



## CYCLING AND PEDESTRIAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2023

### ZOOM MEETING MINUTES

7:00 – 9:00 PM

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#### Members:

Peter Miasek, Chair  
Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair  
Andrew Dang, Co-Vice Chair  
Amit Arora  
Colin Cassar  
Cliff Chan, MEAC  
Daniel Yeung  
Doug Wolfe  
Joseph Lisi  
Joska Zerczi  
David Mok  
Mauricio Martinez  
Councillor Ritch Lau

#### Staff:

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation  
Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator, Transportation  
John Britto, Committee Secretary (PT)  
Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator

#### Agency:

Alex Heung, CICS  
David Simor, Markham Cycles  
Diana Kakamousias, York Region  
Kevin Lee, CICS  
Manini Pathania, Smart Commute  
Reena Mistry – YRDSB  
Cynthia Chan, York Region Public Health

#### Guests:

None

#### Regrets:

Anthony Ko, citizen member  
Brenda Kazan, citizen member  
PC Brownlee, YRP  
PC Carnegie, YRP  
Niko Dimitrakopoulos, YRP  
Councillor Reid McAlpine, Ward 3  
Sonia Sanita, York Region Public Health  
Wincy Tsang, Smart Commute

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (CPAC) convened at 7:05 PM on November 16, 2023, 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.

**3. REVIEW OF MINUTES FROM: September 21, 2023**

**Moved by Steve Glassman  
seconded by Doug Wolfe**

**That the Minutes of the official September 21, 2023, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Joska Zerczi  
Seconded by Doug Wolfe**

**That the Minutes of the unofficial October 19, 2023, CPAC meeting be approved, as presented.**

**CARRIED**

**4. PERTINENT INFORMATION FROM GUEST SPEAKERS**

There were no guest speakers.

**5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM LAST MEETING**

**5.1 Election of Committee Co-Vice-Chair**

At the September 16, 2023, Joska Zerczi was nominated for the position of Co-Vice-Chair, however, this matter was deferred to the November 16, 2023, CPAC meeting since Joska was not present at the September meeting.

Peter Miasek, Chair asked Joska if he was willing to accept his nomination. Joska advised that he was honoured by his nomination but would not like to accept his nomination for the position of Co-Vice Chair.

Peter Miasek, Chair called for nominations for the position of Co-Vice Chair.

Andrew Dang self-nominated himself for the position of Co-Vice Chair. As there were no other nominations, Andrew Dang was elected Co-Vice Chair of the CPAC.

**5.2 Introduction of New CPAC Member**

Joseph Lisi introduced himself as the new member of the CPAC.

Peter Miasek advised of the expiry of the term of a few CPAC members on November 30, 2023. He advised that Colin Cassar has indicated his resignation and thanked Colin for his contributions to the CPAC for the past

four years. Peter further advised of the nominal expiry of the terms of Mauricio Martinez, Doug Wolfe, Amit Arora and Joska Zerci, subject to reappointment.

Laura Gold, Committee Coordinator advised that letters were sent out and she has received a positive response from one of the members who would like to be considered for reappointment to the CPAC. The Chair requested those who have not yet responded to do so as soon as possible.

Responding to a question from a member, Laura advised that re-appointments will be done in January 2024. She further advised that appointments are typically done for a three-year period, however, a lesser term could be considered, if requested.

### **5.3 Representatives from other Advisory Committees**

Peter Miasek, Chair advised that as provided in the CPAC Terms of Reference, it would be advisable to have representatives from the Markham Environmental Advisory Committee (MEAC), and the Advisory Committee on Accessibility (ACA). He further advised that Laura informed him that Cliff Chan is a member of the MEAC. Responding to a question from the Chair, Cliff Chan advised that he is willing to be the MEAC representative on CPAC. Responding to a question from Cliff Chan, Laura advised that she will inform MEAC that he is the MEAC representative on the CPAC.

Peter Miasek advised that it has been challenging to get a representative from the ACA. Laura advised that Councillor Ritch Lau is a member of the ACA as well. She advised that she will ask the ACA if any other member would like to be an ACA representative on the CPAC. Steve Glassman advised that the CPAC had a representative from the ACA pre-COVID.

## **6. STANDING ITEMS & ONGOING PROJECTS**

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

No updates since the September and October meetings.

### **6.2 School Programs & Pilots**

Reena Mistry, York Region District School Board, provided an update on the Active School Travel Program in 2023.

iWalk events were organized at three City of Markham schools: Beckett Farms PS had over 150 participants, Parkland PS had over 70 participants and Aldergrove PS had over 90 participants. Giveaways from the CAA and McDonalds were handed out at these events.

For November, a Classroom Pizza Party Competition is being organized at the three participating schools, and a Scavenger Hunt and Photo Contest have been planned for December. Banners, sidewalk stencils and mobile signs have been installed at the three participating schools to promote awareness of the programs. Road stencils and curb markings are pending.

Responding to a question from Joska, Reena advised that the YRDSB continues to monitor safety issues with traffic operations at William Berczy PS. A safety blitz was held in November. PXO and mobile signs were installed. The Board is working with the City's By-law department and the YRP to investigate implementing possible changes.

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager of Transportation advised that similar situations exist at every elementary school in Markham. The city continues to monitor traffic situations at all schools during bell times. Crossing Guards are being utilized and will continue to be in effect. He further advised that if additional traffic control measures become warranted, those will be assessed, and appropriate changes will be implemented. As informed at a previous CPAC meeting, staff is planning to initiate a study in 2024, subject to budget approval, to review safety at school zones in a more comprehensive manner and introduce a set of guidelines that would apply to all school zones in the Markham.

Responding to a question from the Chair, Loy advised that staff rely on observations from Crossing Guards, Parent Councils, Teachers, Principals and School Boards who provide advice on when situations change in a negative way. Staff are then deployed to observe and collect data. He further advised that staff also collect data at major intersections in the city. Collecting such data in school zones is challenging due to the chaotic movements that occur during peak bell times.

Responding to a question from Councillor Ritch Lau with respect to speeding issues on the Woodbine Bypass, near Nokiidaa PS and close to a new townhouse complex on Russell Dawson Road that is likely to be completed in 2024, Loy Cheah, Senior Manager, Transportation advised that the Woodbine Bypass is a York Region arterial road and is designed to carry high traffic volumes at speeds of 60 km/hour. He further advised that traffic issues can be emailed to [transportation@york.ca](mailto:transportation@york.ca) to investigate possible mitigation opportunities, with a copy to himself and Peter Miasek, Chair of the CPAC.

Peter Miasek advised that a similar complaint by parents at Unionville PS re Kennedy Rd/Bridle Trail intersection was resolved satisfactorily by the Region, so it is worth making the request re Nokiidaa PS.

Responding to a question from Cliff Chan, with respect to more schools being added to the Active School Travel Program, Reena advised that she is the only YRDSB resource managing the program, and she is also working with the Town of

Newmarket and the City of Vaughan on a similar project. She further advised that due to limited staff resources, it is not possible to include additional schools in the program.

Responding to a further question from Cliff Chan about costs involved in the program, Reena advised that the costs are similar in the Town of Newmarket, however, in the City of Vaughan it is slightly different due to the difference in their political and residential situations.

### **6.3 Reports to Council**

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator advised of the following reports going forward:

Road Safety Plan (scope of work) – November 27 DSC  
High Frequency Rail Station Business Case – November 27 DSC  
Milliken Centre Secondary Plan and Markham Road-Mount Joy Secondary Plan – November 21 DSC Public Meeting mandatory requirement for public participation  
Markham Centre Trail Environmental Assessment Update – November 28 DSC  
Markville Secondary Plan Update – December TBC and  
Council Workshop on Parking Strategy – January 2024 TBC.

### **6.4 EA Updates**

No updates

### **6.5 Markham Cycling Day**

No updates.

### **6.6 York Region Projects**

Diana Kakamousias, Program Manager, Sustainable Mobility, Transportation Infrastructure and Asset Management, Public Works, York Region provided updates on the South York Greenway Cycling, Pedestrian and Mirco-Mobility Corridor Feasibility Study, a 70 km project likely costing \$70-85M. It will be a 4.0 m MUP. There is no opportunity to separate walkers and cyclists, as the extra width causes too many environmental impacts. Details are available at: [york.ca/southyorkgreenway](https://york.ca/southyorkgreenway).

Diana also provided updates on York Region's ongoing standalone active transportation projects within the City of Markham: Don Mills Rd from Steeles to John (1.5 km) and 14<sup>th</sup> Ave from Warden to McCowan (4.2 km). Shawn Ellesworth is the Project Manager. Working towards 30% design in 2024. The City and CPAC will be engaged after the field surveys completed.

York will defer to the local municipality as to what micro mobility devices will be permitted on these facilities.

Responding to questions about micro-mobility, Loy Cheah, Senior Manager of Transportation advised that the province is yet to finalize legislation on the operation and management of different micro-mobility devices in the province.

Loy also advised that the City has learned from the German Mills experience on how to better manage pedestrian-cyclist conflicts on trails and paths, using signage and pavement markings.

## **6.7 Subcommittee Updates**

### Protected Intersections

Peter Miasek advised that this subcommittee is working with York Region to develop good active transportation facilities on roads that are being widened. McCowan Road is complete, and the subcommittee is meeting to discuss facilities on Kennedy Road. Discussions are also ongoing with city staff with respect to facilities on Elgin Mills (see Item 7.1).

### Jane's Walk

Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair encouraged members to volunteer to join the Jane's Walk sub-committee to further the mandate of the committee. Joska Zerczi and Andrew Dang volunteered to help on this committee.

## **6.8 Road Safety subcommittee**

### ➤ York Region Traveller Safety Plan (Branding)

Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair advised that the subcommittee's and CPAC's role is to promote and educate Markham citizens about road safety. The subcommittee is waiting for York Region to announce its safety program communication plan so the region's municipalities can work cohesively with York Region on this initiative.

### ➤ 407 Fatality: Letter to 407ETR

Steve advised that the sub-committee decided to write to the CEO of 407ETR about a recent fatality at the McCowan on-ramp, requesting a meeting to discuss safety at free-flowing on and off ramps at legacy interchanges. Peter Miasek, Chair read out the draft letter and advised that he will email a copy of the final letter to the committee members.

**Moved by: Andrew Dang  
seconded by Cliff Chan**

**That a letter be sent by CPAC to the CEO of 407ETR requesting a meeting with their engineering and safety team, York Region and Markham engineering staff to discuss cyclist fatalities at 407ETR interchanges.**

**Carried**

### ➤ 9<sup>th</sup> Line/Rail Crossing

Steve Glassman, Co-Vice Chair provided an update about the lack of safety features on the 9<sup>th</sup> Line railway crossing near 19<sup>th</sup> Ave. York Region has informed that plans are ongoing in 2024 for mitigation work to address this concern for all users of the rail crossing, including bicyclists.

## **6.9 Markham Cycles**

Alex Heung, Centre for Immigrant and Community Services (CICS) advised that CICS will be taking over Markham Cycles from TCAT from January 2024 onward. He provided an overview of the transition work done over the past two years to take over the programs, including job shadowing and program participation. All TCAT equipment will be transferred to CICS.

He further advised that funding to sustain the Markham Cycles programs is under discussion with the City of Markham and regular CICS funding through Immigration Canada. A funding meeting with York Region on the Bike Rescue program is slated for next week.

Responding to a question from Peter Miasek on how CPAC can assist CICS, Alex advised that CPAC should continue to sit on the MC advisory committee, as well as identify funding opportunities.

David Simor, Director, The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) provided an overview of Markham Cycles activities over 2023. He spoke about TCAT's community bike hub approach project through which people learn more about cycling, meet other cyclists and go cycling together. He thanked CPAC, the City of Markham, the various project partners and volunteers for their continued support in TCAT's programs and activities. TCAT will continue to sit on the Markham Cycles advisory committee.

Peter Miasek, Chair thanked David Simor and the TCAT team for their efforts in promoting active transportation in the City of Markham.

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

Fion Ho, TDM Coordinator advised that the balance from the 2023 CPAC budget will be utilized as support for Cycling Without Age, to pay for school mobile signs and to purchase bicycle bells as promotional items.

## **6.11 E-bike / E-scooter (Micro Mobility Framework)**

See Item 6.6

## **6.12 Discussion Topics for 2023**

No update

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

## **7.1 Elgin Mills EA Study Discussion**

Peter Miasek, Chair advised that the Elgin Mills EA Study is a city project, despite Elgin Mills being an arterial road. He advised that the EA has been completed and work on the detail design for road widening will soon commence. The EA looked at four options for the active transportation facility and selected Option 4, Combined Facility (multi-use path). The sub-committee was of the opinion that Option 3, Uni-directional Cycle Track + Sidewalks would be a better option considering micro-mobility devices coming into play in the future. On contacting the design engineer, it is possible to re-consider the Option choice once the work on the detail design commences.

Cr. Ritch Lau advised that he and Cr. McAlpine advised Council at a recent DSC meeting that they are in support of Option 3, Uni-directional Cycle Track + Sidewalks.

Loy Cheah, Senior Manager of Transportation advised that subsequent to discussion at the November 14 DSC meeting, the report has been referred back to staff to provide opportunity for further consultation with cycling groups and in an effort to incorporate separate cycling facilities into the detail design work. An update report is likely to be presented to DSC for consideration in December with revised recommendations.

## **7.2 Accessibility Training**

It was decided that the accessibility training and new member orientation will be rescheduled for a later date.

## **7.3 Future Formal Meeting Dates in 2024**

Fion Ho, TDC Coordinator advised that according to the new meetings protocol, CPAC will be meeting every quarter, the proposed 2024 meeting dates being February 15, May 16, September 10 and November 21.

Peter Miasek, Chair advised that some members suggested that the CPAC meetings be held virtually as they have to commute long distances to meet in person at Markham City Hall. He sought the opinion from the members about meeting in person as opposed to virtually.

Responding to a question about conducting the CPAC meetings in hybrid format, Fion Ho, TDC Coordinator advised that based on past experiences, this is only a viable option in Council chambers.

It was decided that the February 15, 2024, CPAC meeting be held virtually, the May 16, 2024, and September 19, 2024, meetings be held in-person or hybrid, and the November 21, 2024, meeting be held virtually.



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

No update.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The Cycling & Pedestrian Advisory Committee adjourned at 9:15 P.M.