



## CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, MAY 16, 2024

ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

7:00 – 9:00 PM

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### **Citizen Members:**

Peter Miasek, Chair  
Andrew Dang, Co-Vice Chair  
Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair  
Anthony Ko  
Daniel Yeung  
David Mok  
Joska Zerczi  
Kim Adeney (AAC)  
Councillor Ritch Lau

### **Agency:**

Alex Heung, Markham Cycles (CICS)  
Reena Mistry, YRDSB  
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health

### **Staff:**

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation  
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)

### **Regrets:**

Amit Arora  
Brenda Kazan  
Cliff Chan, MEAC  
Doug Wolfe  
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation  
Joseph Lisi  
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute  
Diana Kakamousias, York Region Transportation  
PC Patricia Graham, YRP  
Sergeant Shawna Leitch, YRP  
Councillor Reid McAlpine

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:02 PM on May 16, 2024, with Peter Miasek presiding as Chair.

### **1. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

### **2. APPROVAL/MODIFICATIONS TO AGENDA**

The agenda was approved as presented, except a brief update on e-scooter pilot (6.11) was added

### **3. REVIEW OF MINUTES:**

**Moved by Anthony Ko  
seconded by Steve Glassman**

**That the Minutes of the official February 22, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Steve Glassman  
Seconded by Joska Zerczi**

**That the Minutes of the unofficial March 21, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Steve Glassman  
Seconded by Andrew Dang**

**That the Minutes of the unofficial April 25, 2024, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS**

There were no guest speakers.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

Peter Miasek, Chair introduced Kim Adeney, the new CPAC member representing City of Markham's Advisory Committee on Accessibility.

**5.1 Hwy 407 Fatalities**

Peter Miasek, Chair, advised that, with the help of Nelson Costa, a letter was sent to MTO Transportation Safety Division regarding the 4 fatalities at 407 on ramps in Markham since 2011. A cordial reply was received, indicating MTO will review internal files and then reconnect with us.

It was suggested that Peter and Nelson supplement this letter with a count of all similar fatalities in York Region, not only Markham.

Andrew Dang reported that he is still pursuing a FOI request on two of the fatalities – Warden Ave 2021 and McCowan Rd 2023.

**6. STANDING ITEMS & ONGOING PROJECTS**

**6.1 City's Ongoing AT Project Updates**

No update

**6.2 School Programs & Pilots**

Reena Mistry provided an update on the Active School Travel (AST) Program for 2023-2025.

The AST program is working in collaboration with Aldergrove, Parkland and Beckett Farm Public Schools. In September of last year, the program successfully launched with communication packages, events and assemblies, attended curriculum nights and installed wayfinding signs and sidewalk stencils. In October last year the program celebrated IWALK month with a group walk to school events and conducted assemblies. Mayor Scarpitti attended the Beckett Farm Walk, with attendance of the School Trustees at Aldergrove and Parkland events. York Regional Police and York Region have provided support to all schools in this program. Monthly initiatives continue at these 3 schools.

In addition to the above 3 schools, a partial AST program is being run at Reesor Pk PS and William Berczy PS.

Reena advised that the AST team has applied for a grant under the National School Streets Initiative with budget approved by Markham City Council for 2024. If awarded, the AST will conduct two school streets pilot programs between 2025 and 2027. It is likely that the grant application will be approved.

Next steps: Reena advised that the AST programs at Aldergrove, Parkland and Beckett Public Schools will run to completion in June 2025. It is expected that the program will be extended to three more schools in September 2025, which will include additional street signs and sidewalk stencils at Reesor Park in 2024. Also, follow-up will be initiated with the 8 schools that participated in the first AST pilot program. The school street pilot program is being developed for 2024-2027, as well as expansion of mobile signage campaigns. Finally, there will be exploration/development of Secondary School initiatives.

Reena made a budget request from CPAC for \$4,300 for 2024 AST for:

Mobile signage (5 signs @ \$200 each) = \$1,000;  
Secondary School Initiative of \$2,000;  
Signage and Stencils at Reesor Park Public School of \$1,300.

Peter Miasek, Chair advised Reena that CPAC is not certain if it has the funds to support the request, but will advise in June.

The issue of school crossing guards was raised. There is a shortage in many cities including Markham. Vaughan has converted crossing guards into part-time city employees to try to improve job satisfaction and

retention. Discussions could be held with Samson Wat, who manages the Markham program.

The Markham School Zone Safety Guidelines, currently under development for end 2025, will discuss intersection safety, including pro/con of crossing guards vs. PXOs, pedestrian-activated signals, parking restrictions and other measures.

**6.3 Reports to Council**

No updates

**6.4 EA Updates**

No updates

**6.5 Markham Cycling Day**

Joska Zerczi advised that this year's Markham Cycling Day event is Sold Out. He further advised that there are concerns about the lack of Ride Marshals and volunteers are needed. There is also a need for volunteers for the on-site activities and for the two rest stops. Contact Fion if available. In response to a question, Joska indicated that local secondary schools are approached for volunteers.

There was discussion as to whether this very popular event should be revamped in the future to handle larger crowds, eg self guided with marshals at intersections only.

**6.6 York Region Projects**

No update

**6.7 Subcommittee Updates**

Winter Pedestrian Subcommittee

No update.

Innovation Subcommittee

No update.

Bike Parking Subcommittee

No update

Protected Intersections Subcommittee

Peter Miasek, Chair advised that the Road Widening Subcommittee is the new name for the old, protected intersections subcommittee.

Jane's Walk

Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair provided an update on this year's Janes Walk. Extremely well attended – 60 people for the Unionville walk and 75 for Thornhill (two walks). So many people that it was hard to hear the guide.

Some members expressed concerns about large groups participating in Jane's Walk, thus causing obstruction for pedestrians on the walkways. There was a suggestion to close up Unionville Main Street to accommodate the large number of participants in the Jane's Walk events.

Another idea to consider is a tour using a transmitter/receiver so everyone can hear. Could even make the tour self-guided. Unionville BIA has funding for some sort of tour.

Road Safety subcommittee – see Item 6.8

## **6.8 Markham Road Safety Plan**

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation provided an update on the City of Markham's Road Safety Plan. The project kick off is scheduled in May 2024.

The first stakeholder workshop, including CPAC, is scheduled to be held in September this year, followed by the first PIC in October. There will then be a report to Council, including branding recommendation.

The second stakeholder workshop is tentatively scheduled to be held in January 2025, followed by the second PIC in March 2025. Staff will provide a final report and presentation on this project to Council in May/June of 2025.

Loy further advised the schedules for the following upcoming projects:	
May 23, 2024	Traffic Calming on Main Street Markham - PIC#2, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Markham Village Community Centre
May 29, 2024	Traffic Calming on Carlton Road - PIC#2, from 6:00 - 8:00 PM at the Markham Civic Centre (Canada Room)
June 18, 2024	Council Report & Presentation on "Traffic Calming on Carlton Road"

There may also be a report to Council re Apple Creek Blvd if necessary after management review. Construction funding is already in place for this project.

There is also a tentative report to Council (June 18, 2024) "Separated Cycling Facility Selection Tool". The Tool was developed in the ATMP and

staff will be seeking endorsement. Often it recommends Cycle Track + Sidewalk versus MUP. It is important that Council understand the higher operating cost of CT+SW.

## **6.9 Markham Cycles**

Alex Heung, Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS) summarized the status and the programming for 2024.

CICS intends to integrate Markham Cycles (MC) with its immigrant services while maintaining MC's core mission of addressing social barriers to cycling in Markham and empowering community members to embrace cycling as a means of transportation recreation and community engagement. This facilitates the settlement and integration of immigrants into Canadian society through collaborative efforts and inclusivity.

The 2024 program is similar to 2023 and is targeted at all residents:

- Two community hubs – Milliken Mills CC and Centennial CC
- DIY Bike Repair
- Bicycle Lending Library
- Community Bike Booths/Tabling Events
- Cycle the City
- Group Rides
- Library Workshops
- School Programming with YRDSB
- Recycle to Ride – Bike Rescue

Bi-weekly meetings are held with TCAT to discuss joint programming and funding opportunities.

For 2025, CICS will implement Markham Cycles into its IRCC (Immigration, Refugee and Citizenship Canada) regular health and wellness programming.

A suggestion was made that MC run “Learn to Ride” courses or a “How to buy an e-bike” course for 2025.

## **6.10 2024 Budget for AT related items & CPAC Budget**

No update.

## **6.11 E-bike / E-scooter Pilot at Markham Centre**

Lee Boudakian, project manager, provided an update to Peter by email. The project will likely start in mid June. It will include a public communications package. The necessary bylaws are being prepared. Engineering staff is working on traffic calming ideas for Enterprise Blvd to assist in the safety of e-scooter users and bicyclists.

**6.12 Discussion Topics for 2024**

No update

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

**7.1 Public Education Campaign for MUTs & MUPs**

In March, Councillor McAlpine received an email from Sasha Zu, Markham resident, suggesting a public education campaign for Multi Use Trails (in parks) to minimize conflicts between e-bikers and pedestrians. The email conversation soon broadened to include conventional bikes and e-scooters. It also broadened to include MUPs on boulevards.

Sasha suggested ideas including: (a) one page info sheet on what is good behaviour, including what is legal and what is not (b) pop-up trail-side info booth (c) social media campaign.

Discussion at the meeting included:

- there is already an annual city campaign on good behaviour for cyclists and pedestrians. Details on the specific messaging would be helpful.
- Corp Comm likely has no resources to initiate a new campaign
- Markham Transportation Master Plan work will include micro-mobility strategy, e.g. where e-scooters should be permitted. This plan is two years away from completion.
- can we use maze barriers or bollards or other barriers on the trails to slow cyclists down?

Further discussion next month.

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

Next formal meeting September 19 – Next informal meeting June 20.

Potential agenda items for June:

A presentation from Cycling Without Age

An update on the traffic calming projects

School Crossing Guard program and School Safety Guidelines (Samson Wat)

E-Scooter pilot (Lee Boudakian)

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:06 P.M.