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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, December 14, 2023

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, December 14, 2023 in Meeting Room 1-A, 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
B. Astley, Oshawa
A. Heywood*, Pickering
C. Houston, Clarington, Vice-Chair
Councillor Kerr
K. Mirani*, Brock
P. Smith*, Uxbridge
T. Van Helsdingen*, Ajax

*** denotes members participating electronically**

Absent: M. Gibbons, Scugog

Staff

Present: A. Caruso, Senior Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
A. Chung, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
C. Leitch, Principal Planner, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
F. Mannan*, Project Manager, Rapid Transit Office
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development
S. Singh*, GIS Specialist, Traffic Safety, Works Department
V. Walker, 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 B. Astley, Seconded by C. Houston,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on October 11, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Presentations

A) David Simor, Director, The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), re: Complete Streets: Considerations to Keep in Mind for Implementation

David Simor, Director, The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT), provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Complete Streets: Considerations to Keep in Mind for Implementation.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT)
- TCAT & Complete Streets
- What are Complete Streets?
- What do they Look Like?
- What are the Benefits?
- 5 Considerations for Complete Streets Implementation
 - Make It About Vision
 - Can't Please Everyone (so don't try)
 - More than Townhalls
 - Meet People Where They Are
 - Leave Them Feeling Good
 - Look Beyond Traffic Counts
 - Infrastructure is Not Neutral
- Mobility & Personal Identity
- Providing for Different Needs
- More Considerations

D. Simor responded to a question from the Committee regarding the purpose of reducing the role of police enforcement in creating safer streets.

B) Kevan Marshall, Project Manager, Transit Services, Region of Waterloo, re: Making Sustainable Transportation the Easy Choice in Waterloo Region

Kevan Marshall, Project Manager, Transit Services, Region of Waterloo, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Making Sustainable Transportation the Easy Choice in Waterloo Region.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Transit-Supportive Active Transportation is Our Priority
- Region of Waterloo Bike Map (2021)
- Waterloo Region's TravelWise Program
- TravelWise Bike Month Contest
- Cycling and Transit
- Transit Bike Parking
- Region of Waterloo + Neuron Micromobility
- Next Stop: Market District

- The Market Trail
- Market Trail's Public Consultation Success Story
- Market Trail – Building Towards Opening Day
- Transit Hub Trail
- Key Takeaways
- The Importance of Advisory Committees
- Region of Waterloo Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC)
- ATAC Vision
- ATAC Mission, Goals, and Objectives
- Territorial Acknowledgements

K. Marshall responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the Market Trail has additional points of entry along the route other than at the start and end of the trail; if any of the trail markings include icons for pedestrians; whether the Region of Waterloo has received feedback from the community or City staff relating to concerns of pedestrians interacting on the same path as e-scooters and bicycles and how that has been addressed; how the locations of the e-scooters were determined and their proximity to residential areas; and the process and challenges with implementing trail crossings over a rail line.

C) Shivani Singh, GIS Specialist, Traffic Safety, Region of Durham, re: Traffic Data

Shivani Singh, GIS Specialist, Traffic Safety, Region of Durham and Steven Kemp, Manager, Traffic Safety and Operations, Region of Durham, provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding Durham Vision Zero – Strategic Road Safety Action Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Durham Vision Zero
- Vision and Goal
- Pedestrian and Cyclist Volumes
- Pedestrian and Cyclist Collisions
- Cyclist Collision Frequency
- Top 10 Cyclist Collision Locations
- Pedestrian Collision Frequency
- Top 10 Pedestrian Collision Locations
- Eco-Counters
- New Pedestrian and Cycling Initiatives
- Bicycle Signals – Cross-rides

Discussion ensued regarding potential future placement of cross-rides in the Region.

S. Kemp and S. Singh responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the reasons are known as to why Taunton Road experiences a

larger number of bicycle and vehicular collisions than other roads in the Region; whether the eco-counters can detect a carbon fibre bicycle; how the collected collision data is used for future planning; whether the collected data includes both regional and municipal roads; and whether Leading Bicycle Intervals that has been piloted in Ottawa and Toronto will be piloted in Durham Region, and locations that would be most suitable for same.

D) Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, Durham Region, re: Meadoway Update

Chris Leitch, Principal Planner, Durham Region provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding an Update to the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Project Introduction
- Study Process and Engagement
- Purpose of Visioning Study
- Where is the Durham Meadoway?
- Overview by the Numbers
- The Vision
 - Vision Statement
 - Guiding Principles
 - Beyond the Multi-Use Path
- The Route
 - Route Evaluation Overview
 - Preferred Route and Interim Connections
 - Durham Meadoway Segments (1 – 11)
 - Conceptual Sketch
 - Rendering
- Next Steps
 - Implementation Strategy
 - Cost Estimation – Class EA Study
 - Potential of Durham Meadoway
 - Decision Making Steps
 - Potential Funding Opportunities

C. Leitch responded to a question from the Committee regarding the reception and feedback received from the Council's of the local area municipalities.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Discussion Items

A) Bike Friendly Status: DATC Sub-committee

A. Caruso stated that the Committee expressed interest in applying for Bike Friendly Status in the Region following the Share the Road Cycling Coalition presentation from the previous meeting. A. Caruso suggested the formation of a Bike Friendly Status Sub-committee that would be responsible for collecting data and documentation as it relates to cycling within the community, and preparing and submitting the application.

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by C. Houston,
That a Bike Friendly Status Sub-committee be formed, and that B. Astley, R. Lalonde, P. Smith and C. Houston be appointed to it.
CARRIED

B) TransCanada Trail: North Durham Rail Trail Update

A. Caruso stated that the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance has agreed to assume maintenance of the trail and will meet with the Region in early 2024 to discuss the details with respect to maintenance responsibilities. A. Caruso advised that a further update will be made at the next Committee meeting.

A. Caruso responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance is primarily an ATV organization; and whether they have agreed to take over maintenance for the whole trail or just the section from Lakeridge to Lindsay.

7. Information Items

A) Copenhagen City Tour, Anthony Caruso

A. Caruso provided an overview of the Copenhagen City Tour that he attended in September 2023 as part of a grant prize awarded to 4 Canadian municipalities and Ontario Tech University through the Canadian Institute for Health Research, which provided an opportunity to experience Copenhagen's approach to active transportation. A. Caruso stated that the event included a 5-day interactive workshop, study tours and site visits.

A. Caruso advised that Copenhagen has implemented many changes to make the city more friendly to pedestrians and cyclists, including removing most car parking and creating bike parking. A. Caruso advised that Copenhagen prioritizes walkways and cycle paths, which are plowed before roads during winter months. He stated that a multi-functional approach to integrate cycling infrastructure goes into the city's design process, which is demonstrated by the many bridges constructed across canals that connect the city, and at Copenhagen University where covered bicycle parking is offered for protection from rain and snow.

A. Caruso advised that there will be a full-day workshop at Ontario Tech University on June 17, 2024, to discuss improving access to active transportation.

8. Other Business

A) Upgrading and Expanding Safe Active Transportation Networks in Oshawa – and Beyond

Councillor Kerr stated that with a second GO Station coming to the City of Oshawa, there is an opportunity to upgrade and expand the active transportation networks that connect the city. Councillor Kerr suggested this could be achieved through constructing multi-use pathways (MUPs) in locations that would provide access the GO stations, widening the tunnel under the GO train tracks at the existing station to create separate pedestrian and active transportation links; and invoking no street parking along Mary Street during peak times to increase the confidence of active transportation commuters.

Councillor Kerr welcomed any feedback from the Committee on the proposed suggestions or to provide additional options for consideration.

B) Introduction of Region of Durham’s new Active Transportation Specialist

S. Kemp stated that the Regional Cycling Plan Update contained approval for a new Active Transportation Specialist position and introduced Fariha Mannan as the successful candidate for the role.

9. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

10. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by B. Astley,
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation
Committee

V. Walker, Committee Clerk