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The Regional Municipality of Durham

MINUTES

DURHAM ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

Thursday, June 12, 2025

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, June 12, 2025 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby at 7:05 PM. Electronic participation was offered for this meeting.

1. Call to Order & Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

V. Walker 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 growing Inuit communities and large Métis communities here in Durham. We commit to learning from Indigenous values and knowledge, building opportunities for collaboration, and recognizing that we are all connected.

2. Roll Call

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
C. Houston, Clarington, Vice-Chair
J. Jutzi, Scugog
Councillor Kerr
K. Mirani*, Brock
T. Van Helsdingen*, Ajax attended the meeting at 7:35 PM
*** denotes members participating electronically**

Absent: B. Astley, Oshawa
A. Heywood, Pickering
P. Smith, Uxbridge

Staff

Present: K. Chambers, Rural Tourism Specialist
D. Culp, Project Planner, Transportation Planning
R. Inacio, Systems Support Specialist, Corporate Services – IT
C. Leitch, Manager, Transportation Planning
V. Walker, Committee Clerk, Corporate Services – Legislative Services

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by C. Houston,
That the minutes of the Durham Active Transportation Committee
meeting held on March 6, 2025, be adopted.
CARRIED

5. Presentations

A) Constable Vanessa Ford, Durham Kids Safety Village, re: Overview of
Durham Kids Safety Village and Cycling Safety Insights

Constable Vanessa Ford, Durham Kids Safety Village, provided a
PowerPoint presentation with regards to an Overview of Durham Kids Safety
Village and Cycling Safety Insights.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Kids Safety Village of Durham Region
- Our Village
- Classrooms
- Police, Fire EMS, Elexicon, & Victim Services of Durham Region (VSDR)
- Programming
- New Class Beginning January 2024: Human Trafficking
- How Our Day Runs for Classes
- Our Events
 - Christmas in the Village
 - Easter
 - Halloween
 - Summer Drop-In
 - Other Events that We Host
- Student Volunteer Program

Constable Ford responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether factors have been identified that explain the delay in the average age that a child learns to ride a bicycle; and whether there is an opportunity to extend the safety program to also be offered during the fall season.

B) Kendra Couling, Park Planner, and Jason Yakelashek, Park Superintendent,
Ontario Parks, re: Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park

Kendra Couling, Park Planner, and Jason Yakelashek, Park Superintendent, Ontario Parks, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Uxbridge Urban Provincial Park.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Historical Context
- What Was and Where Things Were Going
- Partnership and Engagement
- Values
- Life Science Information
- Management Planning Process
- Pressures on Park Values
- Inheriting Invasive Species
- Recreational Values in the Area
- Multi-Use Trails
- Existing Infrastructure
- How Things Are Evolving
- Park Operations
- Park Clean-Up Days
 - Clean-Up Days – Silver Lining
- Next Steps
- Active Transportation
- Land Acquisitions

J. Yakelashek responded to questions from the Committee regarding whether phase 2 of the Park's boundary creation project is anticipated to occur over a multi-year period; recreational mountain biking; the associated fee structure for using the Park; and whether the Park will continue to be maintained by volunteers or become a provincial responsibility.

C) Kristyn Chambers, Rural Tourism Specialist, re: Durham Tourism Rural Cycling Loops

Kristyn Chambers, Rural Tourism Specialist, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Tourism Rural Cycling Loops.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Rural Cycle Tourism: Destination / Experience Development
- Which of These Skills Levels Looks Most Like You?
 - Leisure
 - Intermediate
 - Advanced
- Ontario By Bike
 - Ontario by Bike Certification Program
 - Promotional Opportunities
 - Certification Criteria
- Cycling Wayfinding
 - Collaboration with Transportation Options
 - Signage Design
 - Signage Audit

- Installation, Fabrication, and Maintenance

K. Chambers responded to a question from the Committee with regards to whether the Region is collecting data to evaluate the program.

General discussion ensued with regards to the benefits of the Ontario by Bike Certification Program; and various methods that can be utilized to collect data.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations to be heard.

7. Discussion Items

There were no discussion items to consider.

8. Information Items

A) Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC) New Member Update

R. Lalonde and D. Culp introduced J. Jutzi as the DATC's new Scugog representative and welcomed him to the Committee.

B) Region of Durham Bike Month

C. Leitch stated that Bike Month activities are underway, and that the Region's Bike-to-Work Day held on June 5th was a successful event.

C. Leitch highlighted the various activities and exhibits offered for Bike-to-Work Day, which included a group bike ride from the Whitby GO Station to Regional Headquarters; booth displays set up by Smart Mobility Durham, United Way, Durham Tourism, Durham Health Department, and the Durham Region Cycling Coalition; complimentary bike tune-ups by Cycle Life; and demonstrations by Durham Region Transit staff for using the bicycles racks on buses, and attendees had the opportunity to practice loading and offloading their bikes onto the bus racks.

C. Leitch stated that the Region has also organized additional activities for Bike Month that include a Bike Month Pledge, Bike Bingo, Walk and Roll to School Contest, and a Bike Month Contest on the Smart Commute tool.

C. Leitch provided an overview of the following local community events that have been organized for Bike Month:

- The City of Oshawa held a community bike ride on June 7th and will be hosting a scavenger hunt on June 18th at Lakeview Park.
- The Town of Whitby is offering drop-in bike repair workshops on June 14th at the Waterfront Trail and June 21st at the Whitby Central Library.

- The Town of Ajax is hosting Trail Fest on June 22nd at the Audley Recreation Centre.
- Ontario Tech hosted a community bike ride on June 11th that led riders around Ontario Tech and the Windfields Farm neighbourhood.

C. Leitch advised that additional information on Bike Month can be accessed at www.durham.ca/bikemonth.

Staff received feedback from the Committee that the Walk and Roll to School Contest submissions be expanded to permit additional school staff to submit entries, as the contest currently specifies the school administrator (i.e., principal).

C) Ontario Bike Summit Updates

R. Lalonde stated that the Ontario Bike Summit took place in Windsor in May 2025 and was hosted by Share the Road Cycling Coalition.

R. Lalonde shared the following highlights from the Summit:

- Shewkar Ibrahim, the Director of Traffic Operations for the City of Edmonton, delivered the keynote speech which was centred on community safety and the five (5) key pillars for planning, implementing, and sustaining active transportation initiatives.
- A workshop on Bike Friendly Communities included both a program overview and a panel discussion.
- A variety of break out sessions were offered, focusing on how advocates can support municipalities in advancing active transportation, fostering positive relationships between cyclists and drivers, and cycling data.
- A municipal leaders' panel discussion covered topics of what a bike friendly community looks like, how to support active transportation, continued advocacy for cycling improvements, and the biggest challenges as it relates to active transportation.
- A Queen's Park All Party Roundtable, which was attended by MPP Mike Schreiner, explored areas such as the increased polarization between governments and cyclists, benefits of bike lanes, and causes of gridlock.
- A tour of the Gordie Howe International Bridge, which is the largest cable-stay bridge in North America that connects Windsor with Detroit. The bridge runs 2.5 km in length and connects to a 3.6 metre multi-use path which is toll free for cyclists and pedestrians. The bridge is expected to open in Fall of 2025.

R. Lalonde congratulated D. Culp for receiving the Norma Moores Active Transportation Award.

D) 1 Metre Cycling Safety Campaign Update

D. Culp stated that the Region has partnered with the Durham Region Cycling Coalition to develop a cycling safety campaign that aims to raise awareness and educate road users of the 1-metre safe passing law. She further stated that the Canadian Automobile Association (CAA) may also join as a collaborator on the campaign.

D. Culp advised that the campaign is expected to launch in mid-July and run for eight (8) weeks, with advertisements appearing on Durham Region Transit buses and shelters, and select Regional roads through Curbex signs, and various public service announcements and social media messaging being published throughout the campaign period.

Samples of the transit and Curbex sign advertisements created for the campaign were shared with the Committee, and members provided feedback on the images and verbiage contained in the posters.

E) North Durham Rail Trail Winter Storm Damage

R. Lalonde provided an update on the North Durham Trans Canada Rail Trail and advised that an ice storm in March 2025 caused significant damage to the trail that requires considerable repairs.

R. Lalonde stated that substantial work had been completed on the trail in 2024 to bring the trail up to acceptable standards. He further stated that the Mayor of Uxbridge had previously offered for the Township to monitor the trail once it was brought up to acceptable standards, however, due to the damage caused by the ice storm, such monitoring has not commenced.

R. Lalonde stated that significant tree damage across the full length of the corridor resulted from the ice storm and blocked access from Highway 7/12 across to Simcoe Street. He further stated that due to funding challenges, clean-up and repairs are still pending.

R. Lalonde advised that a meeting is scheduled to take place on June 17th to discuss the damage and required repairs and clean-up. The meeting will be attended by key stakeholders, including the Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance, elected officials from Brock, Scugog and Uxbridge, TransCanada Trail, Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority, Durham Region, and Infrastructure Ontario.

9. Other Business

A) Active Transportation Network in the City of Oshawa

Councillor Kerr advised that a pedestrian/cycling multi-use path (MUP) bridge that crosses the Oshawa Creek parallel to Simcoe Street, north of Glovers Road in Oshawa, is scheduled to be constructed in 2027. He advised that the current infrastructure poses safety concerns and the

implementation of an MUP bridge is an important component in achieving an active transportation network through the City of Oshawa.

Councillor Kerr provided a detailed overview of the envisioned network that would create a complete active transportation system that connects the secondary institutions in north Oshawa to the downtown core. He identified various challenges and potential solutions that are being considered as part of the planning process.

B) Waterfront Trail Closure in Oshawa

R. Lalonde stated that the Oshawa Waterfront Trail has been closed from Harbour Street to Colonel Sam Drive to complete multiple construction projects. He advised that no detours are planned for the duration of the construction, and no announcements or communication regarding the closures were initially issued to the community.

R. Lalonde stated that the projects include rehabilitation of Farewell Street and infrastructure upgrading to extend access to the Port of Oshawa. He added that the work is expected to be completed by the 3rd quarter of 2025.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee will be held on Thursday, October 9, 2025 in Meeting Room 1-B, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, at 7:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by C. Houston,
That the meeting be adjourned.
CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

R. Lalonde, Chair
Durham Active Transportation
Committee

V. Walker, Committee Clerk