

The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, September 24, 2020

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, September 24, 2020 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:01 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Roll Call

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
P. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair
J. Bate, Oshawa
M. Gibbons, Scugog
K. Haines, Ajax
A. Heywood, Pickering
C. Kobelka, Clarington

*** all members of Committee, except Chair Lalonde, participated electronically**

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

Staff

Present: B. Bridgeman, Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
D. Culp, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
G. Muller, Director of Planning, Planning and Economic Development
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
A. Tulloch, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Strategic Planning, Planning and Economic Development
N. Prasad, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services
M. White, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

2. Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

3. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by K. Haines, Seconded by M. Gibbons,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee
meeting held on June 11, 2020, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) Steven Kemp, Manager, Traffic Engineering and Operations, Durham
Region, re: Traffic Update

Steven Kemp provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a traffic update.

Highlights of his Presentation included:

- Walk Signal Automation – Item 7. A) of the DATC June 11, 2020 minutes
- Walk Signal Automation – Guelph Experience
- Walk Signal Automation – Other Options
- Mid-block Crossing Study
- Leading Pedestrian Interval (LPI) Pilot
 - Photos of intersections
- Automated Enforcement – Speed Cameras
- Automated Enforcement – Red Light Cameras

S. Kemp invited the Committee to send him any comments or questions regarding the Traffic Signal.

S. Kemp responded to questions regarding whether staff has considered painted pavement markings at trail crossings for increased visibility to warn on-coming traffic of the crossing; if the City of Guelph did a full automation of the traffic signals at the pedestrian crossing, including sensor de-activation and operating on “fixed -time”, similar to the City of Montreal; and the pressing of peg-buttons at signalized intersections resulting in a green light being awarded to motorists but not to pedestrians walking in the same direction.

The Committee inquired whether traffic lights could be programmed to award pedestrians and crossing guards a walk signal when a green light is granted to motorists travelling in the same direction. S. Kemp explained that this option differs from the City of Guelph and would have less impact than signal lights operating at full “fixed-timed”. He advised that staff would look into this option.

B) Claire Basinski, Project Manager, and Dave McLaughlin, Senior Project Manager, of WSP; re: Regional Cycling Plan (RCP) Update

Claire Basinski and Dave McLaughlin, WSP; provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP). C. Basinski noted that Justin Jones, Share the Road; and, Cristina Valente, of WSP, were also participating in the meeting electronically.

Anthony Caruso outlined the background and process for the 2020 Regional Cycling Plan (RCP).

Key highlights of his presentation included:

- Developing the 2020 RCP
 - Phase 1: Background Review (Winter / Spring 2020)
 - Phase 2: Program Update (Summer / Fall 2020)
 - Phase 3: Finalize the Study (Winter 2020)
- Overview of Summer Public Engagement Activities
 - RCPU Online Summer Cycling Strategy Survey
 - Pop-up Engagement at Bruce Hanscombe Memorial Park in the City of Pickering
 - Pop-up Engagement at Port Perry Lakefront Farmers Market

C. Basinski provided an overview of the Summer Survey Results. She advised that the Survey contained a total of 35 questions on the following strategies: bicycle parking; signage and wayfinding; education and encouragement; and maintenance. She also advised that the purpose of the survey was to receive input on the cycling strategies by identifying the challenges and opportunities; the needs and preferences of the community members and stakeholders; and, to shape the recommendations and next steps for consideration by the Region.

Key highlights of the survey strategies included:

- Bicycle Parking Survey Results
 - 40% of respondents NEVER use bicycle parking within Durham Region
 - Maintenance Survey Results (Facilities)
 - Signage & Wayfinding Survey Results
 - Education & Encouragement Survey Results
- Primary Cycling Network (PCN) Update
 - Updating the Primary Cycling Network
 - Network Assumptions
 - Maps:
 - Step 1a: Update Mapping Results
 - Step 1b: Level of Separation Results
 - Areas for Improvement:
 - Step 2: PCN Update & Status
 - Step 3: Identify and Confirm Facilities

- Cycling Strategy Review
 - Approach & Considerations
 - Next Steps and staying in touch

C. Basinski and J. Jones responded to questions regarding whether the specific working groups initiatives could also target the various community groups, with a diverse and ethnical perspective, including individuals with disabilities for a better understanding of their active transportation experiences.

C. Basinski and D. McLaughlin also responded to questions regarding the potential for a short term solution to improve the unsafe gap identified in the Network, from Simcoe Street/Old Scugog Road to Coates Road, south of Port Perry; whether a connecting route from Lake Scugog to Lindsay, extending from Highway 7A and along Highway 57 to River Road, could be looked at as part of the Network; if consideration has been given to partner with the Regional Municipality of York for a Network connection from Uxbridge / Port Perry to the Toronto Zoo, extending from the north end of the York-Durham Line; and a route from the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation to the York Regions' First Nations.

C. Basinski responded to a question regarding whether the Regional Cycling Plan will bring forth a recommendation for dedicated funding for the various active transportation (alternative transportation) categories. A. Caruso advised that Planning staff will be meeting with the Region's Works and Finance staff to discuss the various funding options to raise the profile of cycling, particularly during COVID-19.

Discussion ensued regarding the need for consistency within the regional, municipal and rural cycling strategy standards/guidelines; and, whether the Regional Cycling Plan will reflect a program to support mid-block crossings that are primarily a municipal crossing on a regional road.

D. McLaughlin invited the Committee to email any comments or suggestions regarding the Regional Cycling Plan Update to A. Caruso and the Project Consultants of WSP.

5. Discussion Items

- A) There were no items to be discussed.

6. Information Items

- A) Port Perry Downtown Pilot Project – Street Closure to Vehicle Traffic

M. Gibbons announced that the Port Perry Downtown Pilot project is taking place in the Township of Scugog. He explained that Queen Street, between Perry Street and Water Street, has been closed to vehicle traffic on Saturdays and Sundays, effective July 25, 2020, for a four week period and noted that though its has been a controversial topic with some business

owners, it has been a great initiative for people to experience the downtown area; particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic.

B) Henry Street Closure in the Town of Whitby, Sunday, September 27, 2020, from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM in Support of Active Transportation

Chair Lalonde announced that Henry Street in the Town of Whitby will be closed Sunday, September 27, 2020 from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM in support of active transportation. He noted it will be a full closure from Victoria Street north, over the Highway 401 bridge, and then a partial closure from the Highway 401 bridge up to Dundas Street.

Chair Lalonde advised that the Town of Whitby is in the final stages of completing their Active Transportation Plan (ATP), and public discussion will take place in mid October 2020. It is anticipated that the ATP will be finalized by the year end.

7. Other Business

There was no other business to be considered.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, December 10, 2020 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

9. Adjournment

Moved by K. Haines, Seconded by P. Smith,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation Committee

C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk