



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2021
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Attendance

Committee:

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

Guest:

Winnie Young

Staff:

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

Agency:

Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP
Gerald Carnegie, YRP
Nancy Smith Lea, TCAT (Markham Cycles)
Sari Liem, York Region Public Health
Calvin Cheung, Smart Commute MRH

Regrets:

Gerry Shaw
Zain Khan
Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health

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

The Agenda was accepted, as presented.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: June 17, 2021

Moved by Steve Glassman

Seconded by Anthony Ko

That the Minutes from the June 17, 2021 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

Carried

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 Road Safety to Markville Secondary School

Winnie Young presented several safety concerns for cyclists and pedestrians on Carlton Road, between McCowan Road and Kennedy Road, especially for students attending Markville Secondary School during the commute to and from school.

- Vehicles are not respectful of cyclists in the shared bicycle and vehicle lane (outside lane) on Carlton Road, driving close to cyclists making them feel unsafe or blocking cyclists.
- Cyclists resort to using the sidewalk as a safer alternative to the road, but the sidewalk is congested with student/ pedestrians at the same time. Also, there is a by-law that does not permit bicycles with wheels larger than 24" to ride on sidewalks, excluding most adult sized bicycles.
- Her daughter is requesting to be driven to school since she does not feel safe on the road, which contributes to the traffic congestion.
- Other observations: 1) School parking lot entrance at Mansfield Lane is difficult for pedestrians and cyclists to access. 2) Sidewalk construction during the first week of school resulting in a truck parked on the road and sidewalks blocked off. 3) Construction at all four corners of Kennedy Road and Carlton Road.

W. Young proposed the three recommendations:

- Enforce No Parking/Stopping on roads adjacent to school in the morning between 7:30am and 9am, and in the afternoon between 2:15pm and 3:30pm.
- Install more signs that communicate and alert drivers that bikes have priority on bike lanes.
- Add extra "bike lane" signs between the existing ones on the right lane in both directions. Apply new paint to the faded existing "bike lane" symbols on the road.

The Committee expressed their appreciation to Winnie Young for bringing forward the concerns and proposed recommendations.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Commented that additional no parking signage was installed at other schools, so it should be considered for Markville Secondary School.
- Commented that Carlton Road has been a street of concern for the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee but there has been no solution to date.
- Recommended cycling on the sidewalk, in a respectful manner and at reasonable speeds, if uncomfortable with the road, noting that the cyclist's safety was of greater concern than the fine for violating the by-law.
- Commented that Carlton Street, between Kennedy Rd and McCowan Rd, was due for renewal and that consideration should be given to reduce the vehicle traffic to two lanes with delineated bicycle lanes on both sides, or shrinking the lanes to force traffic to slow and placing an informal line along the curb for bicyclists.
- Commented that short-term action should include crossing guards, no stopping signs, additional road signs and sharrows, as well as repainting existing pavement markings. And the long term action should include consideration for a road diet.
- Commented that the concerns raised should be reviewed at all schools in the City.
- Commented that the City of Markham should have guidelines on how to direct cycling traffic where there is construction; not just pedestrian traffic.
- Commented that vehicular traffic often seems faster than 40 km an hour, noting that a traffic slowing method, such as speedbumps, may need to be considered.
- Commented that, for the time being, cyclists travelling east on Carlton Road, approaching Central Park, should cross with the crossing guard present there and ride along the sidewalk to Markville Secondary School.
- Commented that students travelling east on Carlton Road could be redirected to use the connector roads just north of the rail corridor as a safer alternate route.

Staff provided the following feedback:

- Commented that the sharrow was a shared lane, with the pavement marking informing cyclists and motorists where cyclists can ride.
- Advised that Staff will conduct a site visit to investigate and confirm Ms. Young's observations.
- Noted that the three suggestions proposed by Winnie Young would be considered for immediate implementation.
- Commented that traffic calming for Carlton Road, between Kennedy Road and McCowan Road, is necessary and will investigate appropriate measures.
- Advised that as part of the City-wide road safety plan development starting in 2022, a pilot project on this section of Carlton Road will be developed with community input.

Niko Dimitrakopoulos, a representative from York Region Police, commented that having adequate no stopping and no parking signage by the school will allow the police to enforce, which may alleviate some traffic congestion. N. Dimitrakopoulos advised that he will inform his Sargent of the near accidents between cyclists and vehicles, and anticipates that cruisers will be sent for enforcement.

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

Sidewalk Completion Program - Communications

Awaiting date for City facilities reopening to confirm distribution of brochures and posters. Social media promotion will coincide with Spring 2022 construction timeframe.

Markham Centre Trails

Timeline of EA study outlined, with ESR submission in Spring 2022.

Rouge Valley Trail

Crossing at Kennedy Road and Austin Drive in Detailed Design Stage, construction anticipated for May/June 2022 subject to budget approval.

On the wayfinding plan, Staff are working to obtain final approval to proceed with the installation of the signage, with DSC report planned for later this year.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Expressed concern that the approved budget for the wayfinding plan would be lost.
- Advised that the existing crossing under the Kennedy Road bridge experiences flooding, therefore a signalized crossing at street level is being planned.

Huntington Trail Footbridge

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) plans to remove the old bridge that is deteriorated and no longer safe. The bridge filled in part of the creek, therefore IO plans to re-naturalize the creek channel by Spring 2022.

City Environmental Services staff are requesting capital budget for construction of a new pedestrian bridge in Summer/Fall of 2022.

In response to a Committee query, Staff commented that the area was not safe to cross at the deteriorated bridge until a new bridge was installed.

Copper Creek Road Diet

Completed and operational. This is a demonstration/pilot project. Therefore, Staff will monitor and assess the operation of Copper Creek Drive starting this fall to evaluate its performance.

Traffic Calming on Avoca Drive and Caboto Trail

Pavement markings on Avoca Drive are scheduled for later this year. The review of Caboto Trail is ongoing.

Milliken Urban Loops Signage

Loop alignment under review and Staff will work with CorpComm on signage design. Installation to proceed after loop route confirmed.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Peter Miasek presented and advised:

- Funding was available for the pilot projects.
- School Streets component now includes the closure of the school street during bell times. A site visit to candidate schools would be conducted to determine which was best suited for the pilot.
- Markham Cycles will be at 9 schools (2 Catholic, 7 Standard) in the spring and fall, focusing on maintenance and safety for children and parents.

Niko Dimitrakopoulos of York Region Police requested to be kept apprised of the Catholic School projects, to assist.

In response to a Committee query, Nancy Lea Smith of TCAT advised that the communication strategy for the cycling pop-ups did not include specific content regarding e-bikes and e-scooters.

Staff commented that the Active School Travel Program focus is on elementary schools and once established in all elementary schools, then travel planning for high schools would be addressed.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

Staff advised that the ATMP was presented to DSC in June 2021 for endorsement. The decision was to defer endorsement until after a fall council workshop. At the workshop, Staff will focus on presenting why the ATMP is important and review recommendations and costs as well as funding resources.

Discussion ensued regarding a speaker for the workshop that can provide independent comment on the importance of active transportation to support the proper growth of the City.

6.8 Subcommittee Updates:

Protected Intersection

Peter Miasek presented and advised:

- York Region indicated they would consider the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee's comments regarding the McCowan EA and Kennedy Road EA during detailed design.
- York Region has committed to setting up a meeting with CPAC to review the detailed designs and how the CPAC recommendations, such as protected intersections, were incorporated.

Expressway On-Ramp Safety

Elisabeth Tan presented and advised:

- The fatal collision at the northbound on-ramp to 407 at Warden took place on June 10th, 2021, not June 11, 2021 as indicated in the report.
- The Sub-Committee is proposing 4 improvement options:
 - Grade separation of the active transportation facility;
 - Installation of signals at on-ramp AT crossing with pedestrian sensor or button;
 - Redesign ramps to 90 degree turn with traffic signal;
 - Relocate AT facilities to one side of the road and on/off ramps to the other side.

The Committee provided the following feedback:

- Advised that York Region was the only party that committed to implementing changes.
- Commented that the sub-committee members should connect with the parties from 407, MTO and York Region for further discussion. Councillor Reid McAlpine will facilitate the connection.
- Noted that responsibility for the area of the incident was complicated due to the many parties involved.
- Commented that a status update request to York Region on the redesign would be helpful.

Staff commented that no further information was received regarding the police investigation, however York Region is working to set up another meeting with MTO and the City of Markham, during which information on the investigation may be provided.

6.11 Markham Cycles

Nancy Smith Lea provided an overview of activity and events by Markham Cycles in 2021, including community bike booths, library bike loan program, virtual workshops, the bike hubs, and the Ontario Active School Travel Innovate Fund. She noted that the e-bike mode shift study was waiting for ethical approval to continue.

Nancy Smith Lea advised of planned expansion into Newmarket in 2022.

Peter Miasek expressed appreciation for Nancy's partnership with TAC and her work with the Clean Air Initiative. He commended the quality of her performance, attention to detail and ability in focusing on the larger picture.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Markham Budget 2022

Staff presented the projects that were included in the 2022 budget capital requests.

- Markham Centre Trails – phase 2 construction and phase 3 design.
- Rouge Valley Trail – phase 4B detailed design and construction at Kennedy Road and Austin Trail.
- Sidewalk Program – construction, and annual filling of gaps.
- Markham Road MUP cross-rides – construction, to fill in gaps and improve safety.

Staff presented the initiatives, programs, and studies included in the 2022 budget request and noted the following:

- Development of road safety strategy will include a potential pilot project on Carlton Road between Kennedy Road and McCowan Road..
- On Apple Creek Boulevard, the project will review traffic operations and other safety issues along the corridor.
- Installation of Type D PXOs, at 25 locations with supervised school crossings is planned, separate from the Type B PXO project on Copper Creek Drive.
- An annual program to add traffic signals at warranted intersections is being considered, and location prioritized where pedestrian and cyclist volumes are high.

In response to a Committee query, Staff advised there was no update on the John Street MUP.

In response to a Committee query, Staff advised that an update regarding Phase 1 of the Markham Centre Trails between Birchmount and Warden Avenue will be obtained and provided via email.

7.2 CPAC Topics/Interests Discussion

The Committee discussed establishing a process or protocol for topics raised by members to ensure that the Committee provides direction on how to proceed with the topics after they are brought forward.

The Committee noted this item for further discussion at the October 2021 meeting.

7.3 High School Student Research Project

Amit Arora advised that a group had been formed with the University and that further details on the research study will be provided to the Committee in future. A. Arora also advised that she was working with Assisting Teens Learning to Drive and through youth ambassadors, will engage with high school students, the police and the City of Markham.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Councillor Reid McAlpine advised that a former member of the Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, Sandra McEleney, met with York Region staff to propose a temporary cycle path on Kennedy Road, between 16th Avenue and Highway 7, to facilitate bicycle travel between York Downs and the Unionville GO Station. Use of asphalt on the road boulevard is proposed.

9. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

Further discussion regarding item 7.2.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:05 p.m.