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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 12, 2019

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, September 12, 2019 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:00 PM.

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
P. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
M. Gibbons, Scugog
C. Kobelka, Clarington
S. Lee, Regional Councillor, Ajax, Alternate
J. Martin, Brock

Absent: J. Bate, Oshawa
K. Haines, Ajax
A. Heywood, Pickering
R. Kerr, Regional Councillor, Oshawa

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
S. Kemp, Manager, Traffic Engineering and Operations, Works Department
C. Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation, Planning and Economic Development
E. Sparks, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

1. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

2. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Lee, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on June 13, 2019, be adopted.

CARRIED

3. Presentations

A) Sonya Hardman, Manager, Corporative Initiatives, Office of the CAO, re:
Durham's Region's New Strategic Plan – Facilitated Discussion

S. Hardman provided an overview on the development of the new Strategic Plan for the Region of Durham to guide the Region through the next four to five years. She advised that as part of the Region's efforts to reach out to the community and its stakeholders, staff is looking to the Committees for its expertise and input on priorities for the new five-year Strategic Plan.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Strategic Planning Process
 - Four Main Steps or Components
 - Analyzing Our Current State
 - Defining Our Preferred Future State
 - Determining Our Key Objectives and Strategies
 - Implementation and Evaluation

S. Hardman explained that currently the Region is at Step 1 and Step 2 of the four main components for the Strategic Plan process. She presented the following three (3) key questions and the Committee provided the following input:

1. What challenges are we currently facing as a Region?
 - Distribution of resources/services between the southern and northern municipalities; north residents not getting a fare value for their tax dollars
 - Require a dedicated funding model for Active Transportation and multi-use paths, funding needs to be expedited prior to the year 2022;
 - A percentage of the developers' development charges for residential areas should be allotted to, and include the building of, AT infrastructure including cycling lanes and multi-use paths in the urban sprawl subdivision
 - Road and multi-use paths and the AT network system is not keeping up with the growth in the Region
 - Road and AT infrastructure: cross-jurisdiction is a major issue particularly in Uxbridge; residents feel that the Region is arms length away - inaccessible
 - Gaps in our economic development: the Region needs to shift its focus for employment to include white collar Tech jobs and working remotely; diversify our local employment to reduce our transportation issues
 - Cross jurisdiction: Oshawa Waterfront Trail is a shared responsibility
 - Still building car-friendly neighbourhoods as opposed to AT and transit friendly subdivisions

- Re-evaluate how we develop the Region to serve its residents, and protect Greenfields
 - Climate change mitigation strategies
2. Given these challenges, what are the top priorities or most pressing issues that we need to focus on over the next 5 years?
- Provide and promote diverse safe modes of Active Transportation as an alternate option to vehicles
 - Explore our Greenbelt protected space resources
 - Focus on providing 'work remotely' opportunities
 - Identify gaps for broadband service connectivity
 - Dedicated budget allocations for Active Transportation (AT)
 - Regional and local area municipalities must work to collaborate on a common goal
 - Remove the layers of governmental bureaucracy that inhibits implementation; make it easier to get things done
3. What do we want Durham Region to be known for?
- A friendly community
 - Its economic importance as an agricultural and garden Region;
 - An accessible Region; physical accessibility rather than vehicular
 - A Region that we can work in rather than commuting
 - Focus on our natural resources such as our lakes and lake shores; access to waterways and trails; and promote accessibility for our resources and active transportation opportunities
4. Hardman advised of opportunities for the community to become involved which includes a new Digital Engagement Platform for 24/7 Feedback at durham.ca/yourvoice; and the Strategic Plan Community Survey which will be open until September 30, 2019.

B) Kevin Arsenault, Capital Project Technologist, Township of Scugog, and Gene Chartier, Vice-President and Chief Development Officer, Paradigm Transportation Solutions Ltd., re: The Township of Scugog's Active Transportation & Transportation Master Plans

G. Chartier provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Township of Scugog's Active Transportation & Transportation Master Plans. K. Arsenault, Capital Project Technologist, Township of Scugog, was also in attendance.

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Study Goals
- Plan Goals
- Plan Objectives
- Active Transportation Aims

- What Will the Plan Include?
- Work Plan and Schedule
- Engagement Events
- Program Structure
- What We've Heard So Far
- Available Data
- Next Steps

G. Chartier stated that the objectives of the Plan are to achieve a “made in Scugog” approach which would allow people to walk, cycle and roll for work or play within Port Perry and along the shoreline of Lake Scugog; be accessible for all ages and abilities; and, allow for growth and development.

G. Chartier advised that the aim is to provide a continuous, interconnected system of cycling and walking routes to major activity and employment areas and public transit.

G. Chartier explained that as it relates the Active Transportation (AT), the Plan will include pedestrian and cycling policies and guidelines; a network of active transportation facilities that optimizes existing infrastructure; a cost-effective implementation framework; standards for infrastructure design, end-of-trip facilities and maintenance; address financing, risk management and liability issues; and, an updated GIS map.

G. Chartier outlined the proposed workplan and program schedule for Scugog's Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plans. He also provided a brief overview on the program engagement events/activities to-date; program structure; and feedback on what staff has heard so far with respect to events, active travel, road infrastructure and transit.

G. Chartier presented the following question for the Committee's consideration:

- Do you/your organization have or are aware of any data relevant to the study?
 - GIS data
 - Previous reports
 - Cycling/pedestrian count/use
 - Cross regional and municipal connections

G. Chartier advised that the next steps include the compilation and summarization of the engagement findings; finalization of the Phase 1 deliverables; completion of the Phase 2 technical analysis, network development and policy formulation; and, community engagement.

The Committee was asked to email Steve Kemp with any comments or suggestions regarding the Township of Scugog's Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plans.

The Committee inquired into the status of the Region utilizing the data collected from the Strava global heat map phone app; and how the cost was funded. Discussion followed on whether the app could be used to recognize counts for people pushing a stroller, students walking to school or residents utilizing the multi-use paths.

G. Chartier responded to questions regarding the issues arising from the congestion and noise during the events that are held on the main streets in Port Perry; and how the Region of Durham's Active Transportation (AT) and Transportation Master Plans (TMP) can facilitate and coordinate with Scugog's Active Transportation and Transportation Master Plans.

C) Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development, re: Envision Durham Review: Transportation System Discussion Paper

C. Leitch provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Envision Durham Review: Transportation System Discussion Paper".

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Discussions Paper Context
- Transportation Trends and Observations in Durham
 - Changing commuting and travel patterns
 - Mode share for transit and other modes should continue to increase
 - Infrastructure (2006 to present) has increased significantly
 - Regional Transportation System
- Overview of Current Transportation Policies and Guidelines
 - Provincial Policies, Plans and Guidelines for Transportation Planning
 - Regional Policies, Plans and Guidelines
 - Area municipal Policies, Plans and Guidelines
- Policy Considerations
 - Land Use and Transportation
 - Public Transit
 - Active Transportation
 - Roads and Corridor Protection
 - Travel Choices
 - Goods Movement

C. Leitch advised that the next steps include the release of the Transportation System Discussion Paper targeted for the October 1, 2019 Planning and Economic Development Committee meeting. Comments on the Discussion Paper are requested by December 30, 2019. He suggested that the Members visit the Envision Durham website for more information on the work to date on other discussion papers and project updates.

C. Leitch responded to questions regarding Federal and Provincial funding opportunities for AT initiatives including the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program.

4. Information Items

A) Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development, re: Regional Cycle Plan Update

A. Caruso provided an update on the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP). He reviewed the various cycling initiatives including the procurement process to retain a consultant to assist in updating the RCP; cycling experiences and engagement in Durham Region; and, the release of the Transportation System Discussion Paper targeted for October 1, 2019.

A. Caruso advised that he will be providing follow-up emails to the Committee regarding the upcoming RCP consultation opportunities.

5. Other Business

A) Establish Sub-Committee to Explore Opportunities for Signage at Cross Rides Intersections and Trail and Pedestrian Crossings

Chair Lalonde provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Cross Rides ". He displayed pictorials depicting multi-use path (MUP) non-signalized crossings and signalized crossings at various intersections in the Town of Whitby, Municipality of Clarington and York Region.

Chair Lalonde advised that the next steps include looking at developing a Regional rollout of signalized cross rides in partnership with the local area municipalities in the fall of 2019. Opportunities will be explored to access the required budget dollars for the completion of signalized cross rides in the year 2020, which promotes safe Active Transportation and supports Vision Zero initiatives within Durham Region.

Chair Lalonde suggested that DATC establish a sub-committee to explore opportunities on how to assist the Region of Durham to accelerate and move forward with the painting of signalized cross rides, trail crossings and pedestrian multi use paths, and report back to DATC with the sub-committee's findings and recommendations.

Moved by P. Smith, Seconded by Councillor Lee,

That a Cross Rides sub-committee comprised of M. Gibbons, C. Kobelka, Chair Lalonde, and P. Smith be formed to explore initiatives for the Region of Durham to accelerate and move forward with the painting of the signalized cross rides, and the signage for the trail crossings and pedestrian multi use paths; and report back to DATC with the sub-committee's findings and recommendations.

CARRIED

B) Glossary of Cycling Terminology

P. Smith inquired whether staff could provide DATC with an overview of cycling terms; and, how the Region and local municipalities manage the risks / liabilities associated with providing AT services and infrastructure.

A. Caruso advised that staff will arrange for a presentation on these matters at the December 12, 2019 meeting.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, December 12, 2019 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM

7. Adjournment

Moved by J. Martin, Seconded by C. Kobelka,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation
Committee

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk