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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

#### **DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

**Thursday, March 11, 2021**

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, March 11, 2021 in Council Chambers, 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  
J. Bate, Oshawa  
M. Gibbons, Scugog  
K. Haines, Ajax  
A. Heywood, Pickering  
C. Kobelka, Clarington, attended the meeting at 7:09 PM  
S. Lee, Regional Councillor, Ajax, left the meeting at 8:14 PM on municipal business  
J. Martin, Brock  
P. Smith, Uxbridge, Vice-Chair

**\* all members of Committee participated electronically**

Chair Lalonde advised that the Active Transportation Committee members from the City of Oshawa, Township of Uxbridge, Town of Whitby, the Municipality of Clarington; and, the Durham Region Cycling Coalition have joined the meeting via the live-streaming for the review of the update on Item 4. C) Regional Cycling Plan Update.

Absent: R. Kerr, Regional Councillor, Oshawa, with regrets

#### **Staff**

Present: \*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. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development  
\*C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services  
**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

#### **2. Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

### **3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by J. Bate, Seconded by Councillor Lee,  
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting  
held on December 10, 2020, be adopted.  
CARRIED

### **4. Presentations**

#### **A) David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation, re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project**

David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation, provided a PowerPoint presentation update on the scope of the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) Project across the Region. He advised that the presentation provides information on the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project; the preferred design in Durham Region; an overview of the active transportation components; and, to hear questions and concerns about active transportation.

Highlights of his presentation included:

- Purpose
- Map: 2041 Frequent Rapid Transit Network
- Map: Study Area
- Why Bus Rapid Transit?
- Project Benefits
- Project Schedule: Overall Timeline
- What We've Heard So Far
- Preliminary Design
  - Proposed BRT Stop Locations
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – City of Pickering
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – Town of Ajax
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – Town of Whitby
  - Preferred Preliminary Design – City of Oshawa
  - Images depicting what the future BRT could look like: Kingston Road at Liverpool Road in the City of Pickering; Bond Street at Stevenson Road in the City of Oshawa
- BRT Stop Design: Platforms
- Active Transportation
  - Walking and Cycling Infrastructure
  - Cycling Facilities in Pickering
  - Cycling Facilities in Ajax
  - Cycling Facilities in Whitby and Oshawa
- Next Steps

D. Hopper reviewed the BRT opportunities to improve the reliability and comfort of transit service and accessibility; the active transportation network; enhancing the public realm in downtown Whitby; and, awareness and incorporating elements of cultural heritage resources and local neighbourhood

in the BRT stop design. He added that concerns to be addressed include access restrictions; removal of on-street parking in downtown Whitby and Oshawa; the business impacts along Ellesmere Road and in downtown Whitby; gaps in the cycling network; and, impacts to cultural heritage resources.

D. Hopper provided an update on the next steps and advised that the draft Environmental Project Report will be available in May of 2021; and, that the Notice of Commencement will notify stakeholders that the 120-day Transit Project Assessment Process (TPAP) consultation and documentation period has begun. He advised that additional stakeholder meetings and a Public Information Centre will be held in mid-2021 and will be followed by a 30-day public review period. The Winter of 2021 will be spent fine-tuning the design and preparing the Preliminary Design Business Case.

D. Hopper stated that segments of the corridor are planned to be constructed by the Region of Durham as part of the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program, subject to Federal approval.

D. Hopper invited the Committee to email any questions or comments regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project to [dsbrt@metrolinx.com](mailto:dsbrt@metrolinx.com) or [Metrolinx Engage DSBRT](#).

D. Hopper responded to questions regarding the funding for the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit (DSBRT) Project, specifically the monies for the Active Transportation (AT) auxiliary infrastructure; whether existing car lanes will be reduced along the BRT network; how does Metrolinx intend to safely secure the bikes at the first and last mile connectivity zones for those who want to leave their bike while they travel; the cycling gaps primarily at the Rouge to provide full network connectivity; and if cyclists would be able to ride in the BRT bus lanes within a detour route segment in the City of Oshawa.

The Committee thanked David Hopper for his thorough presentation.

B) Brittany Mohammed, Host Student, Durham College, re: Trail Safety Project in Durham

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Brittany Mohammed provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding a Trail Safety Project in Durham Region. Anthony Caruso advised that the concept for the Trail Safety Project was suggested by the Durham Regional Police Services, to improve safety for all trail users, and as a part of the CityStudio Program initiatives to foster partnerships with the local academic institutions, by hosting students to undertake research projects.

Highlights of her presentation included:

- Aim of the Project
- Purpose of Preventive Measures
- Recommendations
- List of Hazards on Trail

- Section 2: Observations
- Section 3: Survey
- Section 4: Google Reviews

B. Mohammed provided an overview of the various hazards on trails including assault, maintenance on the man made structures; fear of becoming lost or injured; encountering wildlife; and, loss of cell service.

B. Mohammed advised that the project is still underway and that the results will be available at the end of her placement; and, invited the members to email any questions or suggestions to [Brittany.mohammed@dcmail.ca](mailto:Brittany.mohammed@dcmail.ca). She noted that the link to the survey is available at [Trail Safety Durham](#).

B. Mohammed responded to questions regarding whether the purpose of project is to address specific existing or potential issues on the trails, and, if significant issues are being encountered along the trails.

Staff responded to questions regarding whether the project information with respect to the installation of lighting along the trails will be considered; and, how the recommendations will evolve in terms of policy implementation. A. Caruso advised that the project results will be provided to the various Regional departments, Durham Regional Police Services, and key stakeholders.

Discussion ensued regarding the current conflicts occurring on the trails; the need for security along the trails; and, whether a set of guidelines outlining trail user etiquette will be established, including all dogs to be kept on a leash.

C) Anthony Caruso, Senior Planner, and Danielle Culp, Planning Analyst, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development, Durham Region; re: Regional Cycling Plan Update

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Anthony Caruso and Danielle Culp provided a PowerPoint presentation on the Regional Cycling Plan Update.

A. Caruso advised that the purpose of the presentation is to update to the DATC on the work completed to date; provide an overview of the draft final Primary Cycling Network, cycling supportive strategies and components; to gather input and answer any questions of the DATC; and, to present the next steps needed to move forward with the completion of the RCP.

Highlights of his presentation included:

Project Refresher & Key Milestones

- Overview of Project Process
- RCP Vision Statement & Goals
- RCPU Assumptions
- RCPU Engagement Approach
- Timeline & Milestones

Draft Primary Cycling Network (PCN) Vision

- Responding to PCN Comments
- Updated PCN Overview
- Maps: PCN Vision and Context
- Maps: PCN Facility Types and Phasing
- PCN Urban Facility Types
- PCN Rural Facility Types
- Key Opportunities
- Durham Meadoway
- Improving Connectivity to GO Transit Connections
- Modifications to the PCN (2020 – 2040)

D. Culp provided an update on the supporting cycling strategies and actions; and the next steps.

Highlights of her presentation included:

Supporting Cycling Strategies & Actions

- Approach & Considerations
- Cycling Strategies: Bicycle Parking
- Cycling Strategies: Signage & Wayfinding
- Cycling Strategies: Education & Encouragement
- Cycling Strategies: Maintenance

Other Supporting Considerations

- RCP Partnerships
- Proposed AT Coordination

Next Steps

D. Culp advised that the next steps include: summarize the input received from the Municipal, Regional and DATC stakeholders; finalize the Phase 2 report; update the proposed PCN based on comments provided; and proceed with the development and finalization of the Master Plan Report.

D. Culp added that the final Master Plan Report will be presented to the Durham Regional Planning & Economic Development Committee in May 2021; and asked that any comments or input are to be forwarded to staff by March 23, 2021.

Chair Lalonde asked the municipal Active Transportation and DATC Committee members to funnel any comments or suggestions to himself for forwarding onto Anthony Caruso and Danielle Culp.

J. Bate expressed concerns regarding the timelines for the RCP initiatives being pushed out to a longer term such as Adelaide Avenue in the City of Oshawa. A. Caruso asked that J. Bate contact him directly to discuss the RCP timeline initiatives.

Discussion ensued regarding options for the Region to be the lead to role out and provide the local municipalities with a standardized approach in terms of coordinating events and programs (Smart Commute), communications and educational literature to promote and encourage safe AT throughout the Region.

D) Ron Lalonde, Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee, re: 2020 Ontario Bike Summit Overview

Ron Lalonde provided a PowerPoint presentation on the 2020 Ontario Bike Summit. He advised that the Ontario Bike Summit is hosted by the Share the Road Cycling Coalition and is the premier cycling conference in Ontario.

Chair Lalonde provided an overview of the attendees of the 2020 Summit and noted that the virtual event included approximately 200 delegates and over 60 speakers who shared their work and experiences on a variety of topics.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Realities of COVID 19 and the new normal
- Community Advocacy Work
- Bike Friendly Communities
- Building support and overcoming challenges
- Municipal AT Success Stories
- Cycle Tourism Benefits
- Ontario Traffic M Book 18 Proposed Updates
- Last Words

Chair Lalonde advised that the importance of building and supporting an active transportation culture across the entire local stakeholder community was a common theme throughout the seminar.

A. Caruso provided an overview of the initiatives he presented at the Summit for updating Durham Region's Cycling Plan including on mid-block crossings.

**5. Discussion Items**

There were no items to be discussed.

**6. Information Items**

A) Durham Region's Proposed Policy Directions (Report #2021-P-7)

A. Caruso advised that as part of the Municipal Comprehensive Review the Region released its proposed policy directions as outlined in Report #2021-P-7, for public review to help form the basis for draft policies in the new Regional Official Plan.

A. Caruso encouraged the DATC members to review the section entitled 'Connected Transportation Systems' on pages 142 to 164 of the Report and provide any feedback and comments to staff by the end of June.

**7. Other Business**

There were no items of Other Business.

**8. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, June 10, 2021 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

**9. Adjournment**

Moved by K. Haines, Seconded by A. Heywood,  
That the meeting be adjourned.  
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:31 PM

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R. Lalonde, Chair  
Durham Active Transportation Committee

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C. Tennisco, Committee Clerk