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## **The Regional Municipality of Durham**

### **MINUTES**

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

**Thursday, March 7, 2024**

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, March 7, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:04 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

#### **Land Acknowledgement**

G. Pereira read the following land acknowledgement:

The Region of Durham exists on lands that the Michi Saagiig Anishinaabeg inhabited for thousands of years prior to European colonization. These lands are the traditional and treaty territories of the Nations covered under the Williams Treaties, including the Mississaugas of Scugog Island First Nation, Alderville First Nation, Hiawatha First Nation, Curve Lake First Nation, and the Chippewa Nations of Georgina Island, Beausoleil and Rama.

We honour, recognize, and respect Indigenous Peoples as rights holders and stewards of the lands and waters on which we have the privilege to live. In our efforts towards reconciliation, we continue to build and strengthen relationships with First Nations, as well as the large Métis communities and growing Inuit communities here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

#### **1. Roll Call**

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair  
B. Astley, Oshawa  
C. Houston, Clarington, Vice-Chair  
Councillor Kerr  
K. Mirani, Brock

Absent: M. Gibbons, Scugog  
A. Heywood, Pickering  
P. Smith, Uxbridge  
T. Van Helsdingen, Ajax

#### **Staff**

Present: R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT  
F. Mannan\*, Project Manger, Rapid Transit Office  
G. Pereira, Manager, Transportation Planning, Planning and Economic Development  
A. Smith\*, Policy Advisory, Corporate Initiatives, Strategy and Performance  
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

**\* denotes staff participating electronically**

**2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**3. Adoption of Minutes**

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by B. Astley,  
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee  
meeting held on December 24, 2023, be adopted.

CARRIED

**4. Presentations**

A) Natalie Stephenson and Ashley Burnie, Green Up Canada, re: Active Transportation in Peterborough Region: Schools, Communities and Businesses Making Sustainable Shifts

Natalie Stephenson, Director of Programs, and Ashley Burnie, Active Transportation Program Coordinator, Green Up Canada, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Active Transportation in Peterborough Region: Schools, Communities and Businesses Making Sustainable Shifts.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Peterborough Region, City & County
- Active Transportation Partners
- Our Active Transportation Program Audiences
  - School Programs
    - Objective
    - Program Highlights
    - What's New for the School Audience
  - Community Programs
    - Objective
    - Program Highlights
    - What's New for the Community Audience
  - Business Programs
    - Objective
    - Program Highlights
    - What's New for the Business Audience
- Evaluating Success

N. Stephenson and A. Burnie responded to questions from the Committee regarding the school boards that are associated with the school programs offered through Green Up Canada; the changes made to busing distances in Peterborough; how the organization receives funding; whether the City or County of Peterborough have active transportation staff; and the overall

success rate of the Grade 8 Transit Quest program through Peterborough Transit, and how schools were engaged in the program.

B) Robert Brezina, Capital Works Engineer, Municipality of Clarington, re:  
Clarington Active Transportation Plan

Robert Brezina, Capital Works Engineer, Municipality of Clarington, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Clarington Active Transportation Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Goals of Clarington's Active Transportation Master Plan (ATMP)
- Project Phases & Timeline
- Background & Policy Review
- Public Engagement – Project Webpage
- Public Engagement – Social Pinpoint
- Public Engagement – Survey
- Public Engagement – Kiosks
- Public Engagement – Public Information Centre
- Framework Elements Design
- Candidate Network (DRAFT)
- Policy Development & Stakeholder Consultation Sessions
- Wayfinding System Strategy
- Ways to Engage & Provide Input

R. Brezina responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether the Strava Heatmap is used to plan future locations for active transportation routes in Clarington; whether Clarington has plans to construct multi-use paths to provide active transportation access to the future Courtice and Bowmanville GO stations, and how those multi-use paths would be accessed from other areas of the municipality; and Clarington's future plans to have complete active transportation connections throughout the municipality.

C) Andrea Smith, Policy Advisor, Corporate Initiatives, Durham Region, re:  
Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan

Andrea Smith, Policy Advisor, Corporate Initiatives, Durham Region, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Region 2025 Strategic Plan.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Purpose
- Approach to Strategy Development
- Timeline
- Engagement Activities
- Your Voice Matters

A. Smith welcomed members of the Committee to visit the Region's website to provide input regarding the 2025 Strategic Plan.

D) Videsh Brijpaul, Planner, Transportation Planning, re: 2024 Bike Month

V. Brijpaul was not in attendance to present with regards to 2024 Bike Month.

G. Pereira stated that the following cycling campaigns are being organized for Bike Month:

- Walk and Roll to School Campaign will take place through the month of March through the Active School Travel Program;
- Bike to Work Campaign through the Smart Commute Program;
- Cycle Durham is hosting a Ride to Work Campaign;
- The Bike for Health charity ride event is being organized with Lakeridge Health Foundation for June 2, 2024, with 25km, 50km and 100km route distances for cyclists.

R. Lalonde added that the Bike Month Working Group is organizing activities for Bike Month in collaboration with the area municipalities.

**5. Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**6. Discussion Items**

There were no discussion items.

**7. Information Items**

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

A copy of the Pedestrian and Cyclist Fact Sheet containing traffic data was received for information.

B) DATC Subcommittee Update on Bike Friendly Status

B. Astley stated that data collection is in progress for the anticipated bicycle friendly communities portal, with updates to the website needing to take place before the launch of the portal occurs.

B. Astley advised that the 2024 Ontario Bike Summit will include a workshop on bike friendly communities.

C) Update on North Durham Trail

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R. Lalonde provided an overview of the background history of the North Durham TransCanada Rail Trail including the changes in ownership of the trail, and a timeline of the deteriorating trail conditions from 2021 to present day.

R. Lalonde stated that the Region held a meeting with elected officials and the current leaseholder of the trail on February 13, 2024 to discuss required trail repair and maintenance. He further stated that the outcome of the meeting produced a list of action items, including to engage a consultant to complete a full assessment of the trail to determine the repairs needed to bring the trail up to standards, and bringing in volunteers to assist with monitoring the trail once the required maintenance work has been completed.

Discussion ensued regarding the maintenance responsibilities of the Trail and required bridge repair and replacements.

**8. Other Business**

A) Active Transportation Update re: Mary Street, Oshawa

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Councillor Kerr stated that the City of Oshawa plans to design an active transportation network throughout the city, with Mary Street being the backbone of the network with links connecting the downtown corridor and the two GO stations.

Councillor Kerr also stated that the street parking along Mary Street creates a safety risk for cyclists accessing the GO station and stated that the City of Oshawa is considering erecting “no parking” signage along Mary Street during peak traffic times in order to eliminate the safety concern for cyclists accessing the GO station during rush hour.

B) June Bike Month

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R. Lalonde stated that in previous years the Region has endorsed the Committee’s advocacy for bike month.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by K. Mirani,  
That we recommend to the Planning and Economic Development  
Committee for approval and subsequent recommendation to  
Regional Council:

Whereas June is Bike Month;

And whereas Durham Regional Planning Staff have organized numerous bike friendly activities annually for over a decade to educate residents about cycling safety, promote the benefits of cycling, and encourage residents to bike more by participating in Bike Month throughout the month of June; and

And whereas the Durham Active Transportation Committee fully supports the Region's planned Bike Month activities.

Now therefore be it resolved that the Durham Active Transportation Committee request Regional Council's support of the planned Regional Bike Month activities and proclaim the month of June as Bike Month in the Region of Durham.

CARRIED

**9. Date of Next Meeting**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, June 13, 2024 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

**10. Adjournment**

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by C. Houston,  
That the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:46 PM

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R. Lalonde, Chair  
Durham Active Transportation  
Committee

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V. Walker, Committee Clerk