



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 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
Elisabeth Tan
Doug Wolfe
Daniel Yeung
Joska Zerczi

Guest

Doug Crocker
Mark Battaglia

Staff:

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator,
Transportation
Loy Cheah, Senior Manager,
Transportation
Samson Wat, Project Engineer
Bev Shugg Barbeito, Clerks

Agency:

Gerald Carnegie, YRP
Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP
Reena Mistry, YRDSB YRCSB
David Simor, Markham Cycles / TCAT
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute MRH

Regrets:

Zain Khan
Anthony Ko
Mauricio Martinez
Paul Salvo
Gerry Shaw
Councillor Isa Lee, Ward 8
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3
Diana Kakamousias, York Region

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

Approval of modification to Agenda as 7.2 to add Jane's Walk, and a Motion of thanks for Don Hamilton.

3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: OCTOBER 20, 2022

Approval of the minutes of the October 20, 2022 meeting was deferred to the next meeting.

4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS

4.1 City-wide Parking Strategy Terms of Reference

Loy Cheah introduced Samson Wat, Project Engineer, and advised that the Parking Strategy is one of the studies that is part of the City's strategic plan. It was felt that CPAC would be an appropriate venue to provide input for the formulation of the citywide parking strategy.

Samson Wat provided a high level overview of the project. He advised that the City's current official plan and strategic plan have identified the need to develop a city wide parking strategy. He noted that the traditional way of planning and managing parking based on a supply and demand approach is no longer sustainable for urban city planning. He discussed the key study objectives including providing direction on how parking should evolve over the next 20 to 30 years. The study will also explore ways to use parking to achieve a desirable balance of mobility, including supporting a shift towards public transit, active transportation, and preparing for the transition to electric mobility.

Mr. Wat discussed the timelines of the project: the project is currently in Phase 1 focussing on background review; Phase 2 will start in Q1 2023 and will focus on developing policy directions and recommendations; in Q3 2023, a series of parking strategy implementation and monitoring plans will be developed based on the recommendations developed in phase 2; in Q1, 2024, the final report will be prepared and submitted to Markham Council.

In response to questions, Committee members were advised that, as part of the background review, staff will investigate parking standards established in other municipalities including shared parking or privately paid parking, as well as what technologies other municipalities have adopted, and their user experiences. When it comes to messaging to the public, it is expected that education will be needed to have residents see parking differently than they do now. Staff will check to see if Markham has a map indicating all parking spaces for the city of Markham; it was noted that such a map could be updated on a regular basis or as needed.

Committee members were reminded that staff are guided by the City's strategic documents and that staff will use those documents to guide the policy directions, and the policy strategies that will ultimately be recommended to Council.

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING

None was identified.

6. STANDING ITEMS & ON-GOING PROJECTS

6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates

Staff provided an update on the following City AT Projects: Active Transportation Master Plan, Cycling and Trail Map Update, Huntington Trail Bridge Update, Denison St. and Kennedy Rd. Underpasses at Stouffville GO line, and Wayfinding Plan on Rouge Valley Trail. As requested, staff provided examples of the signage for the RVT Wayfinding Plan.

6.2 School Programs & Pilots

Reena Mistry provided an overview of the Active School Travel Pilot Program, which concluded in June 2022. Officially the pilot was a partnership program with City of Markham, York Region District School Board, and York Catholic District School Board; it was funded through the Ontario Active School Travel Fund through Green Communities Canada. The pilot program was also provided with additional funding which enabled the expansion of programming and the ability to have a school street test at one of the pilot schools. Ms. Mistry advised that, at the December meeting, she would present the results of the pilot and provide potential next steps to move forward with the conclusions of the project.

6.5 Markham Cycling Day

City staff provided an update on Markham Cycling Day. For the 2023 event, CPAC and Transportation staff will continue to lead and organize the event. However, since this is the largest Markham cycling event, discussions are underway to involve the City's event planning team.

6.6 York Region Projects

Peter Miasek provided an update on three York Region projects:

- Intersection of 16th Avenue with Highway 404
- McCowan between 14th Avenue and Highway 7
- Warden Avenue and Kennedy Road, between Major Mackenzie and Elgin Mills

The Committee discussed safety factors and costs related to protected intersections and potential interchange configurations.

6.7 Subcommittee Updates

No updates were available. Chair David Rawcliffe requested that updates be available for the December meeting,

6.9 Open Streets

Staff provided an update. In 2020, the Open Streets program was originated as part of Markham's response to Covid-19, to support local businesses, and to provide more space for physical distancing while walking and cycling. This year, the Covid-19 restrictions have been lifted, so the needs and objectives for this program no longer apply. City staff will prepare a Council Report in Q2 2023 to provide an update of the 2021 and 2022 programs, and provide staff recommendations for 2023 which may include discontinuing the program. If Council were to direct staff to continue the program in 2023, it was discussed that the 2022 program could be implemented again.

6.11 2022 Budget Process and AT related items

City Staff provided a preliminary list of projects; however, Committee members were cautioned that the list was not yet finalized and still subject to staff review. Existing operational budget from the Traffic Engineering group may be used to include a small expansion of the Active School Travel program.

There was a question about the status of the approved budget for ATMP Capital Plan. Staff explained that two full-time staff is included as part of the budget and filling those positions is the first step in implementation. Currently, staff is still going through the hiring process. At the meanwhile, traffic calming measures and installation of PXOs are identified in the ATMP, which are part of the 2023 budget.

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

On behalf of the subcommittee, Elisabeth Tan reviewed the draft motion which had been sent to Committee members in advance of the meeting. The Committee discussed the proposed motion, made minor changes, and voted on the motion as follows:

Background:

The variety of the forms of micro mobility (e-scooters, tricycles and other mobility vehicles) continues to grow. These forms are often dangerous to use on a roadway but also can be dangerous to pedestrians on the sidewalk, path or trail. Governments will have to make a decision as to where these forms of micro mobility belong to cover themselves from lawsuits which may claim inaction.

Motion

Whereas the total population and population density of Markham are increasing significantly, requiring new modes of travel

Whereas new technologies, and other changes to society, have led to new modes of transportation appearing in Markham

Whereas Micro mobility such as e-bikes and e-scooters (shared or privately owned) have added new options for Markham residents

Whereas Micro mobility can contribute to sustainability, better land use and inclusiveness

Whereas Micro mobility can support public transportation as modes for the first and last miles

Whereas new data has suggested that e-scooters can reduce car use and therefore can reduce congestion and emissions

Whereas Markham's Active Transportation Master Plan includes an action (E18) that is based on the assumption that a supportive policy and legal framework exists in Markham for micro mobility

Whereas there are challenging trade-offs between facilitating micro mobility and accommodating disabled travelers, requiring a thoughtful policy regime

A] CPAC recommends to Markham Council that:

a] The City participate in the Provincial e-scooter pilot program and permit e-scooters on City facilities as appropriate

b] a start be made to building a safe network for Micro mobility

c] parking spaces be provided for forms of Micro mobility.

B] CPAC recommends to Markham Council to direct Staff to draft a report on Micro mobility:

a] setting policies for Micro mobilities

b] the development of an attainable infrastructure for the various forms of Micro mobility

Moved by Elisabeth Tan

Seconded by Daniel Yeung

CARRIED

7. INFO ITEMS/NEW BUSINESS/ ANNOUNCEMENTS

7.1 Membership Update

Staff reviewed a list of Committee members and the corresponding end date of their term. The Clerk's Department is preparing to recruit new members for a number of advisory committees. Council members and Committee members appointments are expected to be made in the New Year. The Clerk's Department is aware that some current members, including the three Chairs, have terms which are expiring soon; those members will be contacted to enquire whether they are interested in staying on the committee; also, it is recommended for members with expired terms should continue to attend committee meetings during this time. Staff are also working with the Clerk's Department to determine if the Terms of Reference should be reviewed.

7.2 Other Business

Jane's Walk 2023

Steve Glassman provided an update on Jane's Walk 2023. Paul Salvo has requested that Committee member(s) take the lead in coordinating the Jane's Walk starting in 2023. Paul will share the template, contacts and his previous experience to help the new lead. Any interested member(s) are asked to reach out to Steve Glassman or Paul Salvo. This will be an ongoing business item on the agenda until it has been resolved.

Letters of Thanks

It was agreed that the three Chairs would proceed to draft and send letters of thanks to former Deputy Mayor Don Hamilton for his contributions to the Committee over the past four years.

December Meeting

Staff will investigate in-person options for this meeting.

8. AGENDA ITEMS FOR THE NEXT MEETING

None were identified.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9PM.