



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, APRIL 21, 2022
ZOOM MEETING
MINUTES
7:00 – 9:00 PM**

Committee:

David Rawcliffe, Chair
Peter Miasek, Vice Chair
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair
Amit Arora
Colin Cassar
Anthony Ko
Elisabeth Tan
Doug Wolfe
Jozsef Zerczi
Paul Salvo
Daniel Yeung
Mauricio Martinez
Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton

Guests:

Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute Markham,
Richmond Hill
Jennie Geleff, Markham Cycles/ TCAT
Nimra Khan, BHSc Candidate, OTU

Staff:

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

Agency:

Gerald Carnegie, YRP
Reena Mistry, YRDSB YRCSB

Regrets:

Zain Khan
Gerry Shaw
Mark Battaglia
Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP
Diana Kakamousias, York Region
David Simor, Markham Cycles / TCAT
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:04 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

Approval of modification to Agenda to include updates on 6.9 Road Safety and 6.10 Open Streets.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: March 17, 2022

Moved by Peter Miasek
Seconded by Steve Glassman

That the Minutes from the March 17, 2022 Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be approved.

CARRIED

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

There was no update.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

5.1 Jane's Walk 2022

Paul Salvo provided an update on Jane's Walk Festival 2022 that will happen on May 7th and 8th. This is an annual festival of free, community-led walking conversations inspired by Jane Jacobs. A total of three (3) walks have been organized in Markham, which include:

- Thornhill Walk on May 7th, walk leader is David Rawcliffe.
- Markham Village – A Developing Story, both occurring on Saturday, May 7th, walk leader is George Duncan.
- Cornell – A Planned Walkable Neighbourhood on Sunday, May 8th, walk leader is Katie Pancky.

The walk leaders will share stories and historical knowledge of the area. More information of the event can be found on Facebook page. Paul Salvo circulated a poster to all members, which can be shared. City staff will help promote the event by placing an ad in the local newspaper (Economist & Sun, Thornhill Liberal), advertise on social media, as well as on City's website. Committee is encouraged to participate and pass on the information.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

There was no update.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Reena Mistry, YRDSB provided an update on the Active School Travel (AST) program. The first School Streets Test Program in York Region and the City of Markham will officially take place at John McCrae Public School. Approval from Council was received on April 11th and will begin on May 4th every Wednesday in May for four consecutive weeks. Stricker Avenue in front of the school will be closed during peak pickup and drop-off hours. Media

launch is planned for May 4th, with invites to a list of guests. More information can be found on www.markham.ca/schoolstreets.

Communications have been sent to the school and neighbourhood on the program. Peter Miasek has requested Councillors to include information about this project on their newsletters. Platforms such as Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and Nextdoor are being used to promote the program by the City.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

There was no update

6.4 Reports to Council

City staff presented the list of endorsed and upcoming reports to Development Services Council. All the General Council and DSC meetings are open to the public and the agendas are available online.

6.5 EA Updates

There was no update

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

There was no update

6.7 York Region Projects

There was no update

6.8 Subcommittee Updates

Winter Pedestrian

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Winter Pedestrian subcommittee. Peter will follow-up with City Operations on connecting with YRDSB on school pathway snow plowing. Peter Miasek will draft a recommendation memo for the plowing of roads without sidewalks.

INNOVATION (New technologies, practices and policies, includes MicroMobility)

Elisabeth Tan provided an update on the Innovation subcommittee. The subcommittee met on April 11th and will meet again on May 4th. The subcommittee will research bylaws and regulations that York Region and other cities have on micromobility and hope to bring back the findings to the next committee meeting. There was a discussion to naming the subcommittee.

Bike Parking

Jozsef Zerczi provided an update on the Bike Parking subcommittee. The subcommittee is looking for more members as currently Joska is the only member. Peter Miasek volunteered to join on this Subcommittee. The subcommittee would like to initiate discussions with private businesses on placing bike racks near places of business. There is no city initiative to put up bike parking structures on business properties. This effort and any suggestions would need to be presented to Councillors. Jozsef and Elisabeth will contact Tanya Lewinberg, Public Realm

Coordinator at the City of Markham, who can reach out to plaza owners to discuss placing bike racks. There is no approved budget item to place bike racks on private property. Research is required on what the challenges businesses face on placing bike racks and what incentives would entice businesses to do so, as well as alternative solutions.

Protected Intersections

The subcommittee is working towards a meeting with the York Region design team for the Kennedy Road and McCowan Road widening projects.

6.9 Road Safety

Steve Glassman provided an update on the Road Safety subcommittee. The subcommittee held their first meeting after almost a year. The meeting centered around York Region's Traveler Safety Strategy program. The subcommittee updated their report from May 2021, which was circulated to this committee and Staff via email on April 19. The report will be made available on the google drive. The Vision Zero brand is recommended as it is rooted in a spreading world movement with easy to access web content and people understand the Vision Zero brand as a long-term goal.

Markham has a budget approval to develop a Road Safety Plan, while York Region is developing a Traveller Safety Plan. The road system requires a coordination of the plan programs, for example, sharing data sets, using the same analysis methodology and intervention tool kit, and a cohesive communication and education campaign with one branding. A meeting will be held with the City of Markham and York Region on April 26th to further discuss.

Motion: The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) recommends the Vision Zero brand as it represents CPAC's position on road safety branding.

Moved by Steve Glassman
Seconded by Peter Miasek

CARRIED

6.10 Open Street

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Open Street program. Middlefield Road is planned to be closed every Sunday and statutory holiday between Canada Day and Labour Day, for a total of 13 days. Subcommittee is looking into activation ideas during the closure.

The Subcommittee is also exploring an opportunity for road resizing on Markham Road north of the train tracks and south of 16th Avenue to a two-lane road for one month. This is a program that is being considered and will need local Councillor Karen Rea and DSC's approval to move forward. A proper road design and plan, and preparation of a Council report is required.

Next step is to involve Corporate Communications to assist with the marketing of the Open Street programs.

6.11 Markham Cycles

Jennie Geleff, Project Manager of The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), provided an update on Markham Cycles. Markham Cycles will launch at Centennial and Milliken Mills Community Centres this year. The programming is similar to last year, beginning May 7th and running on Tuesday evenings and Saturdays. Every event through to June has been updated on the Markham Cycles website event calendar: <https://www.markhamcycles.ca/events/>.

- Group Rides will alternate week to week
- Pop-up booths at CICS Immigrant Youth Centre on a less frequent basis (every other week) in May and June.
- Events, like group rides and workshops, will move to a full schedule (every week) during the summer months (July and August).
- Bi-monthly newsletters for events, as well, events are posted on social media, such as Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

In addition, popup community booths will be at Open Streets to offer simple bike repairs and DIYs. Markham Cycles will also be evaluating the School Streets Test Program in the month of May at John McCrae Public School, speaking with parents and community members.

The bicycle lending library program, in partnership and through Markham Public Libraries, will begin on June 4th for the 2022 season. Bicycle rentals will be put through an online system where the library is contacted when a bicycle has been loaned out, which the library will process. Bicycle rentals will be available at the Bike Hubs, located at Centennial and Milliken Mills Community Centres. Bicycles can be rented for two weeks at a time this year, as feedback received was that one week was too short of a duration.

York Region solid waste is partnering with Markham Cycles on a pilot project to divert bicycles to the Bike Rescue Program. Bicycles can be picked up every 90 days or once forty repairable bicycles have been accumulated. The program will begin in May and there will be prioritization on marketing materials that can be shared with the public to communicate this program.

6.12 2022 Budget Process and AT related items

There was no update.

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

There was no update.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Share the Trail

Anthony Ko presented on Share the Trail and shared his experience on the Rouge Valley Trail. Anthony discussed and made recommendations including signage, speed limit, lighting and washroom availability. Staff will share the information and concern with Parks Department who is responsible for City's trail system, and report back.

7.2 Active School Travel Student Research

Nimra Khan, BHSc Candidate, Faculty of Health Sciences, Ontario Tech University, with Amit Arora, presented the Actively Commuting to School and Road Safety Challenges. A study was conducted on the Ontario Active School Transport (OAST), an Ontario-wide program dedicated to children's physical health and active transport to school. Some schools have implemented OAST, however, there are school that are not aware of the OAST program. The objective of the study was to understand and explore barriers to the OAST program, as well as find ways to motivate adoption of active transport to school.

Surveys and interviews were conducted, as well as research and reviews of literature and journals. Pilot surveys were conducted with twenty-six (26) elementary school students (grades 3-8) in Ajax and school administration and staff were interviewed. More than 60% of students were driven, 25% actively commuted to school and 30% were allowed to commute alone. Students and school administration and staff pointed out challenges, such as:

- Few students actively travel to school
- Parental safety concerns prevent students from using active modes of travel
- Road traffic, speeding, and vehicle traffic in pick up/drop off zones' safety concerns
- Narrow pathways near the school are a safety hazard
- Lack of awareness on available resources
- Existing workload and the motivation to adopt a new program
- Limited availability of crossing guards

Solutions could include active travel as an ongoing learning, reinforced through engagement with students such as event like the Terry Fox Run. As well, a resource toolkit would assist teachers to deliver relevant content through different learning activities throughout the school year. The next steps would be to acknowledge concerns, spread awareness about the OAST program and address concerns such as perception of safety.

7.3 Concerns of CPAC members to be discussed in May

There was no update.

7.4 Any Other Business

There was no update.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

There were no additions.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9PM.