



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

Attendance

Committee:

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

Public Member/Guests:

Nancy Smith Lea, TCAT (Markham Cycles)

Staff:

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

Agency:

Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB

Regrets:

Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Daniel Yeung
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health
Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory Committee

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:05 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

There were no modifications to the agenda.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: February 18, 2021

Moved by Steve Glassman
Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

That the Minutes from the February 18, 2021 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

Carried

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

There were no guest speakers.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

5.1 Shared Pathways Sub-Committee Update

David Rawcliffe referenced the Shared Pathways (MUP / MUT) vs. Separated Pathways/Tracks Position Paper from February 2021 prepared by the Shared Pathways Sub-Committee. The Committee expressed appreciation for the research conducted, and the usefulness of the paper as a guideline.

Staff advised that as part of the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) project, we are developing design guidelines for various active transportation facilities, where MUP design will be included. Once the draft guideline is available, it will be shared with the Committee for review. Staff recommended that the Committee review the ATMP report before taking further action.

Staff advised that York Region's general approach to regional roads design is to build separate facilities, and only accept Multi Use Pathways (MUP) when there was insufficient width for separated facilities.

Diana Kakamousias, from York Region Transportation shared feedback received from residents during York Region's implementation of separated facilities, including:

- The interference of the separated facility with boulevard tree plantings which add a safety feature by creating a buffer from the cars; and
- Unicycle tracks do not permit families to ride together and may not accommodate people with various abilities.

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine
Seconded by Peter Miasek

That the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee receive the Shared Pathways (MUP / MUT) vs. Separated Pathways/Tracks Position Paper report dated February 2021, as presented.

Carried

5.2 Active Transportation Infrastructure in FUA Update

Staff presented the City's current Future Urban Area (FUA) conceptual plans and cross-section for collector roads. For major and minor collector roads, MUPs are planned on both sides of the road with a minimum width of 3 meters. Although a minimum width of 3.5 m is preferred for a MUP, staff feels that a future splitting of a 3.0 m MUP into a uni-directional cycle track & sidewalk is feasible, if necessary, as traveller volumes will be low. Regional roads have a greater need to separate facilities, as they are longer and have greater traffic volume. The City will examine separating facilities when the volume on a road increases over time. It is also mentioned the maintenance requirement and cost for cycle track is much higher than MUPs.

There were comments from the Committee regarding MUPs near school site and whether the MUPs can be raised as they cross driveways

Staff will provide an update on the planned AT facilities on arterial roads and trails at a later time when more information is available.

5.3 John Street MUP Update

The Committee noted that the John Street MUP project had been tendered, but not awarded, and requested an update of the project highlighting that provincial funding will be lost if the project is not completed by 2021.

Staff, Deputy Mayor Hamilton, and Councillor McAlpine updated the Committee on the status of the project.

The Committee provided the following recommendation:

Moved by Peter Miasek
Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

WHEREAS a major strategic goal for Markham is to provide a network of routes for Active Transportation (AT) (*refer to Markham's: 2014 Official Plan; 2018 "Getting to Zero" plan; 2019 strategic plan "Building Markham's Future Together"*); and,

WHEREAS the John St MUP is a key route in the City of Markham's plan for its AT network; and,

WHEREAS the John St MUP is approved by Council and is fully funded, including \$1M from the Ontario Provincial Government; and,

WHEREAS \$450,000 has already been spent on the John Street MUP Design; and,

WHEREAS the Ontario Provincial Government's funding will be lost if the John St MUP is not substantially completed in 2021; and,

WHEREAS the project is designed and tendered, but not awarded; and,

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CPAC strongly urges Markham Council to direct staff:

- 1) to award the contract for the John St MUP; and
- 2) promptly commence the construction of the John St MUP; and further,

THAT the motion be raised at the General Committee on March 22, 2021.

Carried (Passed Unanimously)

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

John Street MUP

See section 5.3 John Street MUP Update.

Sidewalk Completion Program

Design and Construction schedule outlined.

Communications Plan deferred due to COVID-19, new schedule under review in Q2-Q3.

Rouge Valley Trail

Crossing at Kennedy – Staff is currently working on design, construction will not start until summer 2022 due to COVID-19.

The Wayfinding Signage Plan is tentatively scheduled to go to the Development Services Committee (DSC) on April 19th.

Road Safety Education Program

Elisabeth Tan proposed that Markham Cycles hold a road safety workshop, through the library's online workshops. Nancy Smith Lea, from TCAT, noted one to be included.

Traffic Calming on Avoca Drive and Caboto Trail

For Avoca Drive, staff explained that edge lines have been identified and will be installed this year as part of the City's pavement marking contract.

Staff explained that traffic calming measures on Caboto Trail were previously implemented were not effective. Staff is reviewing this road section and would take more time due to the complexity of the situation.

The Committee inquired about vertical traffic calming. Staff advised that vertical traffic calming measures will be addressed, as part of the discussion to approve the City's Road Safety Plan (RSP). Due to funding the RSP will be done in 2022.

Milliken Urban Loops Signage

Anthony Ko inquired about including additional loop to the AT Urban Loop program. Staff advised that the Milliken and Villages & Valley loops were developed as part of Council direction and it was recommended that any additional loops CPAC wishes to recommend be brought to a future CPAC meeting for consideration.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek provided an update of the Ontario Active School Transportation Round Two Grant (OAST), and the OAST Innovate Grant. He advised that an application was in process for an amendment to the Innovate Grant for a School Street pilot.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

Staff advised that key recommendations related to capital costs and strategic implementation plan implications were under review by senior management. Staff anticipate providing a report to DSC next month. The Draft Design Guideline will be shared with the Committee in the coming weeks.

6.4 Reports to Council

There was no update provided on this item.

6.5 EA Updates

- Elgin Mills EA - currently open for public review.
- Denison Street EA – RFP awarded, PIC #1 scheduled for Fall 2021.
- Kennedy Road EA – open for public review until April 17.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

There was no update provided on this item.

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)

There was no update provided on this item.

6.9 Road Safety

There was no update provided on this item.

6.10 Open Streets

Markham Open Streets 2021

Peter Miasek advised that the Sub-Committee is focused on two ideas:

- Slow Street on Unionville Main Street, from Carlton Road to Fred Varley Drive
- Sunday and Statutory Holiday road closure on Middlefield Road, from 14th Avenue to Denison Street

Destination Markham has applied to the Healthy Canada Initiative for funding, and a response is expected by May 14th or earlier (post-meeting information). The Sub-Committee has discussed alternate funding strategies with Staff. Next Sub-Committee meeting scheduled for March 25th.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 National Transportation Strategy - Funding

Peter Miasek advised that the Government of Canada has allocated \$400M for the National Active Transportation Strategy. It is estimated that Markham may be prorated for \$1M.

7.2 Winter Maintenance of Sidewalk – Slips and Falls

Peter Miasek inquired whether improvements were planned to reduce the number of slip and falls during the winter months.

Councillor Reid McAlpine recommended that further research be done to devise a broader pedestrian safety strategy, commenting that funding would be required to improve maintenance. He noted that implementation would not take place before winter 2022-2023 as budget for 2021/2022 has already been approved.

The Committee proposed the creation of a Winter Pedestrian Sub-Committee to review the issue further. Councillor Reid McAlpine, Peter Miasek and Elisabeth Tan expressed interest in joining the Sub-Committee.

Sources for obtaining slip and fall statistics from the current pandemic year and previous years was discussed. Settled lawsuits are public record, but would need to be obtained through a freedom of information request.

Sonia Sanita, from York Region Public Health, advised that access to some hospital data could be provided, however their epidemiologists are currently redeployed to COVID-19 related matters. She noted that there has been an increase in trail users this year due to the pandemic, which has resulted in more injuries.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT

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