Are there any pilot programs that encourage active school transportation at high schools?

- Could the teacher ask the students if they travel to school with their parents or friends?

Peter Miasek advised that the program has focused on elementary schools, as the grants available are for improving active school transportation at the elementary level, and explained that the student survey conducted by the teacher can only include a few questions, which limits the data that can be collected. Mr. Miasek agreed to ask the School Board if they have data on how far students walk or cycle to school.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation advised that the report going to Council on the Active Transportation Master Plan has been deferred to January or February of 2021. The draft Executive Summary, and draft Pedestrian Charter were circulated to the Committee for its feedback.

The Committee requested that the Active Transportation Master Plan Design Guidelines, and the Short-term Implementation Plan also be circulated to the Committee prior to it being brought forward to Council for endorsement.

6.4 Reports to Council

There was no update on this item.

6.5 EA Updates

There was no update on this item.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

Staff advised that a Sub-Committee meeting was held in December. The subcommittee agreed that there will be a 2021 Markham Cycling Day, but that the format of the event will be different due to the pandemic. The event is targeted to be held in mid June, and provides an opportunity to highlight the urban walking and cycling loops. Aviva has expressed an interest in sponsoring the event. The Sub-Committee will meet again on January 15, 2021 to start planning the event. Everyone is welcome to attend the meeting.

6.7 York Region Projects

There was no update provided on this item.

6.8 Subcommittee Updates (Vision Zero, Shared Pathways, Bike Share, 16th Intersections)

Vision Zero Subcommittee

Steven Glassman reported that the Sub-Committee was tasked to: 1) study Markham's current road safety plans to see if it follows the "vision zero" principles, and 2) evaluate whether "vision zero" is an appropriate name for Markham to use. The Sub-Committee will start with interviewing other municipalities on their reasoning for "using" or "not using" the "vision zero" name. The subcommittee is expected to report on recommendations in 2021.

Shared Pathways Sub Committee

David Rawcliffe advised that the Sub-Committee has met twice, and will meet again in the New Year. The focus of the discussion has mostly been on cycling and pedestrian conflicts. The Sub-Committee is researching best practices around the world in regards to resolving cycling and pedestrian conflicts. The concerns regarding sharing pathways are generally coming from pedestrians. Once the review is completed, Sub-Committee plan to discuss with Markham staff.

Bike Share Sub-Committee

Peter Miasek advised that the Sub-Committee had a meeting with BikeShare Toronto/Toronto Parking Authority. The meeting created a better understanding of both the capital and operating costs of starting a bike-share program in Markham. It also highlighted the benefits of partnering with BikeShare Toronto if the City was to pursue a bike sharing initiative. A Sub-Committee meeting will be held to discuss the next steps.

Peter Miasek agreed to circulate the notes from the meeting with BikeShare Toronto with the Committee. Additionally, the Sub-Committee will explore the use of “e-bikes” or “traditional bikes” as part of the potential bike-sharing program in Markham.

16th Avenue intersection Sub-Committee

Peter Miasek advised that York Region has rejected the idea of having a corner refuge island on 16th Ave at Warden Avenue and at Kennedy Road. The next step is for the Sub-Committee to meet and decide how it will move forward.

6.9 Road Safety

In response to an inquiry from the Committee, Loy Cheah advised that staff will focus on the following activities prior to the formal development of a Road Safety Plan:

- Implementing of the Road Safety Educational Campaign;
- Improving road safety information on the City’s website;
- Active School Travel Pilot Project;
- Opportunities to improve pedestrian crossing in school zones,
- Complete the Copper CreekDr road diet pilot; and,
- Side Walk Network Completion Program.

Staff advised that the work scope development will begin in 2021 with actual plan development planned for 2022, subject to budget approval. Staff are also waiting for the results from the York Region pilot projects on: 1) no right turns on a red-light; and 2) providing pedestrians with a head start when crossing the road. Once the pilot project results are available, the City will determine if these traffic-calming measures are transferable to Markham intersections. Staff regularly meet with York Region staff to discuss traffic related projects of shared interest. Budget and resources limit what the City can do in regards to traffic calming.

The City will not make any traffic safety recommendations at this time in regards to the cycling fatality on Carlton Avenue, as the incident is still under police investigation. Committee also discussed potentials of low-cost traffic calming measures, opportunities to work with York Region, and right-turn restriction.

6.10 Open Street – ideas for 2021

Loy Cheah advised that Council directed staff to develop an Open Street Plan, and suggested that a Sub-Committee be created in the New Year to work on the plan, and to look at if the open streets initiative was broad enough to include quiet streets. Committee asked that this item be added to the next agenda.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Denison Street crossing design at Stouffville GO line

Loy Cheah advised that staff met with Metrolinx to discuss possible pedestrian and cycling pathway improvement in the Denison Street crossing design at Stouffville GO Line by reducing the travel lane width and median island width and allocating more width to increase the widths of the 2 metre wide sidewalks.

7.2 COVID Resiliency Fund update

Loy Cheah advised that the City submitted an application for the COVID Resiliency Fund that focused on improving existing facilities to help stop the spread of the virus, and on projects related to the maintenance of existing green infrastructure, trails and parks amenities. The submission and completion timelines were too tight to consider using the funds for traditional engineering projects, such as creation of new trails.

7.3 CPAC 2021 Budget & work plan

Staff advised that the following 2021 Budget was approved by Council with the following budget line items related to the Committee:

- CPAC – \$25,400 (212025)
- Markham Cycling Day - \$10,200 (21030)

Staff suggested the Committee to think about how the budget will be used in 2021. In response to an inquiry from the Committee, Staff advised that it is a possibility that some of the CPAC Budget could be allocated towards traffic calming, and/or open streets initiative, subject to confirmation with Finance Department.

7.4 National Active Transportation Strategy

Peter Miasek advised that the Federal Government has made a commitment to developing an Active Transportation Strategy for Canada. No other details has been announced yet, and will continue to update Committee with further information.

7.5 Markham Golf & CC

Staff provided an update for the former Markham Golf site to address Doug Wolfe's inquiry to extend the trail connection from proposed Markham Centre Trail west towards 16th Avenue at the former Markham Golf site. There is currently lack of interests for redevelopment of this site at this time. Committee agreed to walk the area in the spring, and deferred any further discussion on this matter.

7.6 E-bikes and e-scooters discussion

The Committee discussed the Ministry of Transportations Power-Assisted Bicycle and Cargo E-Bike Pilot Program Proposals. It is noted that comments on the proposal are due on December 24, 2020. There was also a recent York Region Council report that allows and designate e-scooters to travel on HOV Lanes.

Committee discussed the matter and provided the following feedback:

- Did not support having e-bikes and e-scooters in the HOV lanes;
- Were unsure where e-scooters and other motorized devices should operate;
- Understood that the municipality has to address where various types of low speed motorized, electric devices can operate, and that this will be a struggle for the next several years;
- York Region Public Health is starting to look at hospitalization rates due to the use of e-scooters and bicycles.

The City is still deciding how it will address e-bikes and e-scooters, but staff will need to bring a report to Council in this regard soon. Staff will continue to consult the CPAC Committee on this matter.

7.7 2021 Meeting Dates

The Committee reviewed the 2021 proposed meeting schedule. Meetings will continue to be held the third Thursday of every month at 7:00 PM, excluding in July and August.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

The following items were requested to be added to the next agenda:

- Open Streets Plan – creating a Sub-Committee to assist with this initiative;

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Chair wished everyone Happy Holidays.

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:01 AM.