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The Regional Municipality of Durham Report

To: Planning and Economic Development Committee
From: Commissioner of Planning and Economic Development
Report: #2024-P-3
Date: January 9, 2024

Subject:

Durham Active Transportation Committee 2023 Annual Report and 2024 Workplan

Recommendation:

That the Planning and Economic Development Committee recommends to Regional Council:

- A) That Commissioner's Report #2024-P-3 be received as the Durham Active Transportation Committee's 2023 Annual Report;
 - B) That the Durham Active Transportation Committee 2024 Workplan be approved, as outlined in Attachment #1 to Commissioner's Report #2024-P-3; and
 - C) That a copy of Commissioner's Report #2024-P-3 be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Conservation Authorities, and Durham's Area Municipalities.
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Report:

1. Purpose

- 1.1 The Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Terms of Reference (ToR) requires the submission of an annual report to the Planning and Economic Development Committee summarizing the activities of the previous year. DATC is also required to prepare a proposed Workplan for the coming year and when necessary, recommend revisions to the ToR, for consideration and approval of the Planning and Economic Development Committee and Council.

1.2 The purpose of this report is to:

- a. Summarize the activities of the DATC from 2023; and
- b. Present the 2024 Work Plan – see Attachment #1.

2. Previous Reports and Decisions

2.1 In January 2023, Council considered the 2022 Annual Reports of the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Durham Agricultural Advisory Committee and Durham Environmental Advisory Committees through Commissioner's Report [#2023-P-3](#).

2.2 In March 2023, Council considered DATC's membership appointments for the 2023-2026 term (Report [#2023-P-5](#)).

2.3 In June 2023, Council endorsed the DATC 2023 Workplan through Commissioner Report [#2023-P-18](#).

3. 2023 Annual Report

3.1 The DATC is composed of eight citizen members, one from each area municipality, and one member of the Planning and Economic Development Committee.

3.2 At the first DATC 2023-2023 term meeting on April 13, 2023, Ron Lalonde was re-elected as Chair, and Connor Houston was elected Vice-Chair.

3.3 Membership at the end of 2023 was:

- Ron Lalonde (Whitby) – Chair;
- Connor Houston (Clarington) – Vice-Chair;
- Tanja Van Helsdingen (Ajax);
- Kamal. Mirani (Brock);
- Bob Astley (Oshawa);
- Aisha Heywood (Pickering);
- Marc Gibbons (Scugog);
- Phil Smith (Uxbridge);
- Regional Councillor Rick Kerr (Planning and Economic Development Committee); and
- Regional Councillor Maleeha Shahid (Planning and Economic Development Committee – Alternate).

Major Activities in 2023

- 3.4 At the first DACT meeting of this term, members were given an orientation presentation to familiarize themselves with the role and duties of the committee.
- 3.5 The role of the DATC is to advise the Region of Durham on matters related to active transportation across Durham. The DATC also provides input on Regional initiatives, including Durham's Active Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program and the Regional Cycling Plan (RCP).
- 3.6 During 2023, DACT fulfilled this role by:
- a. Receiving presentations and engaging in discussions on:
 - The Active Sustainable School Travel (ASST) planning for elementary schools in Durham Region;
 - Durham Region's Smart Commute Program and Bike Month planning and results;
 - Metrolinx's work to improve active transportation at GO Rail stations; and
 - Durham's Wayfinding and Signage Strategy project.
 - b. Providing advice and investigating various Regional issues, including:
 - Advocating for improved cycling safety on Regional cycling routes and infrastructure;
 - Commenting on existing trails, including the developing of the Durham Meadoway, the North Durham TransCanada Rail Trail and how to improve the overall trail system in Durham; and
 - Learning more about Share the Road Cycling Coalition's Bike Friendly Status and determining how it would apply to Durham Region.

4. 2024 Workplan

- 4.1 The proposed 2024 Workplan (Attachment #1) consists of activities, which are a priority and achievable within the calendar year. These activities are summarized into four categories:
- a. **Sustainability** - Recognizing and advancing Active Transportation (AT) activities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions.
 - b. **Active Transportation Safety and Education** - Encouraging public awareness and education on AT matters by providing advice on the identification and implementation of programs such as Vision Zero and Active

- and Sustainable School Travel; including supporting work to help achieve bronze-level Bike-Friendly status for the Region of Durham and any area municipalities not yet designated in Durham, and advancing cycling wayfinding, signage and parking guidelines and other AT-related initiatives;
- c. **Infrastructure** - Supporting the implementation of multi-modal transportation options in the Region of Durham with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the Regional Cycling Plan 2021; and
 - d. **Communications and Advocacy** - Collaborating with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels including lower tier municipalities within Durham, Waterfront Regeneration Trust, Conservation Authorities, Metrolinx and Public Health to raise Durham's AT profile, and promote a healthy lifestyle.

5. Terms of Reference

- 5.1 The DATC is guided by Council approved [Terms of Reference \(ToR\)](#). The ToR outlines the goals, mandate and scope of activities for the Committee. No changes are proposed for the coming year.

6. Relationship to Strategic Plan

- 6.1 This report aligns with/addresses the following strategic goals and priorities in the Durham Region Strategic Plan:
 - a. Under Goal 1: Environmental Sustainability's objectives:
 - #1.4 Demonstrating leadership in sustainability and addressing climate change.
 - #1.5 Expanding sustainable and active transportation.
 - b. Under Goal 2: Community Vitality's objective:
 - #2.1 revitalizing existing neighbourhoods and build complete communities that are walkable, well-connected and have a mix of attainable housing.

7. Conclusion

- 7.1 DATC was active in supporting Regional active transportation initiatives and providing advice to the Region of Durham throughout 2023. Members should be commended for the time and commitment they have invested in the activities of the Committee and in helping to improve active transportation across the Region. Anthony Caruso acted as the Planning and Economic Development Department

staff liaison over the course of 2023.

7.2 It is recommended that:

- a. This report be received as DATC's annual report on its 2023 activities;
- b. The proposed 2024 DATC Workplan be approved (Attachment #1); and
- c. A copy of this report be forwarded to the Durham Active Transportation Committee, Conservation Authorities and Durham's Area Municipalities.

8. Attachments

Attachment #1: 2024 DATC Workplan

Respectfully submitted,

Original signed by

Brian Bridgeman, MCIP, RPP, PLE
Commissioner of Planning and
Economic Development

Recommended for Presentation to Committee

Original signed by

Elaine C. Baxter-Trahair
Chief Administrative Officer



Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) Proposed 2024 Workplan

Scope of Activities

The following areas of Active Transportation (AT) will act as a guideline for the DATC Committee's work throughout the year. Many of the initiatives are ongoing, but those that can be substantially achieved in 2024 have been identified:

a. Sustainability

1. Recognize and advance AT activities related to reducing greenhouse gas emissions in the Region of Durham. (ongoing)

b. Active Transportation Safety and Education

2. Provide advice on the identification and implementation of programs, which encourage public awareness and education on AT matters, including the achievement Share the Road Cycling Coalition's designation of "Bicycle Friendly Community Status" bronze-level for the Region of Durham and any area municipalities not yet designated in Durham, in collaboration with the Works Department and other stakeholders. (ongoing)
3. Provide input and support for Active & Sustainable School Travel (ASST), also known as Active & Routes to Schools, in some jurisdictions. (ongoing)
4. Promote the use of AT in the Region, especially the important role that it plays in connecting people to transit. (ongoing)
5. Recognize the differing AT needs of commuters and recreational users within the urban and rural areas. (ongoing)

c. Infrastructure

6. Continue to advance the Regional Trail Network (RTN) as a key transportation and tourism component of the AT network based on various requests and initiatives in partnership with Planning and Economic Development, Health and Works Department staff and area municipal partners. (ongoing)
7. Support the implementation of multi-modal transportation options in the Region of Durham with a focus on advancing the Region's AT network as outlined in the 2017 Durham Transportation Master Plan and the Regional Cycling Plan 2021. (ongoing)

8. Assist in providing support to the Regional and Area Municipal Active Transportation Plans and support the development of the Region's Durham Meadoway Plan. (ongoing)
9. Support the Region with future active transportation grant funding opportunities as they become available – both the federal and provincial (ongoing)

d. Communications and Advocacy

10. Coordinate efforts to advance the shared goals of the various area municipal AT committees. (ongoing)
11. Collaborate with partners on AT initiatives occurring at all government levels, including: Waterfront Regeneration Trust (Great Lakes Waterfront Trail), Smart Mobility Durham, the Active and Sustainable School Travel program, the Durham Meadoway, Durham Region Wayfinding and Signing Strategy, the Greenbelt Route, TransCanada Trail Route across Durham, June Bike Month, and Public Health. (ongoing)
12. Provide advice to Regional Council on legislative matters, programming, and policies from all levels of government related to AT. (ongoing)
13. Identify and advance initiatives to improve communication and collaboration between the Region and the eight area municipalities' Active Transportation Committees. (ongoing)
14. Provide advice on AT matters related to Vision Zero and Complete Streets initiatives, as well as mid-block crossings to improve safety on regional infrastructure. (ongoing)
15. Continued discussions with Metrolinx and Envision Durham (Major Transit Stations Policy Directive) with the goal of increasing AT as a viable option to arrive at GO Rail stations. (ongoing)

2024 Meeting Dates

- March 7, 2024
- June 13, 2024
- September 12, 2024
- December 12, 2024