

**Notes from**  
**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE**  
**Unofficial meeting of the Committee**

December 19, 2024, 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m., in person meeting  
Canada Room, Markham Civic Centre

Chair: Peter Miasek

Notes: Steve Glassman

**Attending:**

Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair  
Steve Glassman, Vice Chair  
Andrew Dang, Vice Chair  
Joska Zerczi  
Joseph Lisi  
Anthony Ko  
Daniel Yeung  
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3  
Doug Wolfe  
Kevin Lee, Markham Cycles (CICS)  
Keenan Mosdell, Markham Cycles

Staff:

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager,  
Transportation  
Eric Chan (incoming Senior Manager,  
Transportation)

Regrets:

Amit Arora  
Councillor Ritch Lau, Ward 2  
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health  
Diana Kakamousias, York Region  
Transportation  
Reena Mistry, YRDSB  
PC Patricia Graham, YRP  
PC Shawna Leitch, YRP  
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute  
Kim Adeney - AAC  
Sara R (SCMRH)  
Brenda Kazan  
Cliff Chan – MEAC  
Fion Ho – TDM coordinator, Transportation  
Alex Huang - CICS

**1. OPENING Remarks**

Peter Miasek opened the meeting after we finished a celebratory meal in honour of Loy, and the season. Peter thanked Andrew for organizing the catered meal.

The chair read the Indigenous land acknowledgement. The minutes of the November 21, 2024 (formal) meeting were approved after a motion from Anthony, seconded by Andrew. The agenda was agreed to with an addition from Joseph Lisi.

Peter distributed/loaned the 2 copies of the book “Wheeling thru Toronto”, purchased by CPAC earlier this year, to Doug W. and Anthony K.

## **2. LOY CHEAH- Retirement**

The committee recognized Loy Cheah for his contributions to the city and his work with this advisory group since 2017. Peter read a synopsis of Loy’s 36 year career in transportation engineering, and his accomplishments. CPAC presented a plaque to Loy, who will retire on December 31, 2024.

Eric Chan attended the meeting and introduced himself as the newly hired replacement for Loy. He was welcomed by CPAC. It is a mutual aspiration of professional city staff and CPAC to continue to work together to advance active transportation in Markham, which is now a Vision Zero community.

## **3. CPAC BUDGET Review (final, 2024)**

A final review of the 2024 CPAC budget revealed that the entire budget of \$28K, less \$266 was spent for authorized activities. It was noted that this is the first time in many years that there has not been a portion of the allocation left unspent. This was due to the committee frequently reviewing the progress of actual expenditures during the year. It was noted that in the past the CPAC budget often handled shortfalls from Cycling Day, while in 2024 the shortfall was not as large. A full-fledged breakdown of expenditures will be presented when Fion is able to assemble the data.

It was agreed that the budget should remain on the agenda for most meetings. The work on bike parking racks needs to begin in January, as this item requires planning on costs and selecting appropriate locations.

Action: Parking subcommittee to develop location recommendations and also work with city on cost of installations.

## **4. UPDATES (Items deferred from November 21<sup>st</sup> meeting)**

### **4.1 Bill 212**

Bill 212 requires provincial approval of bike lanes where traffic lanes were or are planned to be removed. Transportation staff prepared a report for 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 end of construction of 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.

Action: Eric Chan to follow up with Province re Council resolutions. Eric to look for funding extensions with Infrastructure Canada.

#### **4.2 407 Fatality update**

Peter has received responses from MTO that this issue is of concern, and they have launched a study with Toronto Metropolitan University (TMU). The report is due soon and will be posted on MTO's website. Peter will report on any progress at next meeting.

Andrew's attempts at obtaining specific information (cause and recommendations) on the two recent fatalities through FOI legislation have not been productive, but it is agreed that the TMU group will probably obtain any specifics needed during their inquiry.

It was commented that after the reviews are complete, if 407 rules, funding, and MTO standards seem to prevent remediation of these dangerous interchanges, the voices of citizen led groups like CPAC and the general public may be needed to affect change.

#### **4.3 GO shuttle deputation**

Joska reported that he submitted a written deputation to DSC on October 24<sup>th</sup>, as an individual concerned citizen, believing that the GO Shuttle buses should be restored to pre-COVID service levels. He received a courtesy response from YRT.

The committee discussed the issue at length, including ideas like Bike Shares to GO stations, private shuttle services, Uber-like services as was done in Innisfil to accommodate low ridership routes, and so on. Previously, it was felt that this issue was somewhat outside the mandate of CPAC. As the shuttles address the 'last mile' dilemma and promote lower private car use and possibly active transportation, the committee reconsidered its position and agreed to speak on this transportation issue. Therefore, it was moved

**Whereas** a shuttle service from neighbourhoods in Markham that utilize GO transit for daily commuting was in place prior to the pandemic and,  
**Whereas** the service has not resumed to date and,  
**Whereas** shuttle services would reduce use of single occupancy private vehicles to drive short distances to GO stations on daily commutes and,  
**Whereas** Markham is committed to reducing the use of private cars for trips under 5Km,

**It is moved** that CPAC shall correspond with the CEO of YRT to request a review of the shuttle service from neighborhoods to local GO stations to provide 'last mile' transportation. Moved by Joska, seconded by Doug, motion carried.

#### **4.4 Tracking Action Items**

Peter advised that Anthony Ko's suggestion has been put into place. An action item list will be included at the end of the minutes of formal and informal meetings. The action item list will be used to prepare agendas for both CPAC full and sub-committee meetings.

### **5. Undone Action Items from earlier meetings**

#### **5.1 UPDATE on OVIN pilot (Scooty micromobility)**

The OVIN project ran from its soft launch on August 21<sup>st</sup> through to October 31<sup>st</sup>. under the direction of Markham's Economic Development department. Presentation slides delivered to our meeting had data on usage for the first 40 days only and information on community relations. Staff is working with Scooty to finalize the review and findings. There are no plans to extend the OVIN pilot to 2025.

The pilot has advanced our understanding of micromobility and the new bylaw enabling eScooters to be used in Downtown Markham remains in place for privately-owned scooters.

Next steps for e-scooters and e-bikes will depend on the upcoming Markham Transportation Master Plan, due in 2-3 years. For e-scooters, it will propose a policy framework, network plan and procurement options for rentals.

Action: Peter to write to the Economic Development contacts with specific questions raised by the committee.

#### **5.2 Storage of trishaw for Cycling without Age at Crosby CC – deferred**

### **5.3 More Information about Bike Rentals at Condos - deferred**

### **5.4 Cycling Facility on YMCA Blvd.**

In November, Council approved a new “Cycling Facility Selection Guide”, used to make judgements on the type of cycling facility to install based on the parameters of the roadway project. Peter reviewed plans for the YMCA Blvd (University Blvd to Kennedy Rd) road improvements which are part of the Region’s Kennedy Rd BRT project. The recommended design for YMCA contravenes the guide! This has been brought to the attention of the designers. There is some confusion about the plan for BRT on YMCA Blvd – Reid will check with Planning Dept (Stephen Lue).

## **6. SUBCOMMITTEE reports**

### **6.1 Jane’s Walk**

Andrew suggested that it is timely to begin planning for the May 2025 Jane’s Walk(s). He hoped that there would be more than two walks (Thornhill and Unionville) planned. Andrew and also liked walks that offered both morning and afternoon sessions.

There were numerous suggestions for walks with a historic, natural or urban planning theme. These included:

- A longer walk in historic Thornhill and its ravines (David Rawcliffe)
- Milne Dam
- Markham Centre- possibly ask Remington (Randy Peddigrew) to lead from an urban planning and behind the scenes vantage point
- Main St Markham
- Residential walks in Unionville (George Duncan)
- Bob Hunter Park (Jack Heath)
- Buttonville behind the scenes
- Victoria Square historical walk

There was also a discussion of self-guided tours, promoting existing loops like Villages and Valleys and Milliken, use of Strava for self-guided tours, and handing out our newly-purchased pedestrian reflectors. Andrew also mentioned sponsorships like with Lululemon may be appropriate for Jane’s Walks.

Action: 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.

## **6.2 Winter Pedestrian walkways**

We have now received a list from the city website of about 80 parks pathways that are maintained in the winter. Reid will work on a draft motion to develop a network of winter pathways.

## **6.3 Markham Cycling Day**

Joseph reported on his lengthy discussions with Brampton's "Bike the Creek" group. They employ some practices that might have merit for Markham. One of the ideas is to change the venue, possibly to a park setting instead of the hard paving environments used previously at the Pan Am centre or the Civic Centre. Another is to not have guided rides but deploy volunteers at high risk locations.

Action: Cycling Day subcommittee to review the new ideas and to develop the framework for the 2025 event.

## **7. ADJOURNMENT/NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting will be an unofficial meeting, January 16<sup>th</sup> at 7PM, held via ZOOM

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

#### **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.Contact province regarding B212 exemption and procedures. Contact Infrastructure Canada re time line extension (Eric)
- 3.Monitor TMU expressway fatality project (Peter)

4. Send questions to Economic Development re Scooty Pilot (Peter)
5. 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)
6. Cycling Day subcommittee to review new ideas from Joseph and develop the 2025 event (Fion + Committee)
7. Write YRT re shuttle buses to GO station (Peter + Joska)
8. Prepare winter pathway maintenance motion (Reid)
9. Check on status of YMCA Blvd facilities (Reid + Peter)

#### **November 21, 2024**

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

#### **October 17, 2024**

1. Review wayfinding signage on RVT. Can gaps be filled? (Peter)
2. 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)