



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 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
Paul Salvo
Daniel Yeung
Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Jozsef Zerczi

Guests:

Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute MRH

Staff:

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

Agency:

Gerald Carnegie, YRP
Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP
Reena Mistry, YRDSB YRCSB

Regrets:

Zain Khan
Gerry Shaw
Mauricio Martinez
Mark Battaglia
David Simor, Markham Cycles / TCAT
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8
Diana Kakamousias, York Region

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:03 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 longer distance bicycle trail discussion and Unionville Main Street Subcommittee updates.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: MAY 19, 2022

Moved by Peter Miasek
Seconded by Doug Wolfe

That the Minutes from the May 19, 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 Program Review

Paul Salvo provided an update on the Jane's Walk 2022 program. Three walks were held on May 7th and 8th in Thornhill, Markham Village and Cornell. The Thornhill Walk, led by David Rawcliffe, highlighted Thornhill's original foundation site and village centre. The Markham Village walk discussed recent research of heritage buildings in old Markham Village, revealing stories of people and places from the community's glory days as a hub of industry. And lastly, Cornell – A Planned Walkable Neighbourhood, which covered how Cornell was built to be a walkable neighbourhood and of new projects. The weather was overall very cooperative this year and there were about 86 attendants in total.

Paul Salvo also noted that CPAC has a budget for advertising this event, such as FaceBook. The event was also promoted on Snapd, City of Markham Event page, YorkRegion.com and the NextDoor app and was displayed on multimedia in community centres. Paul extended a thank you to CPAC and City Staff for their support of this community event.

5.2 Pedestrian Subcommittee Motion

The Pedestrian Subcommittee presented a motion on studying the reduction of slips and falls for winter pedestrians. The Subcommittee revised the motion based on members' feedback.

Motion: Studying the Reduction of Slips/Falls for Winter Pedestrians

WHEREAS walking in all seasons, including winter, by Markham residents is increasing and is to be encouraged for health and mental well-being; and

WHEREAS there are numerous winter slips and falls by pedestrians each winter on publicly owned sidewalks and roads, causing injury and inhibiting some residents from walking; and

WHEREAS Markham Operations staff released a Memorandum to Mayor Scarpitti and Members of Council on January 10, 2022 entitled "Winter Maintenance Service Level Review - Local Roads without Sidewalks"; and

WHEREAS that report indicated that there are 399 km of local roads in Markham that do not have sidewalks, representing 11.9% of the network

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CPAC recommends Markham Council to study winter pedestrian safety and level of service on public sidewalks and local roads with no sidewalks with a view to: 1) reduce winter slips and falls, 2) encourage walking, 3) provide an equal level of walking service to all residents and 4) provide safer walking conditions for residents of all ages and abilities, and report back by October 1, 2022

AND THAT IT IS FURTHER RESOLVED THAT CPAC recommends that Markham and York Region staff work together to obtain reported claims and source information from public health and hospitals on trips and falls on sidewalks and public roadways as part of the new Traveller Safety Strategy.

Moved by Peter Miasek
Seconded by Councillor Reid McAlpine.

CARRIED

5.3 Share the Trail Discussion - Update

City staff provided an update on two of the items from the Share the Trail Discussion.

1. Safety along Trail: Security Camera/Lighting

Engineering staff, in consultation with Corporate Security, suggested that, as a first step, to conduct an initial field audit to identify problem areas along major trails and potential preliminary measures that could be implemented with minimal budget such as signage, trimming/pruning of vegetation, etc.

It was also suggested that CPAC members could help identify a preliminary list of trail locations for the initial field audit to provide focus for the field audit. Suggested trail locations for the initial field audit can be sent to Engineering Staff for consolidation. The intent here is to identify trail locations where safety issues are perceived during daytime use, as parks and trails are not managed or maintained for use during evening hours.

2. Signage at trail entry points

Staff explained that the scope of work includes development of new sign design and identification of signage location, which will require additional budget and staff resources. Staff will implement this trail signage project in 2023 where budget and staff resource needs can be better planned,

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

Staff provided an update on the City's ongoing AT Projects.

- Milliken Urban Loops Signage project has been completed.
- The Wayfinding Plan on Rouge Valley Trail – The City is working with a consultant to update signage drawing. There is a significant increase to the cost of signposts that requires internal review, with anticipated completion by year end.
- Markham Centre Trail Opening – Capital is working with Corporate Communications on the formal announcement, which is to occur in July/August.
- AT Loop Maps – Working on 3 Loop Maps: Village & Valley, Milliken, and Thornhill. The first draft for Village & Valley is now complete, while the other two are being worked on.

There was a question regarding the cycling map. Any suggestions of routes or sections of pathways/roadways that could enhance the cycling network can be sent to City staff for review.

City staff also provided an overall update on the Victoria Square Boulevard re-configuration project. At the May 30th DSC meeting, Council approved a new design with 1.5m sidewalk, 1.8m cycle track and 1.5m landscape clearance on both sides where possible. Capital staff is working with the City consultant to develop new design drawings to be completed by Spring 2023.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Reena Mistry provided an update on the School Street Pilot. York Region's first school streets pilot took place at John McCrae Public School in May for four consecutive Wednesdays, beginning on May 4th, 2022. Stricker Avenue was closed between Hammersly Boulevard and Fred McLaren Boulevard during drop-off and pick-up periods every Wednesday. School Streets are temporary car-free environments created in front of schools around school bell times, prioritizing safe walking/cycling conditions for children, parents, and caregivers.

A comprehensive communication strategy and traffic management plan were implemented in preparation for closure. The pilot launch, on May 4th, was attended by the Board Chair, School Trustee, Markham Mayor Frank Scarpitti, and Markham Councillors. Local partners included the York Regional Police, Markham Bylaws, Green Communities Canada, TCAT, Board and City Staff were also in attendance.

Further data analysis and reviews will be conducted. Preliminary observations include:

- Many more students and families were walking to school and there were no further increases in traffic on side streets.
- There was a decrease in the typical traffic chaos in front of the school during peak drop-off and pick-up times, with more parents interacting with one another.
- Parents felt safer walking their children to school and there was a good response from local residents living on the closed street. People adjusted schedules to keep the road car free and there were more people walking after the first week.

A comprehensive report is being prepared to document the methodology and findings of the school streets pilot. The report will summarize a number of evaluations that took place, including travel surveys, air quality monitoring and area traffic volumes. The report is planned to be completed by mid-July. Next step is to present the findings to the Board and City for future project considerations. More information on the school streets project can be found here: www.Markham.ca/schoolstreets.

There was discussion about a potential AST program at a high school, eg Markham District Sec. School. Needs to have supportive administration and parents. School Board would be willing to support, if Markham is supportive.

6.3 Active Transportation Master Plan

City staff provided an update on the Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP). It was noted that the May 30 DSC meeting and June 14 Council meeting that the Council endorsed the ATMP 10-year cycling capital plan with an estimated capital cost of \$53.5M. The overall operational and maintenance cost is estimated at \$993,000 upon completion of the 10-year program. Projects are subject to annual capital budget request and approval and two staff are to be hired to support implementation of this capital plan.

First step is to hire the new staff to develop in the finalization of the annual program and project prioritization on a year-to-year basis. These staffing positions are separate from the capital budget process as it is funded from development charges and do not require Council approval.

6.4 Reports to Council

There was no update.

6.5 EA Updates

There was no update.

6.6 Markham Cycling Day

City staff provided an update on Markham Cycling Day. CPAC has received informal approval (waiting on the formal approval) for the Markham Cycling Day event this year. Corporate Events will make the final decision based on Canada Day events. The Subcommittee has met and started brainstorming ideas on what form the event will take. The event will take place some time in September, traditionally the last Sunday of September and is seeking volunteers for the in-person event.

6.7 York Region Projects

There was no update.

6.8 Subcommittee Updates

Unionville Main Street Streetscape Revitalization Project

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Unionville Main Street streetscape revitalization project. Peter Miasek and Colin Cassar attended the first meeting. This is a \$10 million reconstruction project to make the street more pedestrian friendly and to narrow the roadway. An Open House was scheduled for the public and further public comments can be provided through the project website on yourvoicemarkham.ca.

Protected Intersections

An invite to a meeting in early July for protected intersections at Kennedy Road and McCowan Road will be sent to CPAC. Formal comments were made to the design team and a note will be sent to CPAC. Peter Miasek will attend the meeting and share updates.

6.9 Road Safety

There was no update.

6.10 Open Streets

Peter Miasek provided an update on the Open Streets project. The Middlefield Road closure (from Highglen Avenue to Denison Street) will happen for 8 days on Sundays and statutory holidays from July 31st to September 5th, instead of the 13 days in Open Street 2021. The original objective is to provide a space for people to be active due to restrictions of the pandemic. As the City is opening up and more events are happening during the summer, this event may not be as popular as previous year. With a reduced scope, some features such as Zumba classes and Markham Cycles will remain. The Subcommittee is also in discussion with Markham Arts Council to provide additional programming to be part of the event.

6.11 Markham Cycles

There was no update.

6.12 2022 Budget Process and AT related items

There was no update.

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

The Micromobility Subcommittee delivered a presentation on Micromobility Recommendation in May, and would like to hear feedback from CPAC members.

Elisabeth reviewed the proposed approach to policy setting which are based on two guiding principles. It intends to create a policy that is future proof to accommodate future/new vehicle types. Also, it should consider a policy based on general attributes of the vehicle (instead of a policy based on specific vehicle type), such as vehicle weight and speed.

Comments and questions can be sent to Elisabeth Tan or David Rawcliffe to create a framework that CPAC can pass on to City Staff and Council to consider. Loy Cheah will also take this for consideration in the Road Safety Strategy that is being developed with York Region.

7. INFO ITEM/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 CPAC Meeting Schedule

City Staff reminded that there is a summer recess for the months of July and August. Meetings will resume in September, with the remaining meeting dates as follows:

- September 15th, 2022
- October 20th, 2022
- November 17th, 2022
- December 15th, 2022

7.2 Concerns of CPAC members to be discussed in September

Joska Zerci explained that some shared AT facilities are often busy with pedestrians making it difficult for cyclists to travel through. He suggested implementing passing lanes that would make it easier for cyclists to go long distance. This will be further discussed at next meeting.

Amit Arora suggested additional budget towards community engagement, to be further discussed at the next meeting.

7.3 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.