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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

June 13, 2019

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, June 13, 2019, in Meeting Room 1-B, Main Level, Regional Headquarters, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:02 PM.

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
J. Bate, Oshawa
M. Gibbons, Scugog
R. Kerr, Regional Councillor, Oshawa
J. Martin, Brock

Absent: C. Gray, Clarington
K. Haines, Ajax
A. Heywood, Pickering
S. Lee, Regional Councillor, Ajax, Alternate
P. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
S. McEleney, Transit Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Election of 2019 Chair and Vice-Chair

i) Election of the Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by J. Bate, Seconded by J. Martin,
That R. LaLonde be nominated for the position of Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

C. Tennisco asked if R. Lalonde wished to stand. R. Lalonde indicated he would stand.

R. Lalonde was acclaimed as the Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

ii) Election of the Vice-Chair

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, called for nominations for the position of Vice-Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by R. Lalonde, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That P. Smith be nominated for the position of Vice-Chair of the
Durham Active Transportation Committee.

Moved by Councillor R. Lalonde, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That nominations be closed.

CARRIED

P. Smith was not in attendance; however, prior to the meeting he had confirmed in writing his intent to stand. It was the consensus of the Committee to accept the nomination.

P. Smith was acclaimed as the Vice-Chair of the Durham Active Transportation Committee.

R. Lalonde, Chair, assumed the Chair for the remainder of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by J. Bate,
That the minutes of the regular meeting of the Durham Active
Transportation Committee held on May 9, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Presentations

A) Derek Davies, Planner, Service Design, Durham Region Transit, re: Ontario
Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Bike Parking

Derek Davies, Durham Region Transit, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Bike Parking program". He advised the DATC that following the cancellation of the Provincial Cap and Trade program, no further funding will be available under the OMCC program.

D. Davies provided an overview of the 2019 selected sites for 'Ring & Post' bike racks at 80 transit stops and various bike parking spaces located within Durham Region.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Site Selection was based off the following criteria:
 - Transit stops must be located along:
 - > Pulse
 - > Frequent Network
 - > GO Route 90
 - Transit stops in proximity to existing or planned cycling facilities
 - High transit stop boardings
 - Design and Clearance considerations
 - If stops were narrowed down to a specific pairing:
 - > Stops with higher boarding were selected
 - > Stops that were on the same side as the cycling facility

D. Davies displayed a map depicting the proposed bike parking locations within Durham Region; and pictorials of the bike rack specifications for perpendicular and parallel installations.

D. Davies responded to questions regarding the 2019 funding for the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program; and opportunities for the selected cycling parking locations to feed into the 'First and Last Mile' to promote active transportation throughout Durham Region.

Discussion ensued regarding the proposed Metrolinx service cuts to the GO Transit Route 81 and 81A services and the need to review the underlay of the DRT services for the northern municipalities; and the low ridership in the northern communities. D. Davies provided a summary of the 2020 service priorities for the rural area to determine the best service delivery model to provide mobility in this area.

Moved by M. Gibbons, Seconded by J. Martin,

That the Durham Active Transportation Committee recommends to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That whereas effective June 29, 2019, Metrolinx is reducing service of the 81 GO Bus which connects Brock, Scugog, Brooklin and Whitby to the Whitby GO Station, and eliminates Route 81A which provides service between the Scugog urban area of Port Perry, Brooklin, Whitby and the Whitby GO station; daily weekday departures have been cut by 78% from 18 to 4, and by 50% on weekends from 8 to 4; and only one peak-hour weekday departure remains per direction;

And whereas this service reduction:

- Deters multi-modal commuting by reducing or eliminating transportation options;
- Discourages the use of active transportation in the Region by eliminating opportunities to connect with transit;
- Promotes commuters to drive, thereby increasing greenhouse gas emissions and exacerbating climate change in a context where local municipalities are declaring climate emergencies;
- Negatively impacts connectivity between the Township of Brock, the Township of Scugog and the Town of Whitby to other parts of the Region and the GTA;
- Reduces access to the Lake Ontario Waterfront Trail and the Lake Scugog Waterfront Trail, identified as critical components of the Regional Trail Network in the Regional Cycling Plan; and
- Reduces access to the TransCanada Trail;

Now therefore be it resolved that the Active Transportation Committee opposes Metrolinx's service cuts to the Route 81 GO Transit line, and requests that the Route 81A bus service terminating in urban Port Perry be reinstated; and

That Durham Region Transit explore supplementing the loss of service by extending existing routes from North Durham to terminate at Lakeshore East train stations.

CARRIED

J. Bate invited DRT staff to attend the Oshawa Active Transportation Committee meeting to provide a presentation on the Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Program.

The Committee asked that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation "Ontario Municipal Commuter Cycling (OMCC) Bike Parking Program" be emailed to the members.

B) Steven Kemp, Manager, Traffic Engineering and Operations, Works Department, re: Vision Zero Update – A Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP) for the Regional Municipality of Durham

S. Kemp, Manager of Traffic Operations, provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Durham Vision Zero – A Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP)" for the Regional Municipality of Durham.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Some good news
- Why are we concerned?
- Background

- What is Vision Zero?
 - Three pillars:
 - > No one should be killed or seriously injured as the result of a collision;
 - > Design needs to accommodate humans that make mistakes; and
 - > Collisions don't happen by accident.
- Vision
 - Zero people killed or injured across all modes of transportation
 - Goal
 - > Minimum 10% reduction in fatal and injury collisions over a five-year period
- Emphasis Areas (8)
 - 1. Intersections
 - 2. Aggressive Driving
 - 3. Distracted Driving
 - 4. Young Drivers (16-25)
 - 5. Pedestrians
 - 6. Impaired Drivers
 - 7. Cyclists
 - 8. Commercial Vehicles
- Our Data

S. Kemp advised that next steps include the establishment of a Vision Zero Task Force; implementation of countermeasures; ongoing monitoring and evaluation of progress towards zero; and continued partnership and collaboration with Durham Regional Police Services and the local area municipalities.

S. Kemp responded to questions from the Committee regarding the implementation of traffic calming sections in residential areas; pedestrian scramble intersections; roundabouts; the evaluation of school and community safety zones; and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) requirements for Accessible Pedestrian Signals (APS) at signalized intersections by the year 2025.

Discussion ensued regarding the availability of statistics for vehicle collisions on Provincial highways; whether a correlation exists between dominant vehicle models and traffic collisions; and the efforts with transport drivers to find a solution to reduce transport truck collisions.

Further discussion ensued with respect to the design of cross overs on roads for pedestrians and cyclists; roundabouts versus traffic lights; the use of bike guard rails; and the ability to collect data to determine the number of cyclists on the roads.

The Committee asked that a copy of the PowerPoint presentation “Durham Vision Zero – A Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (SRSAP)” be emailed to the members.

- C) Victor Copetti, Transit Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development Department, re: Durham Region Active and Sustainable School Travel Committee (ASST) and Ontario Active School Travel (OAST) Grant
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V. Copetti provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, “Durham Region Active and Sustainable School Travel Committee and OAST Grant”. He advised that the purpose of the Regional ASST Committee is to increase the number of children using active modes of transportation to and from school and decrease the traffic congestion at these schools.

V. Copetti stated that the Committee consists of at least one representative from each of the following groups: Durham Region staff; the eight local area municipalities; Durham District School Board; Durham Catholic District School Board; Northumberland Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board; the Newcastle Clarington Catholic District Boards; the Durham Student Transportation Services and Student Transportation Services of Central Ontario; Durham Regional Police and Municipal By-law Enforcement Services; and Green Communities Canada.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- Main tasks of the ASST Committee and OAST Team
- Ajax School Travel Project (STP)
 - Schools Involved
 - > Bolton C. Falby Public School
 - > Vimy Ridge Public School
 - > Lester B. Pearson Public School
 - > St. James Catholic School
 - Activities
- How Students get TO School
- How Students get home FROM School
- Highlights: St. James Wellness Day
- Highlights: Bolton C. Falby Walkabout
- Safety on the Road Brochure
 - Durham Region and Cycle Durham have produced a new informational brochure titled, ‘Cycling Rules to Follow’;
 - The Region has created a new Youth Cycling Guide (Draft)

V. Copetti advised that the next steps includes the Region making the revisions to the Safety Brochure and Youth Cycling Guide as provided by the Durham Region Active and Sustainable School Travel Committee (ASST). He noted that the next meeting of the ASST will take place on

Tuesday, August 13, 2019. V. Copetti also provided an update on the selection criteria for 3 schools, by the area municipalities and school boards, as part of the Ontario Active School Travel (OAST) funding for a School Travel Planning (STP) Coordinator to work with 8 schools within Durham Region to increase Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST); and the STP Coordinator RFP, set to go out for bidding in July 2019.

V. Copetti provided the following questions for the Committee's consideration:

- Are there other activities that the Regional ASST Committee might engage in?
- Are there any policies that the Committee could look at?
- How would you like to see the Regional ASST Committee and DATC Committee collaborate in the future?

The Committee was asked to email A. Caruso with any comments or suggestions regarding the Durham Region Active and Sustainable School Travel Committee (ASST).

V. Copetti responded to questions regarding the probability for future School Travel Project (STP) grants; the STP initiatives for active modes of transportation to and from school, how the Safety Brochure and Youth Cycling Guide will be marketed; how to deploy a walking school bus program; and why only five of the eight local area municipalities are represented.

D) Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, and Erin Sparks, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development Department, re: Regional Cycling Plan Update

A. Caruso and E. Sparks provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Regional Cycling Plan.

A. Caruso provided an overview on the history of the Regional Cycle Plans (2008 – 2012). He also reviewed the various cycling initiatives that had taken place since 2012 including the Provincial Plans and Policies; a draft Cycling Communications Strategy (2018-2021); Bike Month; the Vision Zero – Strategic Road Safety Action Plan (mid-2019); the growing recognition that cycling needs to be a more prominent component of our transportation system; and the rebranding of the Durham Trail Coordinating Committee into the Durham Active Transportation Committee in 2019.

Highlights from the presentation included:

- What the cyclists are saying...
 - Regional cycling plans and municipal cycling plans need to be integrated so as to be seamless

- Roads shown new or existing to be cycling routes must include safe cycling infrastructure according to the “Ontario Traffic Manual: Book 18”, as a minimum
- There should be safe cycling routes to GO Transit Stations, colleges, universities and other central areas
- Cycling routes should be numbered and signs posted to correspond with tourist maps
- Roads on cycling routes not scheduled for reconstruction within 10 years should include provision for bike lanes or paved shoulders added
- Durham routes need to connect to established routes from adjacent regions
- The northern communities need to develop their infrastructure to accommodate cycling routes in their areas
- Routes should recognize on-road cycling versus multi use paths and trails as being distinct due to the different types of cyclists and the bicycles they typically use; avoid mixing them on the same route
- What the residents are saying...
 - Active Transportation
 - Potential Actions recommended by residents
- Comparison Chart of other International Cycling Plans
- Cycling Implementation Plans
 - What is an implementation Plan?
 - Who does what?
- Funding Strategies
 - Scope of review and current funding regime
 - What are the options?

A. Caruso advised that next steps include the award of the Regional Cycling RFP contract by the end of July 2019; the proposed duration of the project is one-year; and the project kick-off is planned for late August 2019. He added that staff will continue to report back to DATC and initiate the plans for future public consultation sessions, workshops, pop-up events and area input by the Active Transportation (AT) Committees.

Discussion ensued regarding opportunities to focus on best practices between the Region of Durham, its eight local area municipalities and AT Committees for the development and funding of future AT networks.

Councillor Kerr provided an update on the recent initiatives and best practices regarding the building of a new BMX bike park and multi-use path; east of Thornton Road in the City of Oshawa.

5. Discussion Items

There were no Discussion items to be considered.

6. Information Items

- A) Report #2019-P-24: Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Membership Appointment – Town of Whitby Nominee

A copy of Report #2019-P-24 of the Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development was received as Attachment #2 to the agenda.

Moved by J. Bate, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That Information Item A) be received for information.
CARRIED

7. Other Business

- A) DATC Process for Members to introduce a Motion or New Business

A. Caruso reviewed the Committee process for members to introduce a motion or new business at a DATC meeting. He asked that the members submit a copy to staff, one week prior to the meeting, to allow staff to ensure the item is within the scope of DATC's activities and procedurally in order.

8. Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Advisory Committee will be held on Thursday, September 5, 2019, in Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 PM.

R. Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active
Transportation Committee

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk