



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, MAY 20, 2021
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Attendance

Committee:

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

Public Member/Guests:

Staff:

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

Agency:

Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health
Khushpal Brar, TCAT, Markham Cycles
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP

Regrets:

Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health
Barry Martin, Accessibility Advisory Committee
Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB
Nancy Smith Lea, TCAT (Markham Cycles)

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:26 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: April 15, 2021

Moved by Peter Miasek
Seconded by Don Hamilton

That the Minutes from the April 15, 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

There was no business arising from the last meeting.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek advised the School Board has obtained funding from the Green Community Canada Innovative Grant for the Active Travel School pilot. The innovative part includes the cycling pop-ups by Markham Cycles at the schools and a School Street pilot. A kick-off meeting is scheduled to take place next week.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

Staff noted that the draft Design Guidelines was circulated to the Committee and comments were due by May 28. The draft ATMP recommendations were still under review with senior management, and a DSC report was still anticipated for Q2.

Staff responded to Steve Glassman that the ATMP key recommendations were in an executive summary that was reviewed and commented on by CPAC members several months ago.

6.5 EA Updates

McCowan EA (Major Mackenzie Drive to Steeles Avenue)

Staff shared that public comment for the McCowan Road Environmental Study Report is open until June 12. A subcommittee is formed with members including Peter Miasek, Elisabeth Tan and Jozsef Zerczi. The subcommittee will prepare a letter on behalf of CPAC.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day / Weekend

Staff reported that the event has been postponed to July 10-11, due to the extension of the Stay-At-Home order. Also, financial support has been secured from two (2) sponsors – Aviva and York Region. Subcommittee is looking for volunteers to join to support the event.

6.7 York Region Projects

Highway 7 Flexible Bollard Pilot

Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation, delivered a presentation on the Highway 7 in-boulevard bollard pilot project. Community feedback was reviewed, and overall users supported and were in favour of the bollards. She also presented the 3 divider options that were considered and their associated costs including maintenance.

York Region has decided to move ahead with the installation of additional Cyclo Zone bollards, extending the in-boulevard route on Highway 7 to Allstate Parkway, and to make the pilot project bollards permanent fixtures, to be installed seasonally. The bollards for the existing bike lanes will be installed after spring cleaning has been completed. A request for additional bollards has been sent out.

In response to queries from the Committee, Diana Kakamousias provided the following information:

- The installation of a physical barrier would not extend to Bayview Ave at this time due to budgetary restrictions, and because a section of that road is under MTO jurisdiction. York Region would look at the installation of physical barriers to bike lanes comprehensively throughout the Region.
- York Region considered the merits of speed reduction and visibility for the bollards, planters and pre-cast curbs, with feedback from the community, and determined that bollards were the best option.
- The existing bollards would be installed after the May long weekend, and removed for the winter likely in mid-October.
- D. Kakamousias will consult with the road operations team about leaving the bollards in place through the winter, noting that snow removal and maintenance of the bike lanes were concerns.
- D. Kakamousias will inquire with the vendor if the Cyclo Zone bollards are constructed of recycled plastic.
- Feedback from pilot project users indicated that perceived safety was higher with the bollards, though perceived safety was subjective.
- D. Kakamousias will inquire with traffic safety operations and different municipalities for comparative data on collisions and conflicts on bike lanes with bollards versus without, and whether frequency of use varied by type of barrier facility.
- Sweeper machines are not able to drive down the bike lanes and can only veer in around bollards to clean, resulting in some remaining debris. At times, staff assist on foot with manual sweeping.

- D. Kakamousias will review whether there are specific maintenance standards for the bike lanes.

Additional comments from the Committee:

- If bollards cannot be kept in place year-round, earlier installation and later removal would be appreciated, to allow for longer use.
- Year-round bollards may encourage people to continue cycling through the winter, as it is difficult for people to stop then get back into in the spring.
- A similar plan for Carlton Road and areas where cyclists ride on the sidewalk may encourage cyclists to bike on the road if there was a visual barrier.

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

Vision Zero (Renamed to Road Safety Planning Sub-Committee)

Steve Glassman requested that the sub-committee be renamed Road Safety Planning Sub-Committee.

The sub-committee's key focus is the development of a City-wide Road Safety Plan, as per the October 14, 2020 Council Meeting minutes. Implementation of the directives from this meeting depend on funding and getting the Road Safety Plan included in the 2022 budget. Staff noted that a request was put forward to include the City-wide Road Safety Plan in the 2022 budget.

An update on the sub-committee's research will be provided in the fall.

Protected Intersections

McCowan EA – the sub-committee will prepare a letter on behalf of CPAC by June 12.

Kennedy Road EA (at Kennedy Rd. and Enterprise Blvd.) – the sub-committee received a response that the recommended intersection will be reviewed with AT during the detailed design phase. The sub-committee will focus on Markham Centre area.

Winter Pedestrians

Staff recommended to extend the trail plowing program in parks, proposing 95 paved trail segments for plowing this coming winter. Councillor Reid McAlpine noted that this was encouraged as a first step, though no motion was made at General Council. The proposed plowing will be performed within the existing budget.

Councillor McAlpine noted that the limestone pathways were difficult to maintain and alternative winter surface maintenance, such as sand-only applications, need to be considered for these trails and near waterways. Winter maintenance of pathways between sidewalks and school yards were also areas of concern as there was no continuation of plowing.

Regarding local roads with no sidewalk, Councillor McAlpine advised that a motion was passed to direct staff to investigate the issue, therefore a report on the issue and recommendations is forthcoming.

6.10 Open Streets

Markham Open Streets 2021

Peter Miasek advised that the Healthy Canada Initiative funding was not received. However sponsorship was received, including from York University, and Staff advised that alternative City budget is available, therefore the projects are funded. Communications and Social Media plans are in place, and Markham Cycles will host activities during the events.

Slow Street on Unionville Main Street project is scheduled to start May 26th; Road Closure on Middlefield Road project is scheduled to start July 1st.

6.11 Markham Cycles

Khushpal Brar was introduced as the new Program Manager for Markham Cycles, and the new TCAT representative for the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee.

K. Brar mentioned the success of the Markham Public Library bike loan program and desire to kickstart the program again by June. The bike loan program would be one of the Open Streets booths, with 6-10 bikes available. Other booths planned were a community hub and repair tent, with social distancing measures in place.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Bike Friendly Community Award – Markham

The City of Markham was recently awarded the Silver Level designation for Bicycle Friendly Community, an award program by Share the Road Cycling Coalition. The Bronze Level designation was received in 2012. Staff outlined strong contributing factors in the application – growth in the AT infrastructure, development of the ATMP, partnerships with Markham Cycles and AST Program, the urban AT loops initiative, and various cycling events. Staff also noted the planned steps to achieve Gold Level designation.

7.2 McCowan Pedestrian Crossing (At Centennial Go Station)

Jozsef Zerczi noted that there was no direct crossing for pedestrians or cyclists at the railroad track. He proposed including this matter in the McCowan EA response.

7.3 Connection to Rouge Urban National Park

There are 4 existing and potential/planned connections to the Rouge Urban National Park in Markham: Reesor Rd/Elgin Mills (existing), Country Glen Blvd at Donald Cousens Parkway (potential), Welcome Centre at Highway 7 (planned), and 14th Avenue near Reesor Rd (existing).

Jozsef Zerczi expressed interest in creating a sub-committee to investigate the possibility of developing a cycling friendly route that could be used to get to the park without having to drive there.

7.4 Bike Theft Prevention

Jozsef Zerczi advised that bike theft was occurring frequently, partially due to limited places to lock up bicycles at destinations. Reference was made to the bicycle parking at Unionville GO Station, as a positive example of a roofed structure that provided a proper location for locking up bicycles. He proposed that similar structures be considered for Unionville Main Street, Markham Main Street, malls, and other destinations, in future.

7.5 Buttonville GC Trail Opportunity

Doug Wolfe biked the area with other CPAC members, noting the following:

- The focus is to create a low-cost pathway to extend the Rouge Valley Trail north and west from Apple Creek Blvd to Highway 404
- The Buttonville ravine (Apple Creek Blvd to Woodbine Ave) would require a new path. The existing bridges under Apple Creek and under Woodbine appear to have enough clearance for a trail
- The golf course (Woodbine to 404) requires clearing and restoration, and bridges require repairs, but in general would be very conducive to a trail
- Two new road bridges (16th Ave and new 404 flyover near Markland Rd) need to be confirmed as designed so a trail can pass under them.
- Feasibility must be determined.

Doug Wolfe will provide a report of the findings for CPAC and indicate how the opportunity fits in with the Active Transportation Master Plan.

Councillor Reid McAlpine recommended that the status of the Rouge Valley Trail Plan be reviewed, as it includes a trail to Apple Creek Boulevard with consideration to extend north, and noted that mapping would be helpful for discussions with Staff.

7.6 E-Bikes & E-Scooter Introduction

Staff provided an overview and definitions of the motor-assisted bicycles, power-assisted bicycles (e-bikes), and electric kick-scooters (e-scooters).

Staff also presented a chart of jurisdictional allowances for the three types of vehicles, by facility

type. Staff noted that the City of Markham did not have a bylaw permitting e-Scooters but that enforcement of the regulation was difficult. Planning is required to create a system to keep everyone safe.

Niko Dimitrakopoulos from YRP will clarify if e-Scooters are permitted on York Region bike lanes.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business discussed.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:02 p.m.