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The Regional Municipality of Durham
Durham Active Transportation Committee Minutes

Thursday, December 11, 2025

A meeting of the Durham Active Transportation Committee was held on Thursday, December 11, 2025 in Council Chambers, Regional Headquarters Building, 605 Rossland Road East, Whitby, Ontario at 7:00 PM. This meeting was held in a virtual format.

1. Call to Order & Traditional Territory Acknowledgement

D. Culp 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

Members

Present: R. Lalonde, Whitby, Chair
B. Astley, Oshawa
A. Heywood, Pickering
J. Jutzi, Scugog
Councillor Kerr
K. Mirani, Brock
***all members of Committee participated electronically**

Members

Absent: C. Houston, Clarington, Vice-Chair
P. Smith, Uxbridge

Staff Present: D. Culp, R. Inacio, S. Kemp, C. Leitch, V. Mathi and N. Prasad

3. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

4. Adoption of Minutes

Moved by B. Astley, Seconded by Councillor Kerr,
That the minutes of the regular Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting held on Thursday, October 9, 2025, be adopted.

Carried

5. Presentations

- A) Melanie Davis, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE), re: Cycling Education and Promotional Activities and Initiatives
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Melanie Davis, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer, Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE), provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Cycling Education and Promotional Activities and Initiatives.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Happy Schools, Happy Students, Happy Futures
- About Us
- Focus Areas
- PHE Canada's Network
- A Bit About Me
- Why Active Transportation Matters
- School Zones:
 - The Challenge
 - The Opportunity
- Behaviour Change
- Comprehensive Approach
- What Physical Education Can Be
- Education & Awareness
- Student Centered Design
- Proud of our Healthy Schools Journey
- Upcoming Events

Discussion ensued regarding the lack of accessibility of several bicycle routes located around some schools in the City of Oshawa as a result of parked cars and whether staff from PHE could initiate discussions with those schools in order to determine a solution.

- B) Lauren Raney, Planner, Regional Municipality of Durham, re: Durham Region's Active and Sustainable School Travel Program
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Lauren Raney, Planner, Regional Municipality of Durham, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to Durham Region's Active and Sustainable School Travel (ASST) Program.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- The Active and Sustainable School Travel Program
- Who is Involved?
- Benefits of ASST
- School Travel Plans (STP)
- The STP Process
- Data Collection
- Action Plans
- Implementation Examples
- Walk and Roll to School Campaign
- Next Steps

L. Raney responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether there is an opportunity for a presentation to be made in conjunction with Melanie Davis, Executive Director & Chief Executive Officer at Physical and Health Education Canada (PHE) as referenced under Section 5. A), on page 2 of these minutes.

Discussion ensued regarding the ongoing challenge of parents driving their children to school resulting in bike lanes being blocked, and the need for a solution.

C) Christy Chrus, Senior Manager, Creative Communities and Tara Painchaud, Senior Manager, Transportation Services, Town of Whitby, re: Downtown Whitby Brock Street Redesign Project Overview

Christy Chrus, Senior Manager, Creative Communities, and Tara Painchaud, Senior Manager, Transportation Services, Town of Whitby, provided a PowerPoint presentation with regards to the Downtown Whitby Brock Street Redesign Project Overview.

Highlights of the presentation included:

- Agenda
- Project Review
 - Updated Work Plan and Timeline
- Draft Concept Design
- Concept Design Highlights
- Next Steps

C. Chrus and T. Painchaud responded to questions from the Committee with regards to whether the project would have been possible before the removal of the tolls on Highway 412; and with regards to the ongoing conversations about the future bus rapid transit system along Dundas Street and the impact of removing a section of the on-street parking in the Downtown Whitby.

6. Delegations

There were no delegations.

7. Discussion Items

- A) Discussion regarding concluding the 2022-2026 DATC term following the June 11, 2026 meeting
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R. Lalonde advised that the DATC was scheduled to meet three times in 2026 but suggested that the Committee only meet twice in 2026 (March and June) due to 2026 being an election year.

Moved by Councillor Kerr, Seconded by B. Astley,
That pursuant to the Durham Active Transportation Committee (DATC)'s discussions, and the municipal elections being held in October 2026, that the 2022-2026 term for the DATC be concluded after the June 11, 2026 meeting.

Carried

8. Information Items

- A) Bicycle Friendly Communities Bronze Designation Status Update
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D. Culp stated that the Region has received confirmation from Share the Road Cycling Coalition that they were successful with receiving the Bronze Bicycle Friendly Community designation through the application that was submitted in 2024. She advised that the Region is the first Region to apply for the designation and receive it. She also advised that staff have met with Share the Road organizers to discuss the next steps.

D. Culp further advised that the Region will be receiving a physical sign and are looking for suggestions of where it should be installed.

At this time, D. Culp provided an update with regards to the Ajax Representative vacancy. She advised that they have received two applications which will be forwarded to the Town of Ajax and that the deadline to receive applications would be December 16, 2025.

- B) Durham Meadoway Update
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C. Leitch advised that the Durham Meadoway Visioning Study was endorsed by Regional Council in June 2024. He advised that staff is working on a Shared Services Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the Region and the following four municipalities: the City of Pickering, the Town of Ajax, the Town of Whitby, and the City of Oshawa.

C. Leitch further advised that the Request for the Proposal has been circulated to the Works Department for comments and will then will be circulated to the four municipalities with the goal to have the project procured in spring 2026.

C) Infrastructure Updates

V. Mathi provided an update, and a slide entitled “2025 Active Transportation Road Rehabilitation Projects”. She advised that the list of road rehabilitation projects shows approximately 27 kilometres of updated paved shoulders along Regional roads. She advised that they are still advancing along with the Multi-Use Path infill projects in the Town of Ajax and the City of Pickering. The two Multi-Use Path projects are currently in the utility relocation phase for Elexicon and Bell. She further advised that these projects are set to tender in January 2026 with construction to begin May 2026.

D) Traffic Signal Synchronization to Detect Bicycles

S. Kemp provided an update on traffic signal synchronization to detect bicycles. He advised that he checked the site at Dryden and Garrard, in the Town of Whitby, together with R. Lalonde, V. Mathi and three traffic signal technicians. Upon inspection it was determined that the radar equipment used at the site for detection was not picking up cyclists as they approached the intersection. The technicians were able to make some adjustments to the equipment and the intersection is now detecting cyclists as they approach.

S. Kemp also advised that they looked at the site at Conlin and Garrard, also in Whitby, where there was a similar issue. He confirmed that similar adjustments were made and is now detecting cyclists as well.

S. Kemp provided a brief update on the hydro electric transmission corridor crossing at Rossland and Manning as per R. Lalonde’s request.

E) North Durham Rail Trail Update

R. Lalonde provided an update on the North Durham Trans Canada Rail Trail. He advised that there was a primary stakeholders meeting held virtually in June 2025 regarding the lack of funding and the trail conditions. He stated that in July 2025, the leaseholder (Eastern Ontario Trail Alliance) submitted an application to the Province for emergency funding and in October 2025, limited emergency funding was made available through the Trans Canada Trail. He advised that Stage One clean up has been completed from Hwy 7/12 east to Simcoe Street in the Township of Brock. He further advised that the leaseholder has no funding model to maintain the corridor, no additional maintenance work has been completed in the last year, and that there are no plans in place for 2026 to complete any clean up or restoration of the trail. He stated that a stable leaseholder with a vested interest would be the preference for 2026 to bring clarity and certainty to the corridor.

9. Other Business

A) DATC Annual Update Presentation

R. Lalonde advised that he will be providing the DATC Annual Update to the Community Growth & Economic Development Committee on January 6, 2026.

10. Date of Next Meeting

The next regularly scheduled Durham Active Transportation Committee meeting will be held on Thursday, March 12, 2026 at 7:00 PM.

11. Adjournment

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

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 PM

Respectfully submitted,

R. Lalonde
Chair, Durham Active Transportation Committee

N. Prasad
Assistant Secretary to Council