

# BBAC minutes

**March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2014 - 6:30pm – 8:30pm**

16 George Street North (Brampton Safe City Association offices)

**Attendees:** Members: Councillor John Hutton David Laing, Dayle Laing, Pauline (Polly) Thornham, Stephen Laidlaw, Kevin Montgomery, Gerald Pyjor, John Van West, George Shepperdley  
Guests: Chris Spinney (member of CERV (Community Emergency Response Volunteers))

**Regrets:** Hrushikesh Gandhi, Tricia Prato, Jerry Prato

**Meeting Started:** 6:35 pm

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**Review and approve minutes from last meeting** Motion to approve minutes: George, seconded Steve – carried

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**Actions arising from previous minutes** None

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## BBAC Project Updates

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

David reported that the Brampton Downtown Development Corporation is being split into two: BDDC (Brampton Downtown Development Corporation) and BIA (Business Improvement Association). Councillor Hutton said this move is to avoid duplication. David reported that a presentation from BBAC is not appropriate at this time.

From the May 2013 Western GTA Summit, an action committee has been formulated for each of the three pillars of the “Live Move Thrive in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century”. Peter Vansicle is co-chairing the “Live” pillar. David attended the biweekly citizen engagement meeting, which discussed traffic congestion, commuting issues, how we will ‘build out’ communities to accommodate Places to Grow targets. Brampton will grow by 275,000 people by 2030, to over 900,000. Amidst competing visions, BBAC has opportunity to contribute

# BBAC minutes

to how our group feels our community should grow.

David reported that Peter Vansicle has received a grant to enter into agreement with **8-80 Cities** Foundation <http://8-80cities.org/>. Globally focused, Toronto-based, it contributes to transformation of cities that are vibrant, walkable, bikeable, with good public transit. If a city is good for an 8-yr old and an 80-yr-old, it is successful. It was started by Gil Penalosa, formerly from Columbia, now a Toronto resident, who also initiated the Ciclovía, where more than 1 million walk, bike or skate every Sunday along 121 km of Bogotá's streets. David is meeting the 8-80 team next month.

**Action:** BBAC members to provide David with questions they want him to ask. David reported that **Gil Penalosa** has been engaged by BDDC to speak at Rose Theatre on Wednesday, April 23<sup>rd</sup>, 6-8pm. Attendance is free.

**Action:** Dayle to post to Events-GTA on website:

<http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/03/24/8-80-cities-presentation-rose-theatre-april-22-2014/>

George commented that he heard Gil speak in Georgetown a few years ago and was impressed. Georgetown hired and has since been successfully implementing 8-80 recommendations.

David has contacted Beth Savan, Principal Investigator of Toronto Cycling Think & Do Tank, a research partnership at School of the Environment, U of T, devoted to increasing cycling for transportation. Her group looks at practical applications of active transportation, economic impacts of bike lanes and recent research. BDDC is interested in having Beth come to speak, probably 4 weeks later. <http://www.torontocycling.org/index.html>

**Action:** David to let BBAC know when date is set for their presentation.

John Van West mentioned dialoguing with MetroLinx. David reported that the final public information session is Thursday, March 27<sup>th</sup>, 3-8pm.

**Action:** Dayle to post MetroLinx event:

<http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/03/24/metrolinx-public-info-session-rose-theatre-mar-27-2014/>

# BBAC minutes

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2. Safe bike routes to schools pilot project PEEL Bike Rodeos committee (now called the Peel Bike Education Workgroup)

Polly reported that she handed out Bike the Creek posters at the last meeting.

Polly reported she received support, conditional on funding, for Councillor Hutton's idea of holding a Bike Rodeo simultaneously at Bike the Creek.

**Action:** Polly to update BBAC at next meeting on Rodeo status.

**Action:** defer Councillor Hutton's idea about inviting the press to Rodeo until after confirmation of Rodeo event.

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

Gerald reported he and David have a meeting with Adaoma for April 18<sup>th</sup>.

**Action:** Gerald to report back at our May 12<sup>th</sup> meeting.

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

Dayle posted link for registration through either City of Brampton or TRCA: <http://bikebrampton.ca/events-2/>

David reported that the planning group includes BBAC, Brampton, Region and TRCA (Toronto Region Conservation Authority). This will be Brampton's signature event. CERV (Community Emergency Response Volunteers) will be volunteering. Councillor Hutton affirmed that Rotary Heart Lake will be volunteering. David circulated a draft of the Passport, which includes Brampton downtown Heritage sites. David reported he has received commitment from Parks and City Streets for improved signage, for not only Bike the Creek, but also as part of the Greenbelt Trail.

**Action:** At the February meeting, Councillor Hutton offered his support to expedite with senior staff if necessary. David to assess if necessary.

David reported that an issue has arisen regarding the widening of Hwy#410. The engineering company (URS) has determined they will close the underpass during construction, which would preclude development of the trail section between Brampton and Mississauga until 2018, at the earliest. David has expressed this is not acceptable. Construction was due to begin this summer.

**Action:** Councillor Hutton is meeting with the consulting engineer tomorrow and will raise the issue.

Dayle created the Newsletter, requested feedback and received sufficient

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# BBAC minutes

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votes by email to post: <http://bikebrampton.ca/newsletters/> , which featured mostly articles about the Bike the Creek event. George circulated the newsletter to positive comments.

**Action:** BBAC members are encouraged to use the newsletter to welcome sponsorship money and/or prizes for Bike the Creek.

**Action:** Councillor Hutton will speak with Caledon Councillor to coordinate and encourage Caledon residents' participation.

**Action:** Erica to forward meeting minutes on outcome of February 12<sup>th</sup> meeting with Waterfront Trails Trust and representative from Peel and Brampton re Greenbelt trails signage requirements along the Etobicoke Creek Trail.

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## 5. Brampton Cycling Pamphlet

**Action:** Kevin to clarify funding opportunities from the city (Michele Robinson) and or Region (Erica Duque). If no funding is forthcoming BBAC will drop this as a priority.

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## 6. Social Media and Website

Kevin reported statistics for our 2nd newsletter – 14% open rate (very good), 9% click rate (above average), 6% click-to-open. There were 2% unsubscribes (high), but also 6 new subscribers. There is more decisiveness amongst new subscribers. The positive activity on website is rewarding. Likes on Facebook have increased from 30 to 34. Twitter followers have increased from 29 to 44. Our “clout” which rates engagement is already as high as Mississauga’s.

**Action:** Kevin to report website traffic next month.

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## 7. Mayfield Road Environmental Assessment

David heard back from Margie Chung (Region of Peel) regarding implementation of Book 18 elements on Mayfield Rd. They are waiting for MTO (Ministry of Transportation) to approve as a pilot. It is still subject to funding. David advised Margie that BBAC will continue to advocate and we will not accept a bike path starting and stopping without continuity on Mayfield. David called Neal Smith and had not heard back at the time of the meeting.

# BBAC minutes

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**Action:** David to follow up with Neal Smith re timing of Mayfield public input.

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## New Business

### 1. Cycling in Politics

Councillor Hutton announced he will be running for Regional Councillor, Wards 2 & 5

Kevin announced he will be running for City of Brampton Councillor, Wards 3 & 4

### 2. BBAC to develop a prioritized list of infrastructure projects at the next BBAC meeting – April

**Action:** BBAC members to read #CycleON and be prepared to discuss the provincial cycling strategy in the context of Brampton at next meeting.  
<http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/02/10/cycleon-ontarios-cycling-strategy/>

**Action:** David to ask Trudy and Nelson to see what map information is available with all current bike facilities included

### 3. John requested immediate action on 3 infrastructure priorities in the Brampton downtown:

John reported that he did prepare and deliver a note to Councillor Hutton on the 3 priorities:

1. Active transportation crossing of Queen St. at Scott St.,
2. Repair of railway level crossing at James and John Streets
3. Replacement of stairs at Wellington Street with an accessible ramp.

Councillor Hutton did raise issue at February 20<sup>th</sup> Committee of Council meeting, and John Van West received March 6<sup>th</sup> letter advising that matter is referred to Mike Parks in Traffic Engineering, with a directive to report back to Committee with recommendations. John thanked Councillor Hutton for his initiating action. See attached letter to John from the City Clerk's Office.

### 4. Fiona from Rotary Heart Lake expressed interest in having

Dayle sent Fiona the attached letter.

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# BBAC minutes

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BBAC members visit Alloo Public School to speak about active transportation and holding a bike clinic.

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## 5. Motorists and Cyclists Education

David has tried numerous times to contact Sergeant Tom Murray (Peel bike patrol) to discuss safety program implementation in Brampton

**Action:** David will continue to attempt contact his replacement.

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## 6. Proposed Amendment to Highway Traffic Act

Kevin announced MTO (Ministry of Transportation) has proposed a Keeping Ontario's Roads Safe Act to increase fines on "dooring", to enforce the one metre rule (drivers passing cyclists), and to allow cycling on road shoulders of non-restricted highways.

**Action:** Dayle to write and post article with link:

<http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/03/25/keeping-ontario-roads-safe-act-march-17-2014/>

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## 7. GPS Cycling Study has been presented to Region of Peel Council and study officially published

**Action:** Erica to forward Walk & Roll link for GPS Cycling Study for inclusion on our website

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## 8. GPS for General Cycling Route Planning

Kevin and George reported a 6 year old application that gives people advice if they are not familiar with a bicycle route. Members have uploaded millions of rides, which can be exported.

**Action:** Dayle to post the link on our website useful links:

<http://ridewithgps.com/>

Kevin launched an App to "Exist with a Car-Free Life":

[www.carfree.kemosite.com](http://www.carfree.kemosite.com)

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## 9. Etobicoke Creek Trail Curb Cuts

David reported he spoke to Nelson Cadete regarding curb cuts necessary for

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# BBAC minutes

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our Bike the Creek event. They would need to be approved by Council, case-by-case. Councillor Hutton asked for a list of curb cuts from BBAC, that he could take to Council.

**Action:** David to request a curb cut list from members for Councillor Hutton to take to Council.

Councillor Hutton reported that the Rosalea Park viaduct and pathway diversion development project is receiving more attention.

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## 10. Traffic Calming & Bike Lanes

David reported that Nelson Cadete informed him that, in accordance with the Bicycle Facility Implementation Plan (BFIP), City staff will be considering the implementation of bicycle facilities on the following three collector roads that are scheduled to be rehabilitated this year:

- County Court Boulevard;
- Fernforest Drive (Black Oak Drive to Sandalwood Parkway); and,
- Richvale Drive (Kennedy Road to Sandalwood Parkway).

In addition, in 2014, the Bicycle Facility Implementation Plan committee is planning to implement pavement markings and signage on multi-use paths along the following recently reconstructed roadways, in accordance with Ontario Traffic Manual Book 18:

- McVean Drive;
- Clarkway Drive; and,
- Chinguacousy Road.

In a poll conducted on Centre Street, residents did not vote for any solution (including not voting for bike lanes). Steve asked for clarification on vote. David responded that more than 50% was required to make a change. Kevin commented that Centre Street is currently an excellent route for biking. David reported his conversation with Councillor Moore regarding Rutherford Road bike lanes. The conclusion was a need for a vision of connected bike

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# BBAC minutes

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lanes, using anticipated need and traffic flow. Heavy use and whether on-street parking is lost or not is insufficient criteria for judgment. Bike lanes are here to stay. Citizens need to be engaged for which areas are needed next. Kevin commented that the bike lanes on Fletchers Creek require an unsafe trip on Williams Parkway or Bovaird to access them, for use by those outside the immediate neighborhood. John asked about the 2002 Pathways Plan, which is only 7% implemented and suggested it needs updating.

David said that we (BBAC), have our work cut out for us to affect change, that we cannot continue to build infrastructure for car traffic alone, since we cannot handle even 40% of the projected increase in population. We need a 4-6% modal share change away from car traffic to handle population growth in Brampton. We require city Councillors to lead rather than be merely reactive. Polly suggested a letter to the editor of the Brampton Guardian regarding the future in Brampton. George cited the example of Halton Hills, that paid for a consultant, council passed, and they are in the process of implementing the recommendations. George noted that McMurchy should have bike lanes. George suggested the train corridor route to Orangeville, should it become available. Councillor Hutton informed that the RR is privately run, and benefits the manufacturers for supplies. Gerald cited a US Supreme Court ruling that old rail lines are private not public land. Kevin noticed an increase in Brampton cycling dialogue on Facebook.

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11. Thank you Councillor Hutton

Dayle thanked Councillor Hutton for his support, guidance, knowledge, and expertise, all of which has been of considerable benefit to BBAC over this past first year of our existence. The members present broke into applause for Councillor Hutton.

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## Events



# BBAC minutes

Ride Don't Hide Event

George announced event for June 22<sup>nd</sup>, the day after our Bike the Creek.

**Action:** Dayle to post link: <http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/03/11/ride-dont-hide-canadian-mental-health-association-ride-june-22-2014/>

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HMLRT PIC#3 (Hurontario-Main Light Rail Transit Public Information Session 3)

Thursday March 27th, 3:00-8:00pm Rose Theatre

**Action:** Dayle to post link: <http://bikebrampton.ca/2014/03/24/metrolinx-public-info-session-rose-theatre-mar-27-2014/>

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## Referred Matters List

1. Discussion with Nelson Cadete re specifications for including pedestrians and cyclists in design for traffic roundabouts

Deferred until Nelson present

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2. John suggested we send questions to Brampton politicians to determine cycling position for upcoming election

Deferred until candidates announced and BBAC formulates questions based on the infrastructure priorities list

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3. Brampton Ward Rides (send messages from Mississauga City Council in support of their Ward rides.

**Action:** Councillor Hutton will speak with Brampton Councillors once everyone running has been announced and new boundaries have been created.

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**Meeting Adjourned 8:30p.m.**

Moved by Gerald seconded by Kevin - Carried

**Next meeting Monday April 12<sup>th</sup>, 6:30 p.m.**

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