

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 12, 2019

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, December 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
J. Bate, Oshawa
M. Gibbons, Scugog
C. Kobelka, Clarington
K. Haines, Ajax
A. Heywood, Pickering
R. Kerr, Regional Councillor, Oshawa

Absent: S. Lee, Regional Councillor, Ajax, Alternate
J. Martin, Brock

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, 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 Kerr, Seconded by K. Haines,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on September 12, 2019, be adopted.
CARRIED

3. Presentations

A) Kaitlyn Chow, Project Coordinator, Parks Canada, re: New Trail in Durham Region (Rouge National Urban Park)

K. Chow provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the new trails in Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP). She advised the RNUP existing trail network currently covers up to 30 kilometers in the central and southern areas of the Park, including a new 5 kilometer trail in the City of Markham.

K. Chow displayed a map depicting the existing Rouge National Urban Park (RNUP) trails; the lands committed to Parks Canada; and the two (2) new day use areas. She advised that Park Canada's goal is to create a 50 kilometer park-wide trail network, following the Rouge River from the Oak Ridges Moraine to Lake Ontario.

K. Chow provided an update on the 2019 RNUP standards for the Trailhead parking; garbage and washrooms facilities; accessible aggregate trail surfaces; and the potential for multi-use trails. It was questioned whether the RNUP washrooms are on a well and septic system and K. Chow advised they were.

K. Chow provided an overview of the 2019 Trail Projects map outlining the new construction of a 5.1 kilometer trail network system to the Town of Stouffville; the 5 kilometer trail along the headwaters of Katabokokonk Creek; and, the planning phases for a new north/east 12 kilometer hiking and cycling trail connecting to the Oak Ridges Moraine and to the Goodwood Resource Management Tract (RMT) in Durham Region.

K. Chow responded to questions regarding the Pickering Lands that Parks Canada acquired from the Ministry of Transportation; and the Meadoway initiative for a west/east connection to the existing RNUP.

Discussion ensued with respect to safety on the trails in regards to accessibility signage to warn those with mobility issues of the upcoming rugged topography; if the trail signage is bilingual; and the availability of wardens and geo-coding throughout the network system.

K. Chow also responded to questions regarding whether defibrillators are located within the RNUP; and if emergency services personnel could navigate the trails.

B) Emory Davidge, Planner, Urban Strategies Inc., re: Growth Management Consultation for Envision Durham

E. Davidge, Urban Strategies Inc., provided a PowerPoint presentation titled, "Region of Durham: Growth Management Study":

Key highlights of the presentation included:

- Our Team
- Project Understanding
- The Municipal Comprehensive Review
- The Growth Management Study
 - Needs to be more than a technical equation about land needs
- Envision Durham
 - Comprised of six (6) Discussion Papers
- Our Approach to Land Needs Assessment (LNA)
 - Integrating Both Supply & Demand
 - Key Inputs and Steps

E. Davidge presented the following three (3) key questions and the Committee provided the following input:

1. When it comes to active transportation and mobility, what are some key successes in the Region? Are there opportunities to build off of there?
 - The linkage of cycling routes including Taunton Road to the Oshawa Waterfront Trail along Mary Street (40 kilometers)
 - The recognition of the area municipalities achieving the Bicycle Friendly Community Award designation
2. When it comes to active transportation and mobility, what are some key challenges in the Region?
 - Active Transportation (AT) infrastructure: Cross-jurisdiction is a major challenge between the Region and local area municipalities; they must work to collaborate on a common goal
 - Recognizing the different multi-modal transportation options to focus on the AT needs of the commuters and recreational users within the Region of Durham's urban and rural areas, to move people safely
 - Significant barriers at Regional Road crossings, including bridge crossings over Highways 401, 407, 412 and 418
 - Fair distribution of resources/services between the southern and northern municipalities
 - The design of multi-use paths with a lane on only one (1) side of the road
 - Road accidents / fatalities
3. Are there particular areas in the Region that should be focused on in regards to active transportation and mobility?
 - The Region and local area municipalities need to work collaboratively on the building of the AT infrastructure to ensure the linkage of AT paths and trails at the borders
 - The implementation of AT programs, including the achievement of the Bronze level Bicycle Friendly Community status, launched by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition, for the Region of Durham and any of its area municipalities not yet designated
 - Collaborate efforts with government partners on AT initiatives, including dedicated funding
 - Provide safe modes of AT at crossings at the Regional Roads over the bridges, including in the City of Pickering and Thornton Road in the City of Oshawa, and the bridge crossings over Highways 401, 407, 412 and 418
 - Promote the use of AT in the Region, particularly the role that it plays to connect people to transit and the Metrolinx GO Stations as an alternate option to vehicles
 - Include the building of AT infrastructure in the urban sprawl subdivisions

- Advance efforts to identify gaps, including the link up of Gibb Street and Olive Street to multi-use-paths (2024) and the linkage of the Michael Starr Trail from Trent University campus, to Highway 401 in the City of Oshawa

C) Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, and Erin Sparks, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development, re: Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) 2020 Update

Anthony Caruso and Erin Sparks, Planning and Economic Development, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP).

E. Sparks provided a review of the contents and key themes addressed in the Mississauga Cycling Master Plan (2018); Peel Region Active Transportation Implementation Plan (2017); Halton Active Transportation Master Plan (2015); and Surrey Cycling Plan (2012). She also provided a summary of the emerging themes for the various existing Cycling Plans.

A. Caruso advised that the work to-date included a focus group meeting to review existing Cycling Plans and a kick-off meeting with the consultants and Regional staff on December 11, 2019. He noted that the aim of these meetings was to get cross-departmental buy-in and support for the 2020 RCP; to focus on areas of concerns, including timing, costs, design and safety; the sharing of data, knowledge and best practices; and to explore how to best leverage the resources to speed up the implementation.

A. Caruso advised that the next steps include the gathering of data; the holding of a DATC meeting, on March 12, 2020, to focus on the 2020 RCP; the development of a website; the scheduling of focus group and area municipal meetings in early 2020; and the hosting an Area Municipal Active Transportation Committee Workshop.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for the inclusion of cross-jurisdictional services and resources in the Regional Cycling Plan, particularly for the trails in the northern municipalities.

Discussion also ensued with respect to the new Provincial pilot, effective January 1, 2020, to permit Electric Kick Scooters (e-scooters) on the roads in Ontario. Municipalities that choose to permit their use would be responsible for deciding such things as allowing or prohibiting them on municipal roads, including parks and trails.

Councillor Kerr inquired whether staff could provide him with an explanation of the “Annual Expenses (\$) and Staff Time” detailed on the Peel Region Active Transportation Implementation Plan (2017) Sample Visual chart. E. Sparks advised that she would look into that and provide the information to Councillor Kerr directly.

Councillor Kerr suggested that the Committee arrange a symposium with the key stakeholders to celebrate the opening of multi-use paths such as Athol Street in the City of Oshawa; and look at opportunities to host a Cycling Expo event to draw cyclists from throughout all areas within Durham Region.

4. Discussion Items

A) Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Draft 2020 Workplan

A copy of the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) draft 2020 Workplan was received as Attachment #2 to the Agenda. The Chair provided a brief overview of the 2020 Workplan initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding DATC's support for initiatives such as cycling safety, health and well being, and the need for inclusion and partnering with the local area municipalities and their Active Transportation Committees on future initiatives within Durham Region.

Moved by J. Bate, Seconded by P. Smith,
That the Durham Active Transportation Committee recommends to the Planning & Economic Development Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to Regional Council:

That the proposed 2020 Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Workplan be amended as follows, and as amended, be approved:

Cycling Safety and Education

- In Item 2. delete the words, "the achievement of" and insert the words, "working towards"
- In Item 4. insert the words, "in support of" after the words, "plays in"; and

Infrastructure

- In Item 6. insert the words, "southern corridors" after the words, "Regional Trail Network (RTN)";
- In Item 7. insert the words, "Envision Durham: Transportation System Discussion Paper for" before the words, "the development".

CARRIED

B) Durham Active Transportation Committee 2019 Annual Report and Draft 2020 Workplan

A copy of the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) 2019 Annual Report and 2020 Workplan was received as Attachment #3 to the Agenda.

A. Caruso provided a brief overview of the details outlined in the Report.

5. Information Items

A) DATC Meeting Dates for 2020 – Anthony Caruso

A. Caruso advised that the proposed 2020 meetings for the next term of the Durham Active Transportation Committee are scheduled from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM, at The Regional Municipality of Durham Headquarters, on the following dates:

- Thursday, March 12, 2020
- Thursday, June 11, 2020
- Thursday, September 17, 2020
- Thursday, December 10, 2020

Moved by K. Haines, Seconded by J. Bate,
That the 2020 Durham Active Transportation Committee Meeting
Schedule, be approved.

CARRIED

6. Other Business

A) DATC Sub-Committee Update: Signage at Cross Rides Intersections, Trail Crossings and Multi-Use Paths

Chair Lalonde provided an update on the Sub-Committee focus on cross rides intersections, mid-block crossings and trail crossings. He noted that the Province is undergoing revisions to the Ontario Traffic Manual-Book 18, pertaining to cross rides intersection and that the expected release date is in the Spring of 2020.

Chair Lalonde advised that Staff have met with the Works Department Staff in regard to the mid-block crossings. He noted that there is a potential for allocating limited funding in support of mid-block crossings and, with no firm commitment, have identified the Town of Whitby North / South Hydro Corridor Trail and The Great Trail East / West crossing. He noted additional details are to follow.

Discussion ensued regarding the need to address the traffic flow during the ongoing construction along Victoria Street, in the Town of Whitby.

Chair Lalonde advised that, if required, the next Sub-Committee meeting would be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020, prior to the DATC meeting.

B) Winter Maintenance Standards

P. Smith provided an update on recent discussions at the Township of Uxbridge regarding the challenges faced by the sidewalks and pathways due to snow windrows for pedestrians using strollers; the levels of winter maintenance standards; and the potential for the Region and the area municipalities to synchronize the delivery of these winter maintenance

services. Discussion followed on the Active & Safe Routes to School community initiative that promotes the use of safe active transportation for the daily trip to school and physical activity.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2020 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

8. Adjournment

Moved by C. Kobelka, Seconded by A. Heywood,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk