

Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee Minutes
March 11, 2021 - 4:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

Present: Gary Carroll, Vice-Chair
Ron Lalonde
Sorin Lutz
R. Bruce MacDonald
Matt Parfitt
Peter Phillips, Chair
Mary Jo Sitter
Lewis Williams
Nicola Windrem (logged on at 4:17 p.m.)

Also Present: Regional Councillor Mulcahy, Mayor's Designate
Aimee Pugao, Planner II, Parks Planning
Deanna Schlosser, Planner II, Long Range
Chris Potvin, Staff Liaison, Supervisor, Active Transportation
Tara Painchaud, Staff Liaison, Senior Manager, Transportation
Services
Heather Oerlemans, Council and Committee Coordinator
(Recording Secretary)

Regrets: Rick Batty

Call to Order

1. Disclosures of Interest

1.1 There were no disclosures of interest.

2. Approval of Previous Minutes

2.1 Minutes - January 14, 2021

Recommendation:

Moved By R. Bruce MacDonald

That the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee minutes of January 14, 2021 be approved.

Carried

3. Presentations

3.1 David Hopper, Consultant Project Manager, Parsons Corporation
Re: Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit Project

David Hopper provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Durham-Scarborough Bus Rapid Transit project. Highlights of the presentation included:

- increasing transit reliability and capacity between downtown Oshawa and Scarborough;
- improving active transportation facilities including wider sidewalks and cycling infrastructure to increase safety;
- accessibility improvements at intersections to accommodate road users of all abilities;
- strategies to improve road safety along the corridor such as raised medians, and curb height barriers to restrict mid-block left-turns;
- constructing new sidewalks and cycling facilities to fill in gaps in active transportation; and,
- providing a combination of cycle tracks, buffered bike lanes, and multi-use paths.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether 'no right hand turn on red' were being considered at advanced lights;
- how property procurement would be mitigated for businesses currently situated close to road allowances;
- whether a transit way up Highway 412 and across Highway 407 was still part of a long range plan for connectivity;
- who would assume financial responsibility for improvements in connectivity, such as Mary Street;
- whether comments were still being received; and,
- whether the Mary Street residents and businesses had been consulted.

3.2 Lori Tesolin, Supervisor, Policy and Heritage and Principal Planner,
Town of Whitby
Re: Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan

Lori Tesolin provided a PowerPoint presentation regarding the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan. Highlights of the presentation included:

- the purpose of the study to establish updated policies for growth management and sustainable development;
- updating the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan to reflect the Town's goals and vision;
- topics addressed such as where buildings, parks and roads should be located, height and density of buildings, as well as transportation options;
- alternative methods of travel within the downtown such as walking, transit, and biking; and,
- using online engagement to seek public opinion and feedback.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether downtown business owners were aware of how many new residents were expected to move into the downtown over the next few years;
- how the Active Transportation Plan was being supported relative to the downtown;
- whether the consultant could provide a presentation to the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee;
- how old infrastructure would be dealt with or updated; and,
- whether the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan would be presented to the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

4. Delegations

4.1 There were no delegations.

5. General Business and Reports

5.1 Regional Cycling Plan

Tara Painchaud advised that comments for the Regional Cycling Plan were due by the end of the week. Ms. Painchaud further advised that she could submit Committee comments to the Region.

5.2 Draft Active Transportation Plan Report Update

Tara Painchaud advised that the Draft Active Transportation Plan public consultation would be open until March 15, 2021.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether public feedback was positive or negative; and,
- whether public and stakeholder comments could be reviewed by the Committee.

5.3 Budget Update

Tara Painchaud advised that the Town's 2021 Budget had been approved. Ms. Painchaud advised that items included in the budget were moving into the planning phase including:

- the Brock Street multi-use path;
- improvements at the Anderson Street and Taunton Road intersection;
- general sign and pavement markings; and,
- the Victoria Street multi-use path.

5.4 Development Subcommittee

Tara Painchaud advised that the Development Subcommittee meets once a month and reviews draft plans and opportunities for traffic calming. Ms. Painchaud further advised that traffic calming opportunities would be identified in the draft plan for developments in Brooklin and West Whitby, as well as existing communities.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.10, Traffic Calming Policy Working Group, at this time.

5.5 Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network, Parking Master Plan, and Other Staff Reports/Projects

Tara Painchaud advised that the Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network (AVIN) had been delayed due to the pandemic. Ms. Painchaud stated that the program was expected to rollout this spring.

Tara Painchaud advised that the Parking Master Plan was delayed due to the pandemic. Ms. Painchaud stated that parking data for 2020 was unavailable due to free parking. She further stated that changes in traffic patterns as a result of the pandemic and increased working from home, could result in greater flexibility within the Parking Master Plan.

Tara Painchaud advised that several Environmental Assessments (EA) were currently underway such as the Brooklin Major Roads EA, and the Highway 7/12 Alternate Route EA.

Tara Painchaud provided an update regarding the Boulevard Parking Staff Report. Ms. Painchaud advised that the Report would be ready for Committee of the Whole in April 2021.

5.6 Bike Parking Design

Tara Painchaud provided an update regarding bike parking designs in downtown Whitby. Ms. Painchaud advised that Staff were reviewing bike parking designs and how to make bike parking designs recognizable to residents.

Chris Potvin advised that the post and ring design was not easily recognized by cyclists as bike parking. Mr. Potvin requested feedback from the Committee regarding other bike parking design options.

A brief question and answer period ensued regarding when installation of bike parking would occur and whether specific locations had been determined.

5.7 Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee Work Plan Update

Tara Painchaud advised that the draft Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee Work Plan had been circulated for comments. Ms. Painchaud further advised that the draft would be updated and included in a Staff Report.

5.8 Bike Month

Chris Potvin provided an update regarding Bike Month. Mr. Potvin advised that suggestions for activities included video and social media engagement, and updates on the Town's website.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- identifying activities that required little or no person to person contact;
- identifying bike trails;
- creating a video on basic bike repair; and,
- a "Bike with Dad" for father's day social media promotion.

Peter Phillips requested that the Committee submit their ideas to Chris Potvin.

5.9 Active Transportation Funding

Peter Phillips provided an update regarding federal active transportation grants and funding. Mr. Phillips advised that last year's federal government funding included shovel ready projects. He further advised that the federal government announced funding for transit and active transportation infrastructure on February 10, 2021 and that an additional active transportation announcement would be made on March 12, 2021.

He requested that the Committee consider taking advantage of these funding options.

Tara Painchaud explained that due to challenges related to COVID-19, the Town would only apply for grants for shovel ready projects rather than projects that may change service levels.

5.10 Traffic Calming Policy Working Group

Peter Phillips requested information regarding whether traffic calming policies would be developed.

Tara Painchaud advised that as development continues, a traffic calming policy would likely be required for the Town.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- establishing a subcommittee or working group to conduct research to bring forward ideas and best practices regarding traffic calming policies to Town staff;
- utilizing a subcommittee to begin draft documents that could be refined and finalized by Town staff;
- the benefits of a traffic calming policy; and,
- the details that could be included in a traffic calming policy such as road design and speed limits.

It was the consensus of the Committee to hear Item 5.5, Autonomous Vehicle Innovation Network, Parking Master Plan, and Other Staff Reports/Projects, at this time.

6. Correspondence

6.1 There was no correspondence.

7. Council Update

7.1 Councillor Mulcahy provided updates regarding:

- the project update on the North Whitby Sports Complex design options;
- the updated Whitby Culture Plan;
- the Staff Report, CAO 06-21, Overview of Creative Communities Team in Strategic Initiatives; and,
- the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Training Plan.

8. Other Business

8.1 Durham Region Cycling Plan

Ron Lalonde advised the Committee that the Durham Region Cycling Plan update would take place March 11, 2021.

8.2 Centre for Active Transportation Presentation to Council

Gary Carroll stated that the presentation to Council by Nancy Smith-Lee, Executive Director of the Centre for Active Transportation in 2020 had been cancelled due to COVID-19. Mr. Carroll requested Staff to investigate whether the presentation could be brought to Council in 2021.

Heather Oerlemans advised that she would discuss the matter with the Town Clerk and report back to the Committee.

9. Next Meeting

9.1 Thursday, May 13, 2021 - 4:00 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

10. Adjournment

10.1 Motion to Adjourn

Recommendation:

Moved By Gary Carroll

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:05 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee on May 13, 2021.