

BBAC minutes

September 15, 2014 - 6:30pm – 8:30pm

16 George Street North (Brampton Safe City Association offices)

Attendees: Members: David Laing, Dayle Laing, Stephen Laidlaw, Kevin Montgomery, Lisa Stokes, George Shepperdley, Ernst Braendli, Gerald Pyjor, Tricia Prato, Pauline (Polly) Thornham, Peter Bolton.
Guests: Erica Duque (Peel Active Transportation), Peter VanSickle (Brampton Downtown Development Corporation), Hardeep Kalirah (candidate for Trustee Wards 2&6), Don McLeod (candidate for Mayor)

Regrets: Councillor John Hutton, Jerry Prato, John Van West, Paola Rico

Meeting Started: 6:30 pm

Review and approve minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Kevin, seconded George – Carried

Actions arising from previous minutes

Action on Promotion: Polly to complete article for publishing in the Brampton Guardian. Polly submitted an article to the Brampton Guardian. Pam Douglas of the Guardian incorporated some of Polly's quotations in her piece "[Cyclists call for dedicated bike lanes and more drop curbs](#)" in the July 5, 2014 online edition and the July 11, 2014 print edition. Ms. Douglas' front-page article provided additional research and used a link to BikeBrampton.ca website. BBAC members applauded Polly. Dayle posted [article](#) on July 14th to our website.

Action on Bike Friendly Business Program: David to continue making contacts with Brampton Board of Trade and BDDC to see if this idea gains traction; then approach Rotary Glen Brampton which has offered to provide a signage sponsorship. David reported that a meeting has been organized for September 26th at the BDDC (Brampton Downtown Development Corporation) offices, which will include the Board of Trade, Justin Jones (Share the Road Cycling Coalition), Adam Arnold (SmartCommute) and Louisa Mursell (Transportation Options). The purpose is to discuss initiating said program that will: 1) identify large corporations in Brampton that will encourage their employees to commute using active transportation through programs and incentives, 2) identify retail business and attractions in the downtown that will cater to commuter, recreational and tourism cyclists through

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services, programs and incentives. The program objective is to encourage increased cycling and to demonstrate that Brampton is open for cycling business. David recognized the support that BBAC has received from Peter VanSickle (Brampton Downtown Development Corporation). David sent an [email to John Corbett](#), Brampton's Chief Administration Officer, regarding support for the BDDC and the importance to the revitalization of our city core.

Brampton City Update

Councillor Hutton was absent and so no report was submitted.

Regional Update

Erica reported that a new trails app had been developed and was being Beta tested on the [Tour de Mississauga web-site](#).

On the Peel Walk & Roll website there is a new tab providing a [school trip planning tool](#) as an app for BBM, Androids but not for i-phones as yet. The tool shows exact distances from a home address to school and indicates the best route. **Action:** Dayle to [post link on website](#).

Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) wants to work with Brampton's community leaders and [Beth Savan](#) in late October or early November. **Action:** Erica to send details to David.

The [Bike Rodeo kit](#) is now available on the Peel Safety Village web-site.

BBAC Project Updates

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

Peter VanSickle (BDDC) reported that the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation in setting objectives for downtown development is not constrained by the 4 year mandate of municipal politicians and that this longer term view combined with short-term actions provides significant value to the city. The BDDC has begun work with 8-80 Cities ([Gil Penalosa](#)), on several "doable neighbourhood projects including: "art park" in which parking spots are used to create a temporary park along Main or Queen St.; Night time Farmer's market; Road stencils including colourful crosswalks, hopscotch instead of zebra stripes; Bike parking shipping container painted in contemporary colours, maybe even with a "green roof" (he even wants Gil Penalosa to inaugurate with champagne); Euphemistic chalkboard A-frame store signs; Metal signs at right-angles to the buildings for easier visibility; Install warm LED street

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lighting to create better safety for businesses; 'Wayfinding' signage for pedestrians or cyclists with messages such as, "10 minutes to the best tea in town". One of the objectives is to slow down the traffic and make the area businesses more approachable for all transit modes. He said "a cyclist can gawk and shop." Peter also provided an update on Beth Savan from Toronto's Think Do Tank. Peter showed Beth how Brampton meets the majority of the criteria that Beth is looking as a smaller community subject for the next phase of her research project on the cycling economy. Beth will be making a decision shortly and it looks promising that Brampton will be one of the communities selected.

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2. [Brampton Kids on Bikes Project](#) Polly reported that the first focus group session for parents is scheduled for Thursday September 18, at the Bramalea Community Health Centre, 40 Finchgate Blvd., Suite 224. Two other focus groups are currently scheduled, October 23rd 6-7:30 and November 13th 6-7:30. Both David and Polly will be meeting with the Peel Safe and Active Routes to Schools Committee Chair in early October. Polly is planning on attending the conference for parent's councils later this fall. She is also continuing to attempt to make connections with school board trustees and staff to set up interviews. Erica committed to promote the focus groups at various events.
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3. Bike recycling program for disadvantaged families Now to be called "Bike Clinic Pilot Project" Gerald reported that the pilot is delayed while the city and region continue to look for an appropriate location, (need approximately 500 square feet of secure, dedicated or semi-permanent space). David met with city, region and representatives from the Fair Oaks, McHardy Court community on Friday September 19th. The meeting purpose was to enlist their support as a community partner.
- Once up and running, the program will provide basic mechanics skills training for 8-10 youth mentors (18-19 years of age). These mentors will receive a certificate of completion at the end of the training and will be allowed to keep their mechanics tools. In return the mentors will provide volunteer hours at the clinic to assist other members of the community to fix their own bikes.
- The clinic is not competition for existing bike repair shops, as only expertise and tools will be provided, no services. With the successful pilot, it is hoped the program will be expanded next year with donated parts. Currently Paola, Gerald, Ernst and Peter have volunteered to provide senior mentoring during the pilot training program, (other BBAC members are welcome to participate).
- Gerald is finalizing the curriculum from the "bikes not bombs" program. He has approached Peel Police
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properties division for donated parts. Lisa reiterated her offer of 2 bikes for donation to the cause.

Action: Gerald to follow-up with Lisa when appropriate

BBAC may also want to publicize bike donation, **Action:** Gerald to follow-up as appropriate

David will plan on presenting a delegation to Regional Council on this and other BBAC initiatives in the fall after the municipal election. **Action:** David to follow-up with Janet Menard (Commissioner, Region of Peel) as appropriate

4. Bike the Creek (Etobicoke Creek Trail nature interpretive bike ride) June 21st

David reported that since the last BBAC meeting there was a debrief meeting for Bike the Creek 2014 on July 14th where successes and action items for next year were discussed and noted. There is a planning meeting for Bike the Creek 2015 scheduled for Tuesday September 23rd and regular meetings thereafter. TRCA, Brampton recreation, heritage, safety, and Peel are participating in the planning.

Action: Dayle to post posters and information as it is developed.

5. Social Media and Website

Kevin reported traffic on bikebrampton.ca increased sharply in June, up 165%, however the bounce rate dropped by 31% indicating that people went to a specific page and stayed there. It is likely that the TRCA link from the Bike the Creek event page drove much of the traffic.

Bike Brampton Facebook likes increased from 53-68 but the number of new likes has dropped during the summer. Newsletter subscribers continue to increase almost every day. The last newsletter had a 7% open rate, 19% click through rate, (industry average is 3%), and zero unsubscribes which is very promising.

Dayle encouraged BBAC members to submit articles for the next newsletter due out this fall.

6. Advocacy campaign to change City curb-cut policy

Lisa reported she, along with David and Dayle, had a riding meeting with Mike Parks and Nelson Cadete from the city's traffic engineering services department on July 16th. The meeting purpose was to demonstrate barriers to cycling especially the high curbs on sections of the Flowertown Trail and the resulting unsafe and unpredictable behavior by cyclists while trying to navigate said curbs. Lisa also provided city staff with [a report including 60 pictures of cycling barriers](#) along city pathways and intersections. Mr. Parks and Mr. Cadete indicated they want to wait for the province to make amendments to Ontario Traffic Manual (OTM) Book 15 (pedestrian guidelines), prior to making recommendations to City Council regarding changes to the current curb-cut policy. OTM Book 15

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changes are expected early in 2015. Lisa indicated the proposed OTM Book 15 amendments would not change anything related to the curb cut policy or issue. Ernst indicated signage would be required to let cars know there is a path crossing the road. Lisa indicated signage guidelines already exist to caution drivers but also to let cyclists and pedestrians know that they don't have the right of way at these crossings and must yield to car traffic. The road shouldn't be marked as this could encourage cyclist to expect right of way. Lisa and David content that the current policy maintains unsafe conditions for cyclists and creates accessibility issues which may be contrary to the regulations contained in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act. David indicated we have "unofficial" advice from a lawyer at Gowlings that interpretation of liability in the courts has changed dramatically since the city's policy was put in place in the 1980's. She said that the city was actually exposed to greater liability by having high curbs because they are aware these pathways are being used by commuter cyclists in a way that may put them into unsafe situations due specifically to the lack of curb cuts. Steve indicated concern that encouraging accessibility challenged path users to use private driveways, which foists liability onto the homeowner.

Lisa and David have requested to make a delegation to the Brampton Accessibility Advisory Committee on October 14th. Messrs. Parks and Cadete committed to looking at each situation as described in Lisa's report and then to making a joint delegation with BBAC members to Committee of Council in January after the new council is elected. **Action:** available BBAC members attend delegation at city hall Oct 14th.

7. Develop a prioritized list of infrastructure projects

David summarized [Nelson Cadete's report](#) on planned bicycle infrastructure projects. Nelson also referenced three parts of the Ministry of Transportation's Book 18: [Figure 4.3](#), [Figure 4.92](#) and [Figure 4.98](#) Discussion ensued about how the city was asking for residents' input, about how cars park in the bike lanes illegally, and how there are not enough bike racks. David also indicated that Pam Douglas from the Brampton Guardian asked for his comment about the proposed improvements to the Franceschini bridge for [her article](#) about this. **Action:** Dayle to post [link to article](#).

Lisa indicated she sent a letter to her MPP Jagmit Singh requesting a ride with her over the 410 highway at Bovaird to see the difficulty for cyclists and pedestrians in navigating this crossing. She sent a copy of [the letter from Mr. Singh to Minister of Transportation Steven Del Duca](#), incorporating her points.

Action: Lisa to send a copy of the letter to Dayle for attaching to minutes (See hyperlink above)

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New Business

1. Municipal Election 2014

Donald (Don) McLeod, candidate for Mayor, discussed his platform and commitment to involve citizen groups such as BBAC more in city planning. He moved to Brampton 22 years ago. He suggested BBAC work with Peel Health to come up with a campaign to encourage increased walking or biking to school. (See Project Update item #2) He also suggested that fire stations could be used as locations for bike mechanic training. He expressed concern about the lack of clarity surrounding e-bikes related to city bylaws. He indicated that Rutherford Road bike lanes were poorly conceived, having the bike lane between the active lane and car parking, (dooring zone). He indicated BBAC should be more vocal to get more press coverage.

Hardeep Kalirah (Hardeep@kalirah.com), candidate for Trustee Wards 2&6, discussed his platform for Brampton public schools. He remarked Brampton is one of the safest cities in Canada. He suggested a contest based on students using a pedometer to gauge active transportation, and donations from local businesses for helmets / bikes. BBAC members thanked the candidates for coming to our meeting and showing interest in bicycle issues in Brampton.

David requested John van West to create a list of questions to be sent to all candidates regarding their platform positions on active transportation. (See Referred Matters List #2)
2. Active Network Transportation Coordinator position

It is anticipated that the position will be posted by next month. **Action:** David to obtain clarification on hiring for this position which is scheduled for 4th quarter 2014.
3. Ontario Cycling Advocacy Network

David met with our new MP for Brampton-Springdale, Harinder Malhi on September 12th. It was a productive meeting about BBAC. He encouraged her to work with Education Minister Liz Sandals, Transportation Minister Del Luca regarding the issues of biking to school and provincial infrastructure (CycleON Strategy) respectively. Ms. Malhi asked to be kept updated on our events, issues & progress.

Action: David to maintain relationship and provide her updates as available.
4. Kennedy Valley Trail (Etobicoke Creek at 410 & 407)

David reported that this has been approved for completion in spring 2015. This will coincide with PanAm tourism opportunities and our objective for cycle tourism as well as an important north-south

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commuter route.

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| 5. Region of Peel Transportation Demand Management Analyst | Erica reported that this vacant position has been posted |
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Events

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| 1. Snelgrove Community Picnic | Steve and Lisa attended with a BBAC booth on July 5 th . Lisa supplied photo which Dayle posted on our gallery . |
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| 2. Tour de Mississauga September 21st, 2014 | www.mississaugacycling.ca/tour/regpackage |
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| 3. FUSE Brampton Ideas Incubator Speed Mentorship Thursday Nov 27 th , PAMA | <p>Mentors will team up with mentees at an event on November 27th 6:30-8:30pm at PAMA for the FUSE Brampton Ideas Incubator. Mentorship would involve monthly meetings of 2 hours each to work on the pitch and development of the video presentation through the winter/spring 2014-2015. Videos and proposals would be judged at a social innovation community event in April 2015. Top idea makers would be awarded a micro-grant and additional resources as part of a broader social innovation event. George and David have agreed to volunteer.</p> <p>David reported that PAMA has applied to become the first bicycle friendly attraction in Brampton (maybe even in Peel region). Action: Dayle to post article about PAMA once this becomes official</p> |
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| 4. Critical Mass Rides | Critical Mass this Friday September 26 th , Gage Park starting at 6:30pm (arrive by 6:15) – last Friday of every month |
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Referred Matters List

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| 1. Discussion with Nelson Cadete re specifications for including pedestrians and cyclists in design for traffic roundabouts | Action: Deferred until Nelson present |
| 2. Questions for Brampton politicians to determine cycling position for upcoming election | See New Business #1 |
| 3. Brampton Ward Rides | Action: Bring forward discussion to January 2015 meeting, once new Councillors are in place |
| 4. Mayfield Road Environmental Assessment | Action: David to hear from Neal Smith regarding dates for public information feedback. |
| Meeting Adjourned 9:05p.m.
Next meeting Monday October 20th at 6:30 p.m. | Moved by Steve, seconded by Polly – Carried |