



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 2021
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Attendance

Committee:

David Rawcliffe, Chair
Peter Miasek, Vice Chair
Steve Glassman, Vice-Chair
Amit Arora
Doug Wolfe
Elisabeth Tan
Jozsef Zerczi
Paul Salvo
Anthony Ko
Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8

Public Member/Guests:

Roman Komarov
Jessica Wu, York Region
Jeff Hignett, York Region
Yvonne Verlinden, Markham Cycles
Sarah Sterling, Unionville BIA

Staff:

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

Agency:

Sari Liem, York Region Public Health
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health

Regrets:

Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Colin Cassar
Daniel Yeung
Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory
Committee
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB

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 conflicts of interest.

2. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA

- Item 7.1 – Deferred until further noticed
- Item 7.8 – School Travel Update was added to the agenda.

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Steve Glassman

That the February 18, 2021 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee Agenda be approved as amended.

Carried

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: January 21, 2021

Moved by Steve Glassman
Seconded by Peter Miasek

The Minutes from the January 21, 2021 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee were approved as presented.

Carried

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

Sara Sterling from the Unionville Business Improvement Area was in attendance for the discussion on the slow streets initiative.

4.1 York Region Public Health – Healthy Built Environment

Sari Liem, Healthy Built Environment, York Region provided a presentation. It was noted that chronic diseases caused by the lack of physical exercise have a high cost to society. To help address this issue, York Region currently has a number of programs and policies that work towards creating healthy and walking communities. One of the recent initiatives is the 15-minute walkable community model.

4.2 York Region Planning – 15min Walking City Presentation

Jessica Wu, York Region Planning, provided an overview of the 15-minute community. She also explained that York Region is developing an assessment tool to measure the walkability of its communities based on a number of key indicators. The tool would suggest where gaps may exist.

Committee suggested the following should also be considered:

- To include places to work, and if there are co-working spaces close to home;
- The quality of the commute to the amenity;
- The cycling and driving distance to key amenities.

Jessica Wu advised that work establishments are being incorporated into the walkable community analysis. It was noted that although there may be employment within a 15 minute walk from home, it may not match the skills of the residents living in the walkable community. Graduate students from Queens University are also studying the quality of the journey. The distances could also be converted into cycling or driving distances.

4.3 York Region Planning – Mentimeter Polling & Discussion

Committee completed a mentimeter survey on what makes their walk and bike rides safe and enjoyable, and how they normally get to 8 key amenities, such as grocery stores, parks and trails, and libraries. The stats collected will be shared with the Committee.

Jeff Hignett, from York Region Planning, demonstrated the 15-Minute Community prototype to Committee. The walkability of a community is being measured by connecting address parcels to key destinations to measure the access to amenities.

Jessica Wu & Jeff Hignett advised that Richmond Hill was selected to test the tool. The tool to measure the walkability of other communities will be rolled-out across York Region in the near future. The information will be shared with all of York Region's local municipalities with the objective of helping them make informed decisions.

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

There was no update provided on this item.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

There was no update provided on this item.

6.4 Reports to Council

There was no update provided on this item.

6.5 EA Updates

There was no update provided on this item.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation provided an update on the Markham Cycling Day event. The event is tentatively scheduled to be held on June 13th. The event will be held "ride on your own with pre-determined routes". Currently, the planning committee is looking at ideas to enhance the event, possibly by making it part of the open streets program. The next meeting to discuss the event will be held on February 24, 2021.

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)

The following Sub-Committee updates were provided:

Vision Zero Sub-Committee

Steve Glassman, Chair of the Vision Zero Sub-Committee advised that there was nothing new to report since the last meeting. Members of the Sub-Committee are in the process of interviewing other municipalities and stakeholders on the use of “Vision Zero” name.

Shared Pathways Sub-Committee

David Rawcliffe, Chair of the Shared Pathways Sub-Committee reported that the Sub-Committee’s position paper on shared pathways has been circulated to the Committee for its review. The report will be discussed in more detail at the March CPAC meeting.

Bike Share Sub-Committee

Peter Miasek, Chair of the Bike Share Sub-Committee reported that Sub-Committee has concluded that the City does not have the funding or staff resources to pursue a bike sharing initiative at this time. It is now focusing on expanding the Markham Cycles bike rental program.

16th Avenue Intersections

Peter Miasek advised that no progress has been made since the last meeting when it was reported that York Region rejected its idea of having corner islands at the intersection of 16th Avenue and Kennedy Road. The Sub-Committee is still determining its next steps.

6.9 Road Safety

No update was provided on this item.

6.10 Open Streets

Peter Miasek advised that the Sub-Committee had three meetings to-date. Some of the ideas being explored for include:

- Slow Street – restricted local access on Main street Unionville;
- Open Streets - weekly closure on Sunday for three months on sections of Middlefield Road, Brimley Road, Green Lane and/or Enterprise Blvd
- Road Diet/Resizing - Carlton (between Kennedy Road and McCowan Road) and Main Street Markham (between Bullock Drive and 16th Avenue)
- Marketing and communications plan will be involved to help promote the program

Committee provided the following feedback:

- Suggested that Green Lane may not be a good candidate for the open street initiative, as it will likely not be supported by the Ward Councillor;

- Suggested that there should be activities to do on the streets being selected for the the open street or road diet initiatives.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 School Safety Information Presentation

This item was deferred until further notice.

7.2 Markham Cycles Update

Yvonne Verlinden, Project Manager (Markham Cycles), The Centre for Active Transportation provided the following update:

- Markham Cycles is expected to experience disruption due to COVID-19 as Milliken Mills Community Centre remain closed
- Continue to provide community bike booths on Markham Cycling Day, Markham Open Street Program, and Saturday in the Parks
- Work with YRDSB, though OAST grant, to deliver bike booths at 9 elementary schools, and possibly having a school street pilot;
- Looking at alternative locations for the library bike loan program;
- Continue to hold online cycling related workshops;
- Conducting a study in partnership with Ryerson University on e-bike travel shift;
- Loaning refurbished bikes to newcomer youth;
- Work with CICS to refurbish and donate bikes;
- Expanding fleet of bikes by purchasing new bikes;
- Conducting physical activity surveys;
- Partnering with CPAC and City of Markham.

7.3 Healthy Communities Initiative – Proposed AT Projects

Peter Miasek advised that the City will be applying for funds under the \$31M federal investment program to transform public space in response to COVID-19.

Some project ideas included:

- Open Streets Program that include slow street on Main St. Unionville and Sunday weekly closure
- Installing pedestrian crosswalks at 21 elementary schools that are on collector roads (round 2).

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation advised that the City is reaching out to the Markham community for project ideas. Senior Management will decide, which projects to recommend to Council by March 1. Community Groups can also apply for the grant independently.

Sari Liem advised that grant application should support physical distancing and needs to show how vulnerable populations will be addressed. York Region can provide data on vulnerable groups as necessary.

7.4 Active Transportation Infrastructure in FUA

Peter Miasek requested that staff provide a presentation on Markham's Future Urban Area at the March or April Meeting. Loy Cheah advised that staff will strive to provide a response in upcoming meetings.

7.5 Motion on John Street MUP

Committee asked for an update on the status of the John Street Multi Use Pathway at the next meeting, as it was concerned that the construction of the pathway has not started yet.

7.6 Huntington Trail Foot Bridge

Loy Cheah advised that he will consult with the City's Operations Department on the plans for the Huntington Trail Foot Bridge and report back at the next meeting.

7.7 Website Updates Staff

Fion Ho advised that the interactive pathway and trail map, and the active school travel webpage on Markham website have been updated.

7.8 Active School Travel

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Active School Travel program. The program will receive conditional funds from the Innovation Fund to implement a school street "closure" pilot. Members are welcome to join the Sub-Committee.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- Share Pathway Subcommittee Report Review
- FUA Network Update
- John St. MUP Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

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