

BBAC Minutes

September 11th, 2013 6:30pm – 8:30pm

Fortinos 35 Worthington Avenue

Attendees: Guests: Nelson Cadete, Brampton Works and Transportation; Erica Duque, Peel Active Transportation; Michele Robinson, Brampton Community Services
David Laing, Dayle Laing, Gerald Pyjor, George Sheppardley, John Van West, Stephen Laidlaw, Kevin Montgomery, Tricia Prato, Jerry Prato

Regrets: Councillor John Hutton, Carolyn Clubine, Osmani Perez-Rojas, Hrushikesh Gandhi

Review and approve minutes from last meeting Motion to approve minutes: Gerald, Second: George – Carried

What I did on my summer vacation

David

Cycling Snippets from our 11,000km Odyssey

Dayle's 3 ½ minute video "Cycling Snippets" was shown to illustrate the variety of cyclists, signage and routes across Canada and the US as seen in David and Dayle's 11,200 km trip.

Messages from Portland

David presented a synopsis of his meeting with Rob Sadowsky, Executive Director of the Bicycle Transportation Alliance (BTA). <http://btaoregon.org/> (See document: Aug 8th Meeting with BTA Rob Sadowsky.)

Portland has similar population size to Brampton.

An old city, it has been rebuilt over the past 20 years with bicycling infrastructure in mind.

The BTA, started in 1993, is Portland's largest cycling advocacy organization.

It advocates for cycling infrastructure to be built as safe and accessible for everyone, regardless of age, gender, ethnicity or disability.

The message is, cycling is not a dangerous sport but a daily necessity of city living.

The success of BTA's advocacy can be seen in in the 250% growth of cycling since 2000.

Cycling has become 'cool', attracting a wide diversity of ridership.

50% of Portland cyclists don't use helmets.

Cycling has been integrated with the city's rapid transit.

The Portland Bicycle Map was circulated.

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It lays out cycling routes for casual and experienced users.
It illustrates routes for cyclists to avoid because of narrow traffic lanes or high traffic volumes.
It encourages bicycle tourism by showing the location of numerous bike shops and rental facilities.
It describes additional resources for cyclists to aid in choosing commuting or recreational routes.
Links to the Portland bike map and the BTA Blueprint
<http://www.portland.com/portals/15/pdf/downtown-portland-bike-map.pdf>
<http://btaoregon.org/blueprint/>

Nelson mentioned the mayor of Madison Wisconsin (another Bike Friendly Community) spoke at the Peel Rock 'n Roll conference in January.

Brampton can be a Bicycle Friendly Community

Nelson Cadete

Application status

Brampton submitted and received an Honourable Mention as a result of this year's application.
Brampton will reapply next year, given that we have Council's 'buy in'.

2013-2014 priorities

1. Brampton Roads and Transportation will now look at the entire infrastructure, with bicycling in mind.
2. Two traffic calming projects identified for 2014 construction:
 - Rutherford Rd-North of Williams Pkwy to Kennedy Rd
 - Centre St.-South from Kennedy Rd to Williams Pkwy
3. Revisions to the Brampton Pathways Master Plan due to be released before year end.
4. Official Status to a Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee reporting to Committee of Council

Next steps

- City staff is currently waiting legal input on BBAC formation. Discussion ensued about other bicycle facilities that perhaps should receive priority focus in order to achieve BFC status.
- David asked about transition between active lane and multiuse pathways. Nelson discussed "risk management issues", such as raised curbs, the difficulty of cutting curbs and having bicycle traffic empty directly onto the road. Nelson said Jacqueline is targeting these disconnects.
- Stephen asked about "P-gates". Nelson responded that these

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gates create a problem for maintenance vehicles such as snow, lawn-cutting and wagons.

- David suggested signs “Bike crossing ahead”. Nelson responded that the revisions to the Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18 are due out the end of this year and it outlines how to handle this.
- John asked if Brampton can borrow from best practices elsewhere. Nelson responded that Book 18 is such a document of best practices.
- Nelson noted the budget for 2014 is small and will be used to bring infrastructure up to Book 18 standards.
- George mentioned that Georgetown has a bicycle infrastructure plan, which is long range, comprehensive and more than merely pathways. Nelson said that the Brampton Pathway’s Plan includes bicycle infrastructure on the roads as well as the pathways.
- John asked if there is a plan to have a staff person dedicated to bicycling at the city. Nelson said that it couldn’t really happen with existing staff so would require additional manpower.

BBAC involvement

Nelson noted that September 25th is a public information session about the traffic calming on Rutherford Road. He suggested BBAC members might want to attend and promised to forward details. David commented on Portland’s BTA regarding how they get community support for cycling infrastructure projects. They solicit community feedback through polling and they display an artist’s rendering of what the local street would look like with bicycle facilities installed.

Informal discussion occurred as we haven’t received the feedback report from Share the Road.

BFC Local feedback and discussion

David commented that BBAC is encouraged that the City is willing to try again to have Brampton recognized as a Bicycle Friendly Community. Nelson responded that the planning in Mount Pleasant is a start in this process.

David commented that Ontario Minister of Transportation, Glen Murray has stated that bicycling in the province is a focus and suggested there may be provincial funding available for cycling infrastructure development in Brampton.

Erica said that Mississauga has had a Cycling Officer staff position for 5 years. Mayor Hazel McCallion personally biked at the ‘Bike to Work Day’ and that this has had a positive impact on the perception of the importance of bicycling in the city. Erica stated that, with Mississauga’s focus on cycling through MCAC, they are in a better position than Brampton to receive Peel funding for bicycle infrastructure and programs.

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BBAC Project Updates

Volunteers to champion projects

1. *Downtown bicycle revitalization project including updated signage, bicycle parking, downtown signed bike routes etc.*

John spoke to Bob Darling, Central Area Manager of the Economic Development Office and Program Manager for the “Downtown & Queen Street Corridor Program”. Bob seemed supportive of bicycle infrastructure investment in the downtown but stated that the plan is with Metrolinx. John knows that the Metrolinx plan does not currently include bicycle facilities.

Erica reported that Metrolinx presented to the Mississauga Bicycle Advisory Committee and their questions and comments were officially noted by Metrolinx. She noted the opportunity to influence the Metrolinx plan is closing rapidly.

Action Item: *David will ask Councillor John Hutton how we, as an informal committee, can impact Metrolinx’ plan now before the opportunity has passed.*

2. *Safe bike routes to schools pilot project*

Tricia and Erica connected at this meeting, after attempts over the summer. They will come back with a recommendation at the next BBAC meeting.

3. *Bike recycling program for disadvantaged families (Peel Poverty Strategy)*

Gerald reported that “Tools for Life” is a program that lays out many different options for recycling programs for disadvantaged families. Gerald identified many potential issues: facilities for storage, repair, and cost. Gerald has not heard back from Adaoma Patterson from Peel Poverty Strategy, Region of Peel.

David suggested that our participation could result in positive visibility from the media, and that the best program is one where program participants are given direction and parts to build and/or repair their own bikes.

Michele cited the Tim Hortons earn-a-bike program.

<http://www.timhortons.com/ca/pdf/2009CSR.pdf>

Erica cited Bike Sauce. <http://bikesauce.org/>

It was agreed that Peel region needs to own this program not BBAC.

Action Item: *Gerald to continue to follow-up with Adaoma Patterson.*

4. *Brampton Ward Rides*

This project was raised in discussion with Councillor Hutton at the last BBAC meeting.

Erica said that Ward Rides in Mississauga are very successful with 50-75 participants.

David commented that Ward Rides was highly rated on our community survey conducted at Celebrampton Bike Fest in June.

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5. *Etobicoke Creek Trail nature interpretive bike ride (TRCA and Brampton Community Services)*

Item was deferred to the next meeting for Councillor Hutton to provide an update.

David in his capacity as a TRCA (Toronto Regional Conservation Authority) Watershed Champion and Michele from Brampton Community Services are jointly working this project.

Action Item: *David to set up a meeting with Michele and Joanna Parsons of TRCA as soon as possible*

6. *Brampton Cycling Pamphlet*

Kevin met with Erica to discuss this project.

Kevin said we could acquire rights to use the source files for the pamphlet. Brampton would need to approve the content to be able to put their logo on it.

Michele offered funding from the Bike Fest budget.

Kevin said a softcopy could be linked to Brampton's website and to BBAC's Facebook page.

Erica would like to add our Facebook page link to this next handout printing.

Nelson added that Brampton Corporate Communications will have to approve content.

Action Item: Erica will coordinate with Kevin regarding funding, content and deadlines.

Peel Active Transportation Update

Erica Duque encouraged us to come to Tour de Mississauga on Sunday September 15th.

Brampton Bike to Work Day 2014 perhaps to be in multiple locations

http://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/meetings-agendas/City%20Council%202010/20130522cc_13-3.pdf

David mentioned the corporate contest success in Portland.

Erica reported we have a Smart Commute Brampton/Caledon program:

http://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/meetings-agendas/Committee%20of%20Council%202010/20111005cw_F4.pdf

Smart Commute is a public-private partnership between the Region of Peel, Metrolinx and area employers.

http://www.brampton.ca/EN/City-Hall/meetings-agendas/Committee%20of%20Council%202010/20120229cw_E1.pdf

Other Events

Snelgrove Picnic

Steve and Gerald attended August 24th on behalf of BBAC.

Steve reported that the booth location was not ideal and a better location would be requested should we participate in the future.

A barrier to the general public is concern for how to use a bike rack

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on a bus.

New Business

None

Set next meeting date

Time and date for next meeting.

October 16, 2013 6:30-8:30pm Fortinos, 35 Worthington Avenue.
Action item: *George to book Fortinos meeting room.*

Ajourn: Gerry moved. Gerald seconded. Carried.