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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 16, 2021

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, September 16, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:03 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair

J. Bate, Oshawa

M. Gibbons, Scugog

K. Haines, Ajax

P. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair

*** all members of Committee participated electronically**

Absent: A. Heywood, Pickering

R. Kerr, Regional Councillor, Oshawa

C. Kobelka, Clarington

J. Martin, Brock

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development

C. Goodchild, Manager, Policy and Special Studies, Planning and Economic Development

R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT

G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

***all staff except R. Inacio participated electronically**

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Moved by J. Bate, Seconded by K. Haines,

That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on June 10, 2021, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Active Transportation Updates: Armi de Francia (Town of Ajax)

Armi de Francia, Active Transportation Coordinator, Town of Ajax, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding an update on the Town of Ajax Active Transportation Plan. A copy of the presentation was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Ajax Active Transportation Updates
- Agenda – Upcoming Engineering and Encouragement Actions
- Network Expansion
 - Recent: Multi-use Path on Church Street north of Rossland Road
 - Incoming Bike Facilities
 - Crossing Improvements
- Wayfinding Strategy
- Active School Travel
 - Reasons for Parents' decisions on how their children get to/from school 2020
 - Focus on Equity
 - Back to School TOA/Walktober
- Bicycle Friendly Business District: Pickering Village

A. de Francia stated that the Integrated Transportation Master Plan outlines the active transportation network. She advised that staff considered a variety of factors when deciding the type of facility as well as the location, such as road classification, space, budget, existing plans, jurisdiction and ownership. She stated that they recently completed a multi use path on Church Street, north of Rossland Road as well as a multi-use path on Bayly Street and also advised that a variety of shared bike facilities and crossing improvements will be coming later this year.

A. de Francia stated that the Wayfinding Strategy was released in June 2021 and is a means of using information and cues to help people navigate routes and understand their surroundings. She stated that two types of signage will be used in the strategy: directional blades and information kiosks at major attractions and landmarks.

A. de Francia also advised that they are working on a series of marked routes this year in north Ajax. She further stated that the Town has been working to encourage walking, biking and rolling to school and will engage with schools to understand how the pandemic has affected travel behaviours. She also advised that Pickering Village is now a bike friendly business district and there will be a launch held on October 2 to 3, 2021.

A. de Francia responded to questions with regards to the type of strategies used to combat the concerns of parents related to letting their children walk or roll to school; and how areas are designated as bike friendly business areas.

B)

ActiveTO: Laura Perruzza and Sandro Tersigni (City of Toronto)

Laura Perruzza, Project Manager and Sandro Tersigni, Acting Manager, provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding an update on the City of Toronto Active Transportation Plan. A copy of the presentation was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- ActiveTO Major Road Closures
- Background
- Locations
- Bayview Avenue
- Lakeshore Blvd. West
- Lakeshore Blvd. East
- Lakeshore East
- Allen Road
- Black Creek Drive
- Exhibition Place
- The Meadoway Trail
- The Meadoway
- Project Signs
- Project Signs – The Meadoway
- Coordination
- Stakeholder Engagement
- Data
- ActiveArtsTO
- Other ActiveTO Initiatives

S. Tersigni advised that the ActiveTO program was developed in 2020 by Toronto Public Health and Transportation Services to provide more space for people to be physically active and improve physical distancing, as part of the city's restart and recovery. This included an open streets platform, quiet streets, and major road closures. He advised that the following three major roads were included in the major road closure program in 2020: Bayview Avenue, Lakeshore West and Lakeshore Blvd East. This was expanded in April 2021 to include Allen Road, Black Creek Drive, Exhibition Place and The Meadoway. L. Perruzza provided a detailed overview of the roads included in the road closure program.

L. Perruzza provided an overview of the project signs used at all locations and advised that they are spaced 50 to 80 feet apart to encourage everyone to do their part in staying safe while enjoying the outdoors.

S. Tersigni advised that the City has recently started work on a partnership with Open Streets TO to create ActiveArts TO. He advised that on September 26th, Open Streets will be hosting an event on Lakeshore Blvd West which will include the promotion of artists, different demonstrations, skateboarding, basketball, roller derbies as well as artwork.

S. Tersigni and L. Perruzza responded to questions with regards to the average cost to close a road in the City and how it is funded; the continuation of the program after the pandemic; traffic counts and how the numbers compare with legacy motor vehicle transportation; whether there is insight as to the purpose behind the usage of the roads; the number of people moved through ActiveTO; whether there is data on the traffic volume during the ActiveTO program; and whether there were more people out due to the safety of the ActiveTO program.

5. Discussion Items

A) Waterfront Trail at Corbett Creek Water Control Plant (Ron Lalonde)

R. Lalonde provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Waterfront Trail at Corbett Creek Water Control Plant. A copy of the presentation was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

R. Lalonde stated that the Waterfront Trail is a popular route for many local residents who cycle across the 70 km Durham segment. He stated that over the past 25 years, significant improvements have been to the trail with the most recent being the Whitby portion. Within the newly constructed section, the trail crosses Forbes Street and interfaces with the vehicle entrance of the Region of Durham's Corbett Creek Water Control Plant. He advised that the improvements will include a laddered pedestrian cross walk, centre line and improved P-Gates. He further advised that stop signs and P-Gates are in place for trail users with clear expectations but are not in place for vehicle users crossing the trail.

R. Lalonde advised that the following low-cost solutions are recommended to enhance the trail at the vehicle entrance to the Water Plant:

- reposition both Stop Signs referencing OTM Book 15 Guidelines
- Add White Vehicle Stop Bars on both sides of the pedestrian ladder now in place with proper set back referencing OTM Book 15 Guidelines
- Remove concrete wall which is cosmetic
- Angle entrance fencing approach set back at 45 degrees versus present right angle

Moved by M. Gibbons, Seconded by K. Haines,
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development
Committee:

Whereas the Waterfront Trail is a popular active transportation corridor within the Region of Durham; and

Whereas significant infrastructure improvements have recently been achieved notably, the area spanning from east of Heydenshore Park in the Town of Whitby to the approach of City of Oshawa boundary; and

Whereas the Waterfront Trail intersects the Region of Durham Corbett Creek Water Control Plant access on Forbes Street; and

Whereas trail and signage improvements were achieved at Forbes Street, and a ladder crosswalk was implemented, deficiencies remain at this intersection, such as:

- Poor sightlines for motorists and trail users;
- Traffic control signals being obstructed by fencing and security equipment;
- Inadequate space between the northbound/southbound stop signs and the ladder crossing; and

Whereas the Durham Vision Zero Strategic Road Safety Action Plan states that “collisions at intersections form the single largest emphasis area”;

Therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee requests that staff review the present configuration of the Forbes Street and Waterfront Trail intersection for opportunities to improve safety for all users, such as, but not limited to: stop sign compliance with OTM Book 15 Guidelines, and improvements to sightlines for both motorists and trail users.

CARRIED

6. Information Items

A) Envision Durham: Protected Major Transit Station Areas Regional Official Plan Amendment (Report #2021-P-21) – Colleen Goodchild (Region of Durham)

A link to Report #2021-P-21 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development regarding Envision Durham: Protected Major Transit Station Areas Regional Official Plan Amendment, was provided with the Agenda and received.

C. Goodchild provided a PowerPoint Presentation regarding the Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment: Protected Major Transit Station Areas.

Highlights of the Presentation included:

- Proposed Regional Official Plan Amendment: Protected Major Transit Station Areas (PMTSA)

- What is an MTSA (Major Transit Station Area)
- Purpose and Effect of the Amendment
- Proposed Changes – Policy
- Next Steps and Conclusions

C. Goodchild stated that staff has been engaged in a Municipal Comprehensive Review (MCR) of the Regional Official Plan, called Envision Durham. The MCR is multi-faceted and addresses the broad range of strategic land use planning and development topics from rural and agriculture, natural heritage growth management, transportation, housing, and sustainability. She advised that the amendment is specifically related to protected major transit areas, namely those that will be within a convenient walking distance to both existing and future GO stations along the Lakeshore East GO line.

C. Goodchild advised that the purpose of the amendment is to add policy language to certain sections and renumber some sections of the Durham Regional Official Plan; introduce a new schedule that will delineate protected major transit areas; satisfy the requirements of the Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe and the Planning Act; and establish a policy framework and delineations for PMTSA and the establishment of minimum density targets in the Regional Official Plan to guide further implementation by local area municipalities. She provided a detailed overview of the proposed changes to the policy as well as the next steps.

C. Goodchild responded to questions regarding how Metrolinx is being engaged to facilitate safe movement of active transportation across their parking lot facilities to a segregated parking zone area; and access requirements regarding bicycle distancing, access and parking.

B) Envision Durham: The Housing Intensification Study (Report #2021-INFO-94) – Colleen Goodchild (Region of Durham)

A link to Information Report #2021-INFO-94 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development, was provided with Agenda and received.

C. Goodchild provided a brief overview of The Housing Intensification Study.

C. Goodchild responded to questions regarding building new neighbourhoods that use multi-use zoning where residents and commercial space can co-exist; whether the Highway 407 transitway is still in place; and the consideration of higher densities around future transit stations on the south side of Highway 407.

C) York Durham Line Update – Ron Lalonde

R. Lalonde provided a PowerPoint regarding the York Durham Line – Regional Construction project on Aurora Road to Wagg Road. A copy of the presentation was provided to members in advance of the meeting.

R. Lalonde advised that scope of the project was to extend the road life by adding partially paved shoulders to eliminate gravel and correct stability of the road adjacent to the lake. He stated that the Committee's comments were that the project did not support the needs of all users; the section of the road was a well-known key connector route for cyclists; and the York/Durham Line is recognized in the Regional Cycling Plan Update as well as the new Uxbridge Cycle Plan. He advised that he met with the project manager to discuss opportunities for improvement and the outcome was as follows: the road pavement marking will be realigned; the west shoulder will have an added 1.5 metre marked lane along the full length; the east shoulder will have an approximate 1.7 metre separated shoulder; and transition points to access Aurora Road will be examined. He thanked Durham Region staff for listening to the Committee's comments.

7. Other Business

A) Oshawa Bike Park - Councillor Kerr

This matter was deferred to the next Committee meeting.

B) Port Perry Pedals Cycling Event

L. Lalonde recognized and congratulated Mark Gibbons for organizing the Port Perry Pedals Cycling Event which celebrated their 150th anniversary and was held in support of the Port Perry Hospital Foundation. He also extended his thanks to A. Caruso for his help in supporting the event.

C) Leading Pedestrian Intervals

A. Caruso advised that due to previous discussions regarding leading pedestrian intervals, the Region has installed three leading pedestrian intervals, which are indicators that provide a few extra seconds for pedestrians to cross the road. He advised that regional staff is looking for suggestions for additional locations where these can be installed.

D) Regional Cycling Plan

A. Caruso advised that the Regional Cycling Plan will be presented to the Committee of the Whole meeting on October 13, 2021.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, December 9, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by M. Gibbons, Seconded by K. Haines,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:57 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee

N. Prasad, Assistant Secretary to Council