

## Notes from

### **CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE** **Unofficial meeting of the Committee**

January 16, 2025, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., Virtual meeting

Chair: Peter Miasek

Notes: Steve Glassman

#### **Attending:**

##### Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair  
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair  
Andrew Dang, Vice Chair  
Joska Zerczi  
Anthony Ko  
Daniel Yeung  
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3  
Amit Arora  
Councillor Ritch Lau, Ward 2  
Doug Wolfe  
Kevin Lee, Markham Cycles (CICS)  
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute

##### Regrets:

Joseph Lisi  
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health  
Diana Kakamousias, York Region  
Transportation  
Reena Mistry, YRDSB  
PC Patricia Graham, YRP  
PC Shawna Leitch, YRP  
Kim Adeney - AAC  
Sara R (SCMRH)  
Brenda Kazan  
Cliff Chan - MEAC  
Fion Ho - staff

##### Staff:

Eric Chan (Senior Manager,  
Transportation)

#### **1. OPENING Remarks**

The chair read the indigenous land acknowledgement. The minutes of the last informal meeting December 19 were approved without changes. The agenda was agreed to with an addition from Councillor Lau (Item 4.3)

#### **2. ACTION ITEMS FROM EARLIER MEETINGS**

##### **2.1 Bill 212 and Federal Infrastructure Funding**

As discussed at the December meeting, Bill 212 requires provincial approval of bike lanes where traffic lanes were or are planned to be removed. Transportation staff prepared a report for the council on Bill 212 on November 20. There are three Markham projects currently *in limbo* (Carlton St calming, Main St. calming, and Allstate Parkway new

active transportation facility). All have federal funding with a requirement for the end of construction by January 31, 2026.

There are many uncertainties on how the legislation will be implemented. Staff perceives the legislation as focusing on primary (arterial) roads, which are under York Region's authority. The council therefore resolved to request an exemption from B212 requirements for all Markham city streets. Council also resolved to request clarifications from the province on process and criteria.

Eric Chan followed up with Province re Council resolutions but has not received a reply – nor has any other municipality. Eric also looked into funding extensions with Infrastructure Canada. Early (unofficial) indications are that federal funding will be extended to end 2026. Reid asked if the budgeted funds can be redirected to other priority areas, like a trail project. Peter reinforced this notion by suggesting that there is a list of 60 identified projects in the ATMP to redirect funds to, many of which do not involve lane reductions. Eric will consider whether we can pivot to other projects due to this uncertainty.

Eric also advised that the next round of federal applications are due end of February, with no deadline extension possible. Again, some of the ATMP listed projects might fit.

Eric will continue to report on status to CPAC.

## **2.2 Winter Pathway Network for Walkers**

Reid discussed the winter pathways proposal along with a draft resolution which had been circulated with the agenda. An earlier proposal from 2021 covered all paved pathways in parks and also scoped costs to pave granular pathways. This was rejected as being too expensive from an operations cost perspective. Therefore this proposal has been reduced to a “network” pathways proposal. The network is conceived as a series of pathways that are plowed in the winter to allow residents to cross thru parks to destinations, including local schools (where plowed by school) or other parts of the neighbourhood. It is understood that some pathways, even in this modest proposal, may need paving for standard snowplow operations.

The resolution and the proposal is strongly based on principles that are endorsed by Markham, such as encouraging walking for short trips, developing more complete communities, and the active school travel program. The group discussed the resolution and made suggestions.

Eric advised that the feasibility study would cost \$50 – 100K, including preparing a map and listing key destinations.

**Action:** Councilor McAlpine will revise the wording of the resolution so that CPAC might approve it in time for the next official CPAC meeting.

### **2.3 Cycling facility on YMCA Blvd (University Blvd to Kennedy Rd)**

Peter advised that there has been uncertainty about plans for this stretch. York Region was designing a transitway + bike lanes as part of its Kennedy Rd project. Peter advised York that the bike facility needs to be protected, per City guidance. However, York now believes that no transitway is to be designed, in which case the existing roadway would be retained. Eric will clarify at upcoming 60% design review January 21.

### **2.4 New Sign Posts for existing parts of RVT**

Peter reported on his follow up with Salia Kalali (capital planning) regarding additional signs needed at six locations on the Rouge Valley Trail (RVT). Salila advised that two locations (junction of RVT with Kennedy/Austin branches, and at Markham Green GC) can be completed within existing capital projects. The others will need to be incorporated in a new project with new funding. The discussion focused on the small cost of the project, along with minimal professional support needed to designate the locations and design/order the signs.

**Action:** Peter will follow up with a letter to Salia.

### **2.5 Expressway Cycling Fatality Project (TMU)**

Peter received correspondence from MTO. The TMU study is completed and under review by MTO staff. We will be advised when it is ready for release.

## **2 SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **3.1 Markham Cycling Day – meeting January 16**

Fion is chair of this subcommittee and was not in attendance, but Peter reported that a meeting was held in which June 15th was selected as the day for the annual event. Committee is discussing a change of venue from Aviva parking lot to Milne Park. The children's events would not work well in the park, which is one of the unique aspects of Markham's event. Alternatives suggested included having a two-day event, one in park and one elsewhere for children. Markham Main St was also mentioned as another venue. The subcommittee meets again in two weeks.

### **3.2 Jane's Walk**

Andrew suggested that he is convening the subcommittee in January and will report back in February.

### **3.3 Vision Zero – stakeholder meeting January 14**

Steve reported on a Markham VZ planning meeting that he and Peter attended on Jan 14th lead by Mustafa Ismatyar from city staff and CIMA+, the consulting group for developing our 5-year VZ plan. They presented the Vision, Mission and Goals of Markham’s Vision Zero; the six emphasis areas (intersections, vulnerable users, school zones, aggressive driving, distracted and young drivers); and the four categories of countermeasures (the 4 E’s- Engineering, Enforcement, Education and Engagement). They solicited input from each group on the countermeasures that each could possibly lead or support.

CPAC will submit some of our existing measures (Pedestrian BVIZIBLE vests, cycling bells, trail signage about safe and courteous cycling) and also any new ideas that CPAC may be able to support. In the realm of education or engagement/ marketing, to change the culture and behaviors in our city, where the public is often effective, CPAC might become very active. Send suggestions to Steve or Peter for this very initial stage of planning by email by January 29th. The VZ subcommittee will resume its activities again.

### **3.4 Winter Pedestrian – see 2.2**

## **4. NEW BUSINESS**

### **4.1 Markham Transportation Plan kickoff and ATMP implementation**

Eric discussed this new planning project. It will be overarching, consolidating the ATMP, parking strategies, school safety strategies, Vision Zero, complete streets concepts, and so on, with a view to 2051. The plan will include micromobility, and for that matter, other AT technologies, and the new OTM Book 18 and other design standards. A key theme is transportation equity. Members of CPAC are invited to the first planning session on January 28th.

### **4.2 Renaming CPAC as Active Transportation Advisory Cttee (ATAC)**

Eric discussed the idea of changing CPAC’s name to reflect the active transportation concerns of our work. If this were the consensus, a review of the committee’s terms of reference would also be submitted to the city clerk. A lively discussion ensued, in which pros and cons were mentioned. The main “pro” is that “AT” would cover other modes like scooters. The

main “con” is that few citizens understand the term “active transportation”, while all understand “cycling and pedestrian”.

**Action:** Eric to consider the feedback and report back within the next few months.

#### **4.3 Markham Centre Trail (MCT) near Apple Creek**

Councillor Lau raised a new issue, in which about 30 homeowners along a proposed new section of the trail near Apple Creek objected to the plan. Concerns about privacy (location of the trails near their backyard fence lines), disruption to nature and wildlife, and cost are some of the resident’s issues. It appeared that the objections may be in part due to lack of consultation or engagement with this set of residents, and a response could include a meeting in the spring to explain the rationale for this project. Rich felt the project would benefit all of Markham, and others agreed wholeheartedly. Some clarity was requested: sharing the citizen’s letter or petition, a sample of the notice they received from the city, and a map to show where these homes are situated would be helpful.

**Action:** Councillor to send the information to Peter, for CPAC to discuss at next CPAC meeting.

#### **4.4 “Wheeling Through Toronto” book.**

Doug has finished reading it and will pass to Joska. Anthony has the other copy.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM. The next meeting will be an unofficial meeting, February 20th at 7PM, held via ZOOM

### **Addendum to Meeting Notes – Key Actions to be Tracked**

#### **January 16, 2025**

1. Continue to contact province re B212 exemptions and procedures and Infrastructure Canada re time lines. Apply to IC for new funding for new projects by end February (Eric)
2. Prepare revised winter pathway maintenance motion (Reid)
3. Clarify YMCA Blvd construction plan (Eric)
4. Write Salia Kalali re new RVT signage project (Peter)

5. Sumit VZ countermeasure ideas that CPAC could lead or support to Steve and Peter by January 29 (all)
6. Bring back CPAC rename idea when ready (Eric)
7. Circulate material on Apple Creek trail and put on February agenda (Peter)

### **December 19, 2024**

1. Prepare bike rack proposal for January/February 2025 including location recommendations and type of installation. See Nov 21 minutes. (Joska + committee)
2. Send questions to Economic Development re Scooty Pilot – done! Await final report. (Peter)
3. Jane’s Walk subcommittee to meet and focus on the May 2025 events, obtaining commitments from walk leaders, and then to begin working on publicity in the late winter/early spring (Andrew + Committee)
4. Write YRT re shuttle buses to GO station (Peter + Joska)

### **November 21, 2024**

1. Conduct survey of bike rack needs in parks (Staff)

### **October 17, 2024**

1. Check gravel soft spots on RVT in spring (Joska)

### **June 20, 2024**

1. Discuss Cycling Without Age storage at Crosby CC (Reid)
2. Assess continuous sidewalk as part of Road Safety Plan (staff)
3. Find out more information about bike rentals in condos (Reid)

### **January 18, 2024**

1. stay involved with design of AT facility on Elgin Mills (Peter)