



Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee Minutes

March 9, 2023, 4:00 p.m.

Hybrid Meeting

Whitby Town Hall

Present: Dr. May Daemi
Ana Duff
Liam Lacy
Brad Mavins
John Patte
Peter Phillips, Chair
Scott Templeton, Vice Chair
Lewis Williams

Regrets: Gary Carroll

Also Present: Councillor Mulcahy, Mayor's Designate
Kayleigh Arnott, Planner I, Parks Planning
Sean Malby, Senior Manager, Parks, Parks Planning and Culture
Justin Malfara, Planner II, Long Range
Tara Painchaud, Staff Liaison, Senior Manager, Transportation Services
Lalita Thakali, Staff Liaison, Transportation Engineer
Heather Ellis, Council and Committee Coordinator (Recording Secretary)

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1. Call to Order
 2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

3. Approval of Previous Minutes

Recommendation:

Moved by John Patte

That the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee minutes of February 9, 2023 be approved.

Carried

4. Presentations

There were no presentations.

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. General Business and Reports

6.1 Bike Month and Town Events Update

Lalita Thakali provided an update regarding Bike Month activities which included:

- distributing maps and trail guides;
- using the Whitby Public Library display case;
- virtual activities such as a cycling pledge, regional challenge, and photo submission; and,
- distributing swag at schools.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a 'Bike Ride with the Mayor';
- hosting a bike rodeo at the Kids Safety Village;
- sharing the Region's activities with the group;
- sharing ideas for bike week via email; and,
- reviewing the Town's Event Calendar for events the Committee could attend.

6.2 2023 Budget Approvals and Deferrals

Tara Painchaud provided an overview of the 2023 Budget Approvals which included:

- an additional 2023 traffic calming initiative at Dryden Street and Steele Valley Court (pedestrian crossover);

- an increase to the traffic calming initiatives budget; and,
- installing a multi-use path on the bridge at Thickson Road and Highway 401 (Ministry of Transportation Ontario).

Discussion ensued regarding:

- circulating a list of Engineering Services and Park Services budget-related items the Town is currently working on; and,
- bringing forward concerns to the Committee.

6.3 Multi-Use Path (MUP) Centreline and User Icons Project

Lalita Thakali provided an update regarding the multi-use path, centreline, and user icons project. Ms. Thakali stated that there would be a continuous yellow centreline on multi-use paths, as well as user symbols.

Tara Painchaud advised that drawings were being drafted and would be circulated before the tender was sent out.

6.4 Gordon Street Gate at Whitby Ontario Shores

Sean Malby provided an update regarding the Gordon Street Gate. Mr. Malby stated that the project was proceeding and would be incorporated into one of the projects/tenders in 2023.

Tara Painchaud advised that a mixed crossride was being considered for that location.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- ensuring the location was more accessible;
- installing signage at Gordon Street Gate; and,
- removing scrub brush at the street corner to increase visibility.

6.5 Waterfront Trail Closure and Boardwalk Project Update

Sean Malby provided update regarding the Waterfront Trail Closure and Boardwalk Project which included:

- delaying the project for additional studies;
- closing a section of the Waterfront trail between September 2023 to March 2024; and,
- the scope of the project.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- a communication strategy for Waterfront Trail closures; and,
- salvaging the area around the bridge for a family or picnic area.

6.6 Parks Citizen Survey Results

Kayleigh Arnott provided an update regarding the Parks Citizen Survey Results from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study which included:

- information about the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study; and,
- providing a report for Council on the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study in Spring 2023.

Sean Malby advised that the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study was now in Phase 2. Mr. Malby stated that background research, community consultation, and public meetings were completed in Phase 1. He further stated that approval of the draft Master Plan was set for late Q4, 2023 and once it was approved, it would be placed on the Connect Whitby page.

6.7 Active Transportation Citizen Requests

Kayleigh Arnott advised that public feedback from the Parks and Recreation Master Plan Study indicated residents would like to see emphasis on the Waterfront Trail, winter maintenance of parks and trails, and keeping trails open throughout the winter or offering alternative winter activities on the trails such as snowshoeing.

6.8 Trail Etiquette Signage

Tara Painchaud advised that the proposed Whitby Sports Complex design was open for public comment on Connect Whitby. Ms. Painchaud stated that design comments were being sought pertaining to active transportation networks to the complex, as well as benches, trail etiquette signage, and bike parking.

6.9 Mid Block Crossings

Tara Painchaud advised that she was waiting for a status update from the Region. Ms. Painchaud provided an update regarding mid block crossings which included:

- installing pedestrian crossovers at the Hydro Electric Power Corridor crossings at Rossland Road and Manning Road;
- installing a multi-use path between Dundas Street and north of Mary Street; and,
- installing a multi-use path over Highway 401 at Thickson Road.

Discussion ensued regarding:

- a marketing program for road markings and signage for road crossings and multi-use paths;
- trail etiquette signage and implementation;
- marketing information to audiences of all abilities and ages; and,
- grant funds that would be applied to education over the next four years.

6.10 Meadoway Visioning Study Update

Tara Painchaud stated that there was no update at this time.

A question and answer period ensued regarding:

- whether tunneling under Baldwin Street had been considered;
- why the project does not include areas beyond the eastern boundary of Oshawa; and,
- whether the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee could send a letter to the Region regarding extending the boundary of the Durham Meadoway Project.

6.11 Subcommittees

Peter Phillips requested feedback from the Committee regarding volunteering for various subcommittees which included:

- a Development Review Subcommittee which would meet monthly for two hours to review active transportation designs for development plans and proposals;
- an Education Subcommittee that would focus on educating residents regarding active transportation infrastructure, educating drivers, engaging with Durham Regional Police, and looking at best ways to engage residents;

- an Active School Travel Subcommittee which would encourage students to walk or bike to school, research programs from other communities, and run pilot programs; and,
- a Downtown Active Transportation Subcommittee that would focus on improving active transportation in the downtown and liaising with Metrolinx to ensure the Bus Rapid Transit works for the Town.

7. Correspondence

There was no correspondence.

8. Council Update

Councillor Mulcahy provided an update regarding:

- the Downtown Whitby Secondary Plan;
- Envision Durham;
- Roebuck Street Placemaking summer closure; and,
- Durham Region's Works Department projects.

9. Other Business

9.1 Bike Friendly Communities Status

John Patte stated that Whitby was previously designated as a Bike Friendly Community, bronze status. Mr. Patte advised that a report card was provided along with the status designation that outlined the steps required to achieve the next status level. He requested that the Committee review the report card to determine how the Town could achieve the silver status.

9.2 Trail Clean-up

Peter Phillips stated that the Committee had unofficially adopted a trail in Heber Down Conservation Area. Mr. Phillips advised that Members would select a day in April to do a clean up of the trail. He requested feedback from the Committee regarding a clean up event for 2023.

9.3 Development Review Subcommittee

Peter Angelo requested that the Development Review Subcommittee review capital programming as part of their tasks.

9.4 Active Transportation

Ana Duff requested an update regarding opportunities to increase access to Regional public transit for Whitby residents.

Councillor Mulcahy suggested that the Committee invite Durham Region Transit to provide a presentation regarding public transit to Durham College/Ontario Tech University, and industrial and economic areas.

9.5 White Oaks Court

Ana Duff stated that active transportation connectivity between White Oaks Court and Iroquois Park Sports Centre needs improvement and clarified whether improvements have been considered.

9.6 Walker Safety on Sidewalks and Paths

Lewis Williams requested information from staff regarding the process for determining which sidewalks and paths were cleared in the winter.

Peter Angelo requested that this item be addressed at the Committee's next meeting.

10. Next Meeting

Thursday, May 11, 2023 at 4:00 p.m.

11. Adjournment

Recommendation:

Moved by John Patte

That the meeting adjourn.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Note: These minutes were approved by the Active Transportation and Safe Roads Advisory Committee on May 11, 2023.