



**CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN
ADVISORY COMMITTEE**
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2011
CIVIC CENTRE – YORK ROOM

MINUTES

Attendance

Committee:

David Rawcliffe, Vice-Chair
Gordon Walter
Gerald Corbett
Councillor Don Hamilton
Councillor Howard Shore
Peter Miasek
Arup Mukherjee
Winston Stewart
Rachael Woodroffe
Elisabeth Tan
Joseph Cimer
Philip Chan

Regrets:

Silvana Farrace-Perry, York Region

Staff:

Alan Brown, Director of Engineering
Luke Hilt, Community Program Supervisor
Rachel Prudhomme, Manager Special Projects Engineering
Department
Laura Gold, Committee Clerk

Guests:

Adam Poon (MEAC)
Paul Salvo
Joe Dora

Agency Members:

Jennifer Wong, York Region
Michelle Homes, Rouge Park
Megan Lui, York Catholic and York
Region District School Boards
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute Markham,
Richmond Hill

The Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee convened at 7:05 p.m. with Mr. David Rawcliffe presiding as Chair.

1. CYCLING & PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Chair read the mandate for the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and noted that Committee discussions should be based on its mandate.

2. MINUTES OF THE MARKHAM CYCLING & PEDESTRIAN

The Chair requested that the 2012 budget for cycling and pedestrian facilities 2012 be added to the next agenda.

Moved by Peter Miasek

Seconded by Gerald Corbett

That the Minutes of the Cycling & Pedestrian Committee Advisory Committee held on October 20, 2011 be approved.

CARRIED.

2. BIKE LANE STANDARDS (Alan Brown)

Mr. Alan Brown, Director of Engineering, introduced Mr. Jay Cranstone, Senior Landscape Architect & Urban Designer, who was invited to the Committee to discuss the different types of bicycle facilities.

Mr. Cranstone presented a document entitled "Bicycle Facility Selection Guide". The presentation included: (1) an overview of the Bicycle Facility Selection Guide; (2) a review of the selection process and the types of considerations that should be made when selecting a bicycle facility; and (3) a review of the bikeway facility types. This document is to be used by staff in helping to select the type of bicycle facility to recommend for new developments. Furthermore, adoption of this document will simplify staff's review process for road designs.

Discussion

There was a discussion on the nomograph included in the presentation. The nomograph was presented as a tool that can be used to determine the appropriate cycling facility. It was questioned if the graph is based on the current or future conditions. Mr. Cranstone reported that the graph is based on current conditions, but was designed to consider future conditions. The nomograph can be used to chart roadways in Markham to provide guidelines for the selection of the appropriate cycling facility.

There was a discussion on whether a cycling facility should be based on the needs of the majority population. It was noted that not all literature supports designing cycling facilities for the majority population. Mr. Cranstone advised that it is challenging to design a cycling facility that meets all cyclist needs.

It was noted that the Committee would like future information on the design guidelines for cycling facility intersections, as most cycling injuries occur at intersections. However, a 1998 study (Toronto Coroner's Report) found that cycling fatalities at non-intersections were quite high. Staff will discuss the possibility of providing a guide for intersections with the consultant.

The Committee questioned how residents would respond to some of the bicycle facilities presented, noting that the community may not support converting a four lane road into a two lane road. Mr. Cranstone advised that when deciding the most appropriate type of cycling facility each road needs to be reviewed individually based on whether it has a bus route; the traffic congestion; the average speed of drivers; the amount of pedestrians; and the public's acceptance of having a cycling facility, among other factors presented

There was a discussion on a study that looked at having cycling facilities on boulevards versus not having any cycling facility. The study looked at several roads in Montreal and found there was a small decrease in injuries and ridership on roads with cycling facilities.

3. CYCLING DEATH REVIEW ANNOUNCEMENT

Ms. Elisabeth Tan reported that the Committee has until November 30, 2011 to provide input on the Provincial Coroners Report on cycling deaths in Ontario. It was recommended that a letter be sent from the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee to the Coroners Office. A draft letter was read to the Committee. Ms. Jennifer Wong was requested to email the Committee the key points that the Ontario Public Health Association included in its letter to the Provincial Coroners Office.

The Committee Clerk suggested that a disclaimer be included in the letter indicating that the ideas in the letter are the personal views of the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee and that they are not endorsed by the Town of Markham. The Committee Clerk was requested to email the Committee a sample disclaimer.

Moved by Councillor Don Hamilton

Seconded by Peter Miasek

That the letter to Doctor Dan Cass, Office of the Chief Coroner, from the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee be circulated to the Committee for review; and,

That all comments be provided to Elisabeth Tan and Peter Miasek by November 28, 2011; and,

That a disclaimer be included in the letter, advising that the ideas are the personal views of the Cycling & Pedestrian Committee and that they are not endorsed by the Town of Markham.

CARRIED.

4. MARKHAM CYCLES PROPOSED PROJECTS FOR THE TOWN OF MARKHAM SUSTAINABILITY OFFICE

Ms. Elisabeth Tan presented the Markham Cycles & Markham Sustainability Office potential partnership projects. The following ideas were presented: 1. enhance bike facilities at all destinations; 2. Mini-Bixie; 3. bicycle valet service at Markham events; 4. promoting safe

cycling and road education in elementary and secondary schools; 5. widening existing sidewalks by adding an asphalt strip for cyclists; and 6. implementing car free days. The list should be considered as part of the 2012 work program and budget. It was noted that the Town would be limited in the number of projects it could proceed with due to budgetary constraints. The Engineering Department will coordinate issues with Markham's Sustainability section.

5. SIDEWALKS AS MULTI-USE PATHWAYS (Peter)

There was a discussion on allowing cyclist to ride on sidewalks on busy roadways with few pedestrians. It was reported that the Highway & Traffic Act permits cyclist to ride on sidewalks and that the Town of Markham should review amending its by-law to permit cyclist to ride on sidewalks of busy roadways. A solution would need to be established for intersections. It was suggested that a cycling crossing could be painted alongside the pedestrian crossway. Additionally, signs and crossing signals for cyclist could be installed.

The Committee felt this was an inexpensive way of improving Markham's cycling network. It was suggested that the idea be tested as a pilot project on a Markham, Unionville, and Thornhill roadway. It was requested that this item be added to the next agenda. The Councillor Liaisons advised they could bring this idea to Council's attention when the minutes are brought forward to the General Committee.

6. LIST OF SIDEWALKS BEFORE GO OUT TO TENDER

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

7. MAIN STREET MARKHAM FROM HIGHWAY 407 TO HIGHWAY 7

It was reported that the environmental assessment for the multiuse pathway on Main Street Markham from Highway 407 to Highway 7 (east side) was approved. The project is now in its design phase.

8. CPAC REPRESENTATION ON OTHER TOWN OF MARKHAM ADVISORY COMMITTEES

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. PROPOSAL TO HAVE GIL PENELOSA (8-80 Cities) SPEAK TO YORK REGION COUNCIL

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

10. MEETINGS WITH MARKHAM AND YORK REGION ENGINEERING STAFF

Mr. Peter Miasek reported that a report will be provided to the Committee on the outcomes of the three meetings being held to review cycling facility designs with Markham and York Region Engineering staff.

11. YORK REGION GREENLAND SYSTEM TRAILS CONCEPT PLAN (Peter)

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

12. "I SHARE THE ROAD" STICKERS

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

13. NEXT MEETING DATE - JANUARY 19, 2012

The next meeting of the Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee will be held on January 19, 2012. Items for the agenda include deferred items as well as “Markham Centre Bike Network and Cross-Sections” and “2012 Capital and Work Program”.

ADJOURNMENT

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 8:59 p.m.