



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 15, 2021
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
Doug Wolfe
Elisabeth Tan
Jozsef Zerczi
Paul Salvo
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
Victoria Hamilton, Committee Clerk, PT

Agency:

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

Regrets:

Colin Cassar
Daniel Yeung
Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
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

David Rawcliffe, Chair, requested that “Map of Off-Road Cycling Facilities” be added to Other Business of the Agenda.

Jozsef Zerczi requested that “Kennedy Road Pedestrian Crossing” be added to Other Business of the Agenda.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: March 18, 2021

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Paul Salvo

That the Minutes from the March 18, 2021 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

5.1 John Street MUP Update

The motion made by the CPAC Committee at the March 18, 2021 meeting was raised at the General Committee meeting on March 22, 2021; no decision was made. The item will be raised again at the May 10, 2021 General Committee meeting.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to the Council representatives for continuing to pursue action on this project.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City’s On-going AT Projects

There was no update provided on this item.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek advised that York Region District School Board was successful in obtaining an Innovative Grant from Green Communities Canada (GCC) to continue the Active School Travel (AST) pilot project. However, the current AST program is postponed to the fall of 2021 due to the current Covid-19 related school closures. The extended AST program would include a “School Street” test pilot at one (1) selected school. For instance, the local street in front of the selected school will be closed for four (4) Wednesdays to coincide with the school’s Walking Wednesdays campaign. This School Street pilot is an additional request from Green Communities/OAST beyond our original proposal of doing some research and developing a plan for a Markham pilot.

The total project budget (including in-kind) is \$88,000, with a cash component of \$63,500, provided by GCC (\$43,500), York Region (\$3,000) and Markham (\$16,000). For the Markham funds, it was assumed that \$6,000 would come from Markham's AT Awareness Project and \$10K from CPAC budget. Peter Miasek noted that the \$25,000 CPAC budget did not delineate funds for specific projects and providing \$10,000 from this budget was reasonable. .

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Elisabeth Tan

That the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee endorses the following expense from the City of Markham 2021 budget to support the AST programs scheduled for 2021-2022, for a total of \$16,000 from the CPAC and AT Awareness budgets.

Carried

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

Staff advised that the financial implications of the master plan were still undergoing internal review. Funding through the Development Charges bylaw was anticipated, and funding requirements could be revised through the bylaw update process every 5 years.

Staff advised that the draft Design Guideline would be forwarded to CPAC once the complete report was available.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

Staff advised that the event would be held over a weekend this year, from June 12-13. This allows participants to explore the 6 planned routes and reduces the likelihood of crowds to comply with Covid-19 safety measures. Staff also explained an augmented reality (AR) experience and children fun kits are new elements to be incorporate in this year's event. Staff is also working on sponsorship to support the event.

Staff clarified that registration is not required, however the AR app download and prize entry would be a way to help us understand participation.

Anthony Ko inquired about curb cutting at trail entrances. Staff suggested putting together a list of curbs for review, and staff would then determine whether any temporary or permanent measures could be taken prior to the event.

Councillor Reid McAlpine recommended that the event be publicized well in advance, to minimize pedestrians on the routes during the event, and that route arrows only be pasted on horizontal surfaces as the arrows painted on vertical surfaces took a long time to wear off.

In response to Councillor Isa Lee, Staff advised that there were no age restrictions for participation. Group sizes and face masks were discussed. Staff noted that it should be made clear on the website that some sections of the routes are on the road with regular traffic, and participants should assess the comfort level for participation by families with children and those who are not seasoned cyclists.

Staff noted that a Markham Cycling Day Sub-Committee meeting would take place on April 21st, for anyone who wished to provide support or advice to the Sub-committee.

Councillor Reid McAlpine proposed inviting the York Region Police bicycle unit to the event.

6.7 York Region Projects

There was no update provided on this item.

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

Vision Zero

Steve Glassman advised that interviews were held with 9 municipalities to learn about their implementation and development of vision zero/road safety plan. Progress was made regarding branding determination and road safety implementation. Sub-Committee continues to work on a summary report.

Bike Share

Peter Miasek advised that a lack of funding and staff resources prevented further action. They were now depending on a bicycle loan program through Markham Cycles and the Markham Public Library.

16th Avenue (Renamed to Protected Intersections)

Peter Miasek advised that York Region would not proceed with protected intersections on the corners at 16th/Kennedy and 16th/Warden. The Sub-Committee will work towards a protected intersection at Kennedy Road and Enterprise, or Unionville Gate as part of Kennedy EA. To be discussed with York Region Staff.

6.9 Road Safety

There was no update provided on this item.

6.10 Open Streets

Markham Open Streets 2021

Staff is to present a report to Development Services on April 19th, with the recommendation to proceed with the Slow Street on Unionville Main Street project and Sunday and Statutory Holiday Road Closure on Middlefield Road project, subject to funding from the Healthy Canada Initiative. The funding outcome would be known by May 14th.

Peter Miasek remarked on activities being considered for the events. This includes Markham Cycles repair and City info tents, bike loan programs, JoyRide ramp and community booths. He further noted that they would be subject to public health regulations at the time.

In response to Jozsef Zerczi, Staff clarified that High Glen Ave and Denison St would be kept open as a through-way during the project closures to allow for east-west movements.

Councillor Reid McAlpine advised that a funding alternative would be requested on April 19th, and a probable sponsorship with the local Volvo dealership could provide funding to Open Streets.

Nancy Smith Lea, Markham Cycles, advised of two options being considered for the bicycle rental program – registering them in the library system and obtaining a sponsorship deal with a local sports store – noting that a colleague would attend the next meeting to provide an update.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Rouge Valley Trail Wayfinding Update

Staff advised that the wayfinding design was completed, and the budget was approved. Staff was awaiting final approval of the signage plan and installation timing by an external contractor.

Councillor Reid McAlpine commented on the wayfinding design, noting that consideration should be given to create consistency in the infrastructure and design between areas, to assist cyclists and tourists when transitioning between parks, trails, and streets. It is necessary to have a proper foundation on which to expand, with a long-term plan. A wayfinding specific contractor can determine appropriate features, directions, and destination for signage. The Committee also commented on various design features and software that could be used. Staff advised that the Committee's suggestions would be conveyed to the group overseeing the project. Staff also remarked that this is the City's first attempt at establishing wayfinding on the Rouge Valley Trail.

7.2 E-Scooter Bylaw

Staff advised that York Region was planning to conduct a comprehensive review and consultation exercise to bring the remainder of the cycling network in line with the amendments made last fall, with respect to e-bikes and e-scooters. Staff advised it would be prudent to allow York Region to complete their amendments before proceeding with any changes, to ensure consistency with the York Region Traffic Bylaws.

Elisabeth Tan inquired about the use of e-scooters on trails. Staff advised that the City of Markham had to consider multiple factors when establishing regulations regarding e-scooters and advised that City of Markham bylaws that conflict with York Region bylaws could create confusion or make the City bylaws difficult to enforce. The current provincial regulations generally allow e-scooters where municipalities or regions allow them, and treats e-scooters as bicycles.

Staff clarified that vespa-type e-bikes did not fall within the standard e-bike definition in the York Region Traffic Bylaw.

In response to Councillor Reid McAlpine, Staff advised that the City definition of an e-bike had to follow the provincial definition, however the City could regulate the types of vehicles permitted on trails and other road-based cycling facilities. The many types of power assisted bikes makes it difficult to be clear on where each is permitted.

7.3 Huntington Trail Footbridge

David Rawcliffe, Chair advised that the trail was currently closed. Staff explained that as the trail was on provincial land, it was the province's responsibility to maintain the facilities, including the trail and bridge. It was noted that Infrastructure Ontario (IO) was planning to renaturalize the bridge crossing, and that IO agents were planning to remediate the creek and crossing in the fall, continuing into 2022. Staff also noted that it may be out of commission for a few years.

7.4 Kennedy Road EA

Peter Miasek advised that three concerns have arisen following the environmental assessment: (a) ROW width to allow separation of walkers and cyclists (b) Protected intersections within Markham or Milliken Centre (c) Single offset AT bridge across 407ETR .

Peter Miasek presented a concept for a 1.5 meter sidewalk on one side of the road, and a 1.5 meter sidewalk as well as 2.5 meter bidirectional cycle track on the other side, as proposed by Elisabeth Tan. The difference in maintenance cost between bicycle and pedestrian track is being taken into consideration. Councillor Reid McAlpine commented that other parties may oppose the idea, as it could affect tree planting. Peter also discussed protected intersection at Kennedy Road and Unionville Gate, and opportunity for a pedestrian bridge over Highway 407.

Peter Miasek and Elisabeth Tan will prepare a letter to York Regions with the noted discussions. Jozsef Zerczi will include a section on an alternate location for a pedestrian and cycling bridge over Highway 407.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

8.1 Map of Off-Road Cycling Facilities

David Rawcliffe, Chair presented a map of the off-road cycling facilities that was colour-coded to denote existing, in-process, and potential off-road track could be planned to create a better network, allowing for major route commuting across the City. It was overlaid with the City map to provide context.

The Committee commented that the information helped to provide insight on a potential future network. Staff noted that small revisions would improve the accuracy of denoting the locations of the facilities.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

- McCowan EA
- Highway 7 Flex Post Update

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:58 p.m.