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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 8, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, June 8, 2023 in Room 1A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
B. Astley, Oshawa
M. Gibbons, Scugog
A. Heywood, Pickering*
K. Mirani, Brock
P. Smith, Uxbridge*
T. Van Helsdingen, Ajax*

***denotes members participating electronically**

Absent: C. Houston, Clarington, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerr

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
P. Emelianov, Project Manager, Rapid Transit Office
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
S. McEleney, Transit Planner, Transportation Planning
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
S. Ciani, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by K. Mirani,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on April 13, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Petr Emelianov, Project Manager, Durham Region, re: Durham Works Active Transportation Updates

Petr Emelianov, Project Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Durham Works active transportation updates.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Active Transportation Implementation
 - Cycling Infrastructure Implementation Approaches
 - Active Transportation (AT) Infrastructure Combined Projects (2022)
 - Standalone Infill Projects (2023)
- Vision Zero Projects
 - Leading Pedestrian Intervals
 - Crosswalk Enhancements
 - Crossride Installations
 - Radar Speed Signs Pedestrian and Cycling Collision Trends

P. Emelianov responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there is a way to document near misses on the collision trends chart, and what those near misses might look like before it becomes a collision; installing green cyclist signal lights at all intersections; whether handrails can be installed at the crossrides so that cyclists can remain in an upright position; placing more radar signs to target speeding more aggressively; whether the radar signs provide data back to the Region and if so, is it categorizing the increased speeds that are being detected; and whether a map could be created that shows the high frequency collision areas.

Detailed discussion ensued regarding enhancing paved shoulders, and how paved shoulders or buffered bike lanes are identified in the Regional Cycling Plan; the rules for a cyclist when they approach a crossrides intersection that does not have a dedicated cyclist signal; whether there has been consideration for Leading Bike Intervals (LBI) as opposed to just having Leading Pedestrian Intervals (LPI); and the effectiveness of rumble strips on the paved road shoulders.

Further discussion ensued regarding the importance of requiring that both on-road and in-boulevard multi-use-trails are signed and marked accordingly; and whether staff could complete an audit of the current cycling infrastructure to see where there are deficiencies and if there is sufficient space for the active transportation users, and report back to the Committee.

Moved by K. Mirani, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That we recommend to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

Whereas Durham Region has in place an approved Regional Cycling Plan;

And whereas the Province of Ontario has established cycling facilities guidelines referred to as Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 (OTM Book 18) which are consistent with the intent of the Highway Traffic Act with respect to municipal roads and infrastructure;

And whereas the Province of Ontario has established bicycle traffic signals guidelines referred to at Ontario Traffic Manual Book 12A (OTM Book 12A), which is recommended to be used in conjunction with OTM Book 18;

And whereas the paved shoulders and buffered bicycle lanes identified in the Active Transportation Combined Projects 2022 summary presented to the Durham Active Transportation Committee on June 08, 2023 are non compliant to the established guidelines and not cycling improvements; and

Now therefore it be resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request all new and retrofit legacy Durham Region cycling infrastructure construction – as identified in the Regional Cycling Plan – comply with OTM Book 18 and OTM Book 12A design guidelines which includes both signage and applicable pavement markings for both on-road and in boulevard multi-use-trails for inclusion as completed cycling projects.

CARRIED

B) Sandra McEleney, Transit Planner, Durham Region, re: Active and Sustainable School Travel Update

Sandra McEleney, Transit Planner provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding active and sustainable travel updates.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Program Update – Active and Sustainable School Travel Program (ASST)
- The School Travel Planning Process
- Key Deliverable: School Travel Plan
 - Identifies School Zone Opportunities (Action Items)
 - Create a School Zone Site Plan
 - Documents Responsible Agency and Timelines to Improve School Community
- St. Anne Catholic Elementary School (CES) – Case Study
- Pedestrian Access Planning
- Looking Ahead

S. McEleney responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether there has been any consideration at the schools for a program to encourage students/parents to use public transit instead of driving; whether all local area municipalities are participating in the ASST program this year; whether ASST staff coordinate with the individuals responsible for clearing the walkways

around schools, as this can create a barrier for students walking to school; the size of the roll/walk zones; and whether any data is collected to track the number of students that use active transportation to get to and from school.

Discussion ensued regarding other suggestions for the ASST program to consider that includes:

- Closing the roads around the schools for certain time periods to encourage other modes of active transportation;
- Ensuring there is safe and dependable bike parking at schools;
- Encouraging bike trains where a group of parents would pick students up on their bikes on the way to and from school; and
- Including cycling as a part of physical education (schools would have bikes for students to use if they didn't have their own).

5. Delegations

There were no delegations heard.

6. Discussion Items

A) Bicycle Friendly Communities Award Program

A. Caruso advised that the Bicycle Friendly Communities Award program has been in place for approximately 12 to 13 years with 55 communities who have achieved a level status of bronze, silver, gold, or platinum. He advised that the program is self-driven and is a way for communities to assess their bicycle infrastructure. He further advised that the next steps for the Region to get a certification would be to assess the facilities around Durham Region, complete the application form, and submit it to the Share the Road Committee. He added that the Share the Road Committee will be presenting to the DATC in October.

R. Lalonde advised that himself along with C. Houston and A. Caruso put together a quick summary sheet in order to start to review the bicycle infrastructure throughout the Region, and whether any of the municipalities have their own cycling plan, certifications, etc.

A. Caruso advised that he would provide a final review of the application and would then forward it to the Committee members to identify what else can be added for each respective local area municipality. He also advised that each area municipality does not have to be credited in order for the Region to apply for a level status.

7. Information Items

There were no information items discussed.

8. Other Business

A) Bike for Bones

M. Gibbons advised that the Bike for Bones event will be held on Sunday, June 11, 2023, at Ajax Downs where residents can register for the 25, 50, or 100 KM ride with proceeds being used to support the tools and technology used by the orthopedic surgery experts at the Ajax Pickering Hospital.

B) Port Perry Pedals

M. Gibbons advised that the Port Perry Pedals event will be held on Sunday, September 10, 2023 where residents can register for the 50, 100, or 160 KM road ride, or the 10 or 20 KM family/leisure ride with proceeds benefiting the Lakeridge Health Foundation.

C) Cancellation of the GO Bus Route 81

M. Gibbons advised that he was very disappointed that the GO bus route 81 which connects Beaverton to Whitby and through to Port Perry was discontinued after a ridership review by Metrolinx cited low ridership. He advised that Durham Region Transit (DRT) will be filling in the gaps with municipal bussing and expressed his concerns that it would not be sufficient.

D) Oshawa City Council, City Staff and Citizen Ride

B. Astley advised that the Oshawa City Council, city staff and citizen ride will be held on June 17, 2023, at 11:00 AM, which will begin at Oshawa City Hall and go down to the lake front, and then return to Oshawa City Hall with the route being mostly trails with some on-road portions.

E) Pedal for Patients

G. Pereira advised that the Pedal for Patients event was held on Sunday, May 28, 2023, with roughly 97 riders and two routes (27 KM and 80 KM) that raised roughly \$100,000 for cancer care.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on October 12, 2023 in Room 1A, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by K. Mirani,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee

S. Ciani, Committee Clerk