



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 21, 2021  
ZOOM MEETING  
MINUTES  
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

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**Committee:**

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

**Guest:**

Sandra McEleney, Resident  
Winnie Young, Resident  
Councillor Jack Heath, Ward 5  
Melinda Phuong, Executive Assistant to Jack Heath

**Staff:**

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation  
Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation  
Anna Lee, Committee Clerk

**Agency:**

Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP  
Gerald Carnegie, YRP  
Nelson Costa, York Region Transportation  
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation  
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health  
Shivyoshita Sood, Smart Commute MRH

**Regrets:**

Gerry Shaw  
Zain Khan  
Joseph Pacione, YRDSB and YCDSB  
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8  
Daniel Yeung

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:00 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 modified to have Rouge National Urban Park Connections presented first (4.1) and York Region Transportation/Traffic October Report presented third (4.3) to include update of the Warden/Hwy407 accident.

### **3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: September 16, 2021**

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

That the Minutes from the September 16, 2021, Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved, as presented.

Carried

### **4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS**

#### **4.1 Rouge National Urban Park Connections**

Regional Councillor Jack Heath and Melinda Phuong, Executive Assistant to Jack Heath, presented the Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) Connections plans. Parks Canada's Proposal for Greater Rouge National Urban Park includes the development of a trail from 19<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Steeles Ave.

Markham is proposing the "Trail Loop", a circular 10KM trail that goes around the North side of 407, down to Rouge Valley Trail. The Central Node and Loop on the north side from 9<sup>th</sup> line to Reesor Rd. is about 50% completed. The developer has agreed to build a part of the trail and requests have been made for sponsors, including 407ETR, to develop the rest of the trail. Request has also been made to Parks Canada to build over/under roads at Reesor Road and Steeles Ave. E. Trail construction south of 14<sup>th</sup> has started on property that is owned by the City and Remington has agreed to assist in allocation of land. Resolution is required on where to cross the Donald Cousens Parkway and the type of crossing needs to be discussed.

A number of issues were also highlighted including: trail connection through Angus Glen Golf Club to Major Mackenzie Drive, renaming the Rouge Valley Trail, pedestrian bridge in Markham Centre area, and future 407 Corridor trail alignment.

A subcommittee is formed to explore issues around the RNUP development with Joska Zerczi, Anthony Ko, Peter Miasek and Councillor Reid McAlpine as members. This sub-committee will be chaired by Councillor Reid McAlpine who will setup an initial meeting.

#### **4.2 York Region Transportation/Traffic October Report**

Nelson Costa, Manager Corridor Control and Road Safety of York Region, presented the York Region Transportation/Traffic October Report. Here are the highlights from the Report:

- Critical element in collisions occurring on regional roads is driver behaviour where the top 3 offences includes speeding (62%), disobeying stop sign (22%), and careless driving (8%)
- Stunt driving has become a greater concern with incidents doubling in 2020, consistent with Provincial experience.
- There was a 40% decrease in collisions in 2020, attributed to reduced traffic volumes due to Covid-19 (provincial decline was 30%).
- Pedestrian collisions decreased by 42% from 2016-2020, however, remained stable 2018-2020. Collisions also correlate to low lighting conditions at the end of the day and end of the year (Fall/Winter).
- Cyclist collisions reduced by 35% from 2016-2019. Younger cyclists are more likely to be injured and there are seasonal collision spikes in the warmer months of the year.
- Pedestrians and cyclists are the most vulnerable road users and both modes have increased while vehicle usage has decreased during the Covid-19 pandemic

He also discussed the intersection pilot at 4 locations in York Region (Major Mackenzie Drive and Bayview Avenue, Yonge Street and Clark Avenue, Bathurst Street and Carrville Road, and Bathurst Street and Clark Avenue). Four (4) measures are implemented at each of the intersection including: prohibiting right turns on red light, protected left turn movement, leading pedestrian signal intervals and additional warning signage. These measures have shown a significant decrease in collisions/conflicts. There is also consideration of expanding these safety measures to additional locations in York Region.

Other programs and improvements also discussed:

- Consistent school zone signs and school zone pavement markings
- New legislation and stricter laws for stunt driving. Partnering with YRP in conjunction with other police agencies across the province to combat stunt driving with *Project Takeover*.
- Municipal automated speed cameras pilot first year results will be presented to Council. Speed cameras have been rotated among various routes and the data is shared with YRP to enforce these areas and change behaviours. There have also been dragon's teeth pavement markings in sensitive areas to alert drivers on their speed.
- Red light camera program has been expanded to 40 locations to reduce red light running and right-angle collisions.

Nelson Costa also provided an update on regarding the cyclist fatality incident at Warden and Hwy 407. York Region and City staff have met with the Ministry of Transportation. York Region staff are working internally in reviewing best design options, which will then be presented and discussed with MTO.

#### **4.3 Kennedy Road Cycle Track**

Sandra McEleney, Markham City resident and former CPAC member presented a proposal for a multi-use path on Kennedy Rd. from 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. to Austin Dr.

As construction is ongoing on Kennedy Road between 16<sup>th</sup> Ave. and Austin Drive, she recommends that a 1.8km a multi-use path be created for this road section. She explained that the neighbourhood is growing, with a lot of traffic and new developments along Kennedy. Active transportation need is increasing and will benefit from having a safe dedicated space along the boulevard. She is requesting a proposal for this multi-use pathway be prepared for York Region to consideration, and that the City to provide support (i.e. permits and drawings) and funding where possible.

Diana Kakamousias from York Region explained the current construction on Kennedy Road is only for road re-surfacing, and no civil work is included to widen or change the boulevard. She also mentioned the potential high cost to prepare design work, as well as property acquisitions, utility relocation and construction costs.

City Staff recognized this as a significant, and not a simple project. The current priority is to receive approval of the Active Transportation Master Plan. Staff will review this project subsequent to the endorsement and adoption of the ATMP.

**Motion: CPAC to further explore the idea of a temporary pathway on Kennedy Road between 16<sup>th</sup> and Austin Drive once the Active Transportation Master Plan is approved.**

Moved by Councillor Reid McAlpine  
Seconded by Peter Miasek

CARRIED

## **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.

### **6.2 School Programs & Pilots**

There was no update.

### **6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan**

Staff provided an update on the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP) workshop, which is scheduled on November 8<sup>th</sup>. This is a regularly scheduled Development Services Committee meeting with other items on the agenda and it is unknown how long the discussion will be.

### **6.4 Reports to Council**

Staff noted that two additional items will be tabled at the November 8<sup>th</sup> Development Services Committee meeting: Rouge Valley Trail Presentation and Main St. Unionville Speed Limit Reduction, south of Hwy 7.

### **6.5 EA Updates**

Staff provided an update on the Elgin Mills EA and noted that a virtual PIC was held on October 14<sup>th</sup>. Display boards are available on [yourvoiceMarkham.ca/ElginMillsEA](http://yourvoiceMarkham.ca/ElginMillsEA) and comments are to be submitted by November 11<sup>th</sup>, 2021. Current proposal prefers multi-use paths on both sides of the road.

A member asked about the status of the EAs pertaining to the proposed underpasses at Kennedy Rd S and at Denison for the GO Rail Expansion. See CPAC minutes Dec. 17, 2020 and Oct. 15, 2020. No update was available.

### **6.6 Markham Cycling Day**

Staff provided an overview of the Markham Cycling Tours event which was held between July 9 and August 15. A total of 6 family-friendly 10-km routes were identified in different Markham neighbourhoods. With Aviva and York Region as event sponsors, the event also incorporated an augmented reality video contest, Children Bike Decoration Bags giveaway and Markham Cycles bike booth at each of the 6 cycling routes.

It was highlighted that the event was implemented within budget and well-received overall. The event subcommittee reconvened and started brainstorming for the proposed 2022 event with a hybrid approach of ride-on-your-own and small guided group rides in June. Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP, expressed interests in supporting the planning of the 2022 Markham Cycling Day event.

### **6.7 York Region Projects**

There was no update.

## **6.8 Subcommittee Updates**

**Winter Pedestrians** – Peter Miasek updated the committee that the city is extending the pathway plowing pilot and that a Motion was passed at DSC for staff to study the needs of pedestrians on local roads with no sidewalks. Operations will look into option ideas for these local roads. There is an opportunity in the draft capital plan to pave more trails. CPAC should identify trail candidates for paving

## **6.9 Road Safety**

There was no update.

## **6.10 Open Streets**

Staff provided an overview of the Open Streets which included 2 components:

1) Slow Street Program along Main St. Unionville between Fred Varley and Carlton Road that operated from May 26 to October 11. Traffic calming measures, restricted access, restricted on-street parking, extended business patios and temporary pedestrian paths were implemented as part of this initiative. The BIA would like to continue this program for next year and possibly permanently.

2) Shared Street Program along Middlefield Road between Highglen Ave. and Denison Street from July 1<sup>st</sup> to September 6<sup>th</sup>, with road closures every Sunday and statutory holidays. Drop-in Zumba classes were hosted by Recreation and Markham Cycles booths offered bike loans and basic bike tune-up/repair services, were set-up during the road closures.

A future agenda item will be tabled to discuss program feedback and overall strategy and plan for 2022.

## **6.11 Markham Cycles**

There was no update.

## **6.12 2022 Budget Process and AT related items**

Staff reported that no proposed Transportation projects were removed by the Budget Committee after the preliminary review. However, considering project requests from all departments would suggest an overall 5% increase in property tax. A further review of the total project requests by City Staff is underway and may lead to potential cuts.

## **6.13 E-bike / E-scooter (Micro Mobility Framework)**

There was a question regarding Markham's approach on e-bike and e-scooters. City staff responded that there is an intention to develop a strategy for Markham on human powered and electricity powered vehicles since these devices are already in use, and there is potential liability to the City. The City of Vaughan is developing a micro mobility framework. It was suggested a subcommittee be formed to explore this matter further.

## **7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **7.1 Hwy 7 Sidewalk Gap – Kennedy Road to Bullock**

Councillor Reid McAlpine presented on the need to create a pedestrian and cyclist safe trail on the short gravel trail west of Bullock Drive on the north side of Highway 7. The trail would need to be built as far back from Hwy7 as possible. City Staff will review and report back on this matter.

### **7.2 CPAC Topics/Interests Discussion – cont'd**

Item deferred to November meeting.

## **8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING**

## **9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:10PM.