

BBAC minutes

October 20, 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, Paola Rico, Pauline (Polly) Thornham, Peter Bolton. John Van West, Councillor John Hutton, Chris Spinney

Guests: Michael Freeman (candidate for City Councillor Wards 3&4), Hardeep Kalirah (candidate for Trustee Wards 2&6), Jason Hammond (President, Community CarShare jason@communitycarshare.ca)

Regrets: Ernst Braendli, Gerald Pyjor, Erica Duque (Peel Active Transportation), Tricia Prato, Jerry Prato

Meeting Started: 6:30 pm

Review and approve minutes from last meeting

Motion to approve minutes: Kevin, seconded Polly – Carried

Actions arising from previous minutes

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.

Erica not present. Peter VanSickle reported to David that although he has not yet had confirmation from Professor Savan, she is leaning towards including Brampton in her research project. Discussion about anecdotal increase in Brampton cycling needs confirmation with firm statistics to dispel perception that cyclers are small group without broad appeal. New council and school trustees are likely to change this misperception.

Action: bring forward to next meeting – Referred Matters list item #4

Brampton City Update

Councillor Hutton reported that City Hall is understandably quiet right now immediately before the election. At a recent meeting of the **Heritage Heights Committee** (new development in NW Brampton), there was discussion about bike lanes "being expendable" to cut costs – a thought supported by the paid consultant on the project. We discussed the need for forward thinking and the need to "get it right" with new Brampton building projects. As a positive example, Nick Poulous, a renowned Active

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Transportation consultant recently advised Markham who installed fabulous new bike lanes along Hwy #7. Since Heritage Heights links extensive cycling in Halton Hills and Caledon, and considering the close proximity to a proposed Brampton university campus site, the importance of bike lanes in this new community is crucial. The [Heritage Heights Transportation Master Plan](#) public meeting held June 4th displayed several options, and indicated the favoured “complete community” option included significant active transportation facilities ([see previous minutes – New Business item #3.](#))

Action: BBAC members should be alert for announcements of the next round of Heritage Heights transportation public meetings early in 2015, and should report dates so that Dayle can post to website. Members are encouraged to attend meetings to voice their comments.

Regional Update

N/A – Erica on vacation

BBAC Project Updates

1. Downtown bicycle revitalization project including updated signage, bicycle parking, downtown signed bike routes
As a result of Peter VanSickle’s (BDDC) report in our meeting last month, Dayle posted an article based on his quote: [“a cyclist can gawk and shop”](#). The article featured “art park” images in which parking spots were used to create a temporary park along Main Street. Images were photographed by local photographer, Herman Custodio. (See Events #3 for Wayfinding Signage event in downtown.)
 2. [Brampton Kids on Bikes Project](#)
Polly reported that the first focus group session for parents on Thursday September 18, at the Bramalea Community Health Centre, 40 Finchgate Blvd., Suite 224 was not attended despite advertisement. Polly and David used the opportunity to refine their message and practice. (See Events item #1 for the next 2 focus groups: October 23rd 6-7:30 and November 13th 6-7:30. Polly attended the Punjabi Community Health Services tree planting and BBQ at Wildwood Park in Malton on September 27th, where she handed out 50 flyers and attempted meaningful contact. Polly and David attended a Peel Health meeting, and will be meeting with the Peel Safe and Active Routes to Schools Committee on November 19th, and will be conducting a high school student focus group on November 12th. She is also continuing to attempt to make connections with school board trustees and staff to set up interviews. Heart and
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Stroke sponsors are organizing a webinar for December 4th to involve all stakeholders in Peel to discuss this issue, despite the fact that our research is not yet complete. They clearly view the urgency of the issue needs immediate attention, since **36% of Peel students are not getting their recommended weekly amount of exercise.**

Action: Dayle to add Polly's email to rsvp for focus group sessions. – [done](#)

Lisa reported that Castlebrook Secondary School (a sports-focused school near Gore Road & Gardenbrook Trail), has 1906 students, with an 11% cycling rate. When bicycles were so numerous they were attached to trees at the beginning of the semester, it took only 6 weeks to add sufficient bike racks for the students. We need to capture what they are doing right; while Peel Safe and Active Routes to Schools are targeting only 42 schools for bike racks in the entire Region of Peel. Chris suggested "compounds" for safe bike storage within sight of school office.

Action: Lisa to get school principal's name for David to follow up — Ms. Cathy Semler

3. Bike Clinic Pilot Project

David reported in Gerald's absence that the final meeting for setting up this project will be Friday October 24th. Space for the project has been found near McHardy Court. Ten youth mentors (18-19 years of age) have been identified for the program, to be led by Gerald, Peter, Paola and Ernst. Pastor Eric is bringing adult mentors. It will be a 6-week curriculum and the Region of Peel is supplying approximately \$4500 worth of bike repair tools. Graduates will obtain a certificate and receive a multi-tool worth about \$40. They will commit to a proscribed number of volunteer hours to assist other members of the community to fix their own bikes. Gerald has finalized the curriculum for the "bikes not bombs" program. He has approached Peel Police properties division for donated parts.

Action: Gerald to follow-up with Lisa and George, who have each offered to donate 2 bikes.

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 February 2015, after the municipal election. **Action:** David to follow-up with Janet Menard (Commissioner, Region of Peel) as appropriate

4. Bike the Creek - June 20, 2015

Dayle posted [Bike the Creek – June 20, 2015 – Save the date](#) to our website Events page.

David reported that planning meetings for Bike the Creek 2015 have commenced, and 2 have been held: Tuesday September 23rd and October 20th. TRCA (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority),

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Brampton Recreation, Brampton Heritage, Brampton Emergency Response, Town of Caledon and Region of Peel are participating in the planning along with David and Dayle from BBAC. Three routes have been tentatively identified. They will be loops instead of the more linear route from last year. It is projected that at least 500 riders will participate. Both Lisa and Chris expressed an interest in attending planning meetings and rides. **Action:** Dayle to post rides. (See Events for planning rides scheduled.)

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

Action: BBAC members to identify and approach corporate sponsors (coordinate with David). We will need funding for passports, meals, T-shirts, etc.

5. Social Media and Website

Kevin reported traffic on bikebrampton.ca was fairly flat in September until after our meeting when an article and Critical Mass images were posted. We have had 'hits' on queries and in relation to 8-80 Cities ([where we have an article](#)). Dayle reported she has been compressing image files to save space. Discussion about our website capacity, use of free Flickr account for images instead of loading onto media storage on website, and the fact that we are operating the website with no budget. Dayle reported she is working on the next newsletter.

Action: Dayle to create Flickr account, replace some images on website, and use for future images

6. Advocacy campaign to change City curb-cut policy

Lisa reported that she and David were on the agenda for the **Accessibility Advisory Committee of Council** on October 14th. Due to lack of one person, quorum was not made and meeting was cancelled. Although alignment of accessibility for paths seems logical to BBAC members, this may not necessarily be automatically apparent to AAC members. The AODO (Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act) guidelines stipulate that paths must be accessible by January 1, 2016, yet a new park was constructed this summer that is inaccessible. This initiative will need continued championing.

Action: Lisa and David to request delegation for next meeting November 4th.

7. Develop a prioritized list of infrastructure projects

Update on projects: BBAC identified bicycle infrastructure priorities:

BBAC priorities

a. Curb cuts:

- i. along the Etobicoke Creek Trail – David
 - ii. along the Flowertown Trail – Lisa
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- iii. at 384-398 Balmoral Drive and 30 Avondale Blvd - as identified by Kevin
- iv. in Peel Village - as identified by Richard Poersch (President FSNA Peel Halton and Area)
- b. Installation of traffic calming Stop signs at Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive – David and Dayle. David made a delegation to PD&D Committee of Council on Sept 8th. Marilyn Ball (Chief, Planning and Infrastructure Services) sent David a [follow up email](#) on October 20th.
- c. Kennedy Valley Trail Extension – David – (see New Business item #2)
- d. Installation of bike lanes along Bramalea Road to the Bramalea GO station – Kevin
- e. Active transportation crossing of Queen St. at Scott St. -John
- f. Repair of railway level crossing at James and John Streets – John
- g. Replacement of stairs at Wellington Street with an accessible ramp. –John (Kevin reported that stairs are closed for renovation currently)

Action: John to investigate and report at next meeting

- h. Additional signage along Etobicoke Creek Trail – (David reported that signage installation is almost complete now. George reported that there are a couple of unclear places remaining.)

Action: George to forward Etobicoke Creek signage locations to David

City Priorities

- i. Bicycle Facilities along County Court, Fernforest, Richvale Drive (David reported that County Court is slated for Spring 2015)
- j. Multi-use trail signs and marking along McVean Drive, Clarkway Blvd and Chinguacousy Road in accordance with OTM Book 18.
- k. Esker Lake Trail pathway extension across Hwy 410 (Franchesini bridge)

Lisa reported that there is a new multiuse trail along Mayfield between 410 and Bramalea Road. There was discussion about the need for continuous paths to make these routes feasible for commuting and reaching destinations easily without risk of riding on busy roads. See Referred Matters List.

David showed Etobicoke Creek Trail map north extension in Caledon which is scheduled for completion in spring 2015.

David reported that Lisa's list of 59 documented and photographed infrastructure deficiencies have

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been thoroughly discussed at Brampton's bicycle facilities infrastructure meetings and that staff has committed to systematically investigate each one.

Action: 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: David to bring Kevin's 3'x4' map with bike routes for ongoing use and updates at each meeting.

Action: BBAC members to continue to note issues from their areas of the city and provide list to David

Action: David to consolidate and send section issue list to Councillor Hutton for city staff.

8. Bike Friendly Communities

Bike Friendly Business Program – David reported that the first meeting occurred on September 26th and that this program is being brought to Brampton, scheduled in time for Bike to Work Day 2015. He met with Adam Arnold (SmartCommute), Jason Hammond (Community CarShare), Justin Jones (Share the Road Cycling Coalition), Louisa Mursell (Transportation Options), Erica Duque (Region of Peel) and Peter VanSickle (Brampton Downtown Development Corporation) to discuss program development for Brampton businesses. The purpose is to: 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 services, programs and incentives. The program objective is to encourage increased cycling and to demonstrate that Brampton is open for cycling business. Benefits such as improved employee health, productivity, lowering congestion are all well documented.

Action: Once program has been developed, David and or Peter to approach Rotary Glen Brampton which has offered to provide a signage sponsorship.

Active Network Transportation Coordinator Position – David reported that this position that is to be filled in 2014 Q4, has yet to be posted.

Action: David to follow up on status of the position

New Business

1. Municipal Election 2014

[Michael Freeman](#), candidate for City Councillor Wards 3&4, discussed that cycling is part of his

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platform. He does ride his bike to the Bramalea GO station some days, and encourages BBAC to continue more outreach to the community. [Hardeep Kalirah](#), candidate for Trustee Wards 2&6 participated in our meeting again. BBAC members thanked the candidates for coming to our meeting and showing interest in bicycle issues in Brampton.

John van West agreed to create a question to be sent to all candidates regarding their platform positions on active transportation:

Active Transportation and Light Rail Transit in Brampton

Over the next 17 years, Brampton's population will need to grow at twice its current rate to meet the 910,000 target set by "Ontario Places to Grow". Brampton already experiences significant traffic congestion on local roads. Expert opinion indicates that the capacity of our road network, existing and planned, will be overwhelmed by future traffic demand unless there is a substantial shift from cars to other transit modes. The Light Rail Transit (LRT) line as proposed by Metrolinx is one part of the solution that will provide much needed passenger capacity, connect two major GO train lines and provide a link between the cultural and economic centres of Brampton and Mississauga. Active transportation, especially for short-range trips, is another critical element in the transit vision. Encouraging a 2% shift from cars to bikes on a given piece of road is the equivalent of adding another traffic lane to that road. Encouraging higher active transportation rates may also help the significant portion of Brampton's population that is at increased risk of disease and premature death due in large part to inactive lifestyle.

If elected what is your position regarding support for the Hurontario/Main LRT proposal and what would you do to promote and support active transportation programs and infrastructure in the city?

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| 2. Letter to Harinder Mahli – MPP Brampton-Springdale re: Kennedy Valley Trail Extension (Etobicoke Creek at 410 & 407) | David reported that this important north-south commuter route, has been delayed until the widening of the Hwy#410 bridge is completed. MTO has committed to fixing the land under the bridge after the 410 has been widened, which will result in anticipated savings for construction of the approximately 500 m of the trail required to link Brampton to Mississauga. He has commitment from the City that savings will go into the trail construction, not back into general revenue. After consultation with parties at City and TRCA, David prepared and circulated a proposed letter to Ms. Mahli requesting mitigation of the time delay on the extension. Discussion about adding other cc's: other MPPs in Brampton, Premier Wynne, Minister Steve Del Duca. |
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Motion: that BBAC approve David sending the [letter to Ms. Mahli](#). – proposed by Polly, seconded by George – carried (including a positive vote by email from Gerald)

3. [CanU6: Cities at the Edge – Urbanizing Suburbia in the Regional City Conference, Sept 18th](#)

Dayle reported that she spoke on behalf of BBAC at the Tactical Urbanism Pecha Kucha Session, as part of the Council for Canadian Urbanism national summit. She selected “Biking in Brampton builds our Community” to highlight some of the initiatives that BBAC has taken over the past 1 ½ years.

Action: Dayle to create a video from the PowerPoint slides, set to music, publish to YouTube and post article and links to our website: [“Biking in Brampton builds our Community”](#). Since it is only 1 minute 6 seconds long, it is a video that can be used in a variety of promotional capacities by BBAC.

4. Business Cards for BBAC members

Lisa raised the suggestion about us having a simple business size card for handing out to cyclists that we come across on Brampton roads and paths. Dayle designed a simple card for Bike the Creek 2014 that she printed on some existing card stock for BBAC members to hand out. The new card should have our logo, website address, Bike the Creek save the date, for example. Since we have no budget, interested members may contribute a few dollars to offset the cost of printing.

Motion: that a card be designed, printed and be available for next meeting – proposed by Lisa, seconded by Kevin – carried

Action: Dayle to design business card and arrange printing

5. The future of BBAC

David reported that he has an upcoming meeting scheduled with Jacqueline Svedas (Coordinator, Special Projects, Planning & Infrastructure Services Department) to discuss the future of the Brampton Bicycle Advisory Committee within the context of becoming a Committee of Council.

Action: David to report on future of BBAC meeting at our November meeting.

6. Public Comment on MTO Cycling Programs

David reported that the Ministry of Transportation is looking for public feedback on the development of the [Ontario Municipal Cycling Infrastructure Program](#) by October 31st. David requested the infrastructure planners at the City of Brampton to make their input known to us, so that we can incorporate in our comments to the province. They responded by saying we should provide our input to

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them.

Action: BBAC members encouraged to provide feedback on the survey to David so that he can coordinate our response.

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7. [Community CarShare](#) Brampton Launch Jason Hammond (President) announced that this car sharing cooperative is launching a [new location in Brampton](#) on Church Street on November 1st. There will be a launch event on November 3rd. Interested drivers can [sign up](#) to hear all the details.

Events

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1. [Brampton Kids on Bikes Focus Group sessions](#)
October 23rd 6-7:30pm &
November 13th 6-7:30pm David and Polly will be leading 2 focus group sessions to learn and educate about barriers to children using active transportation to travel to and from school. This is part of the Heart and Stroke grant to research this issue. Both sessions will be held at: Bramalea Community Health Centre, 40 Finchgate Blvd., Suite 224
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2. Community Parks Day - October 25th, 11:00am-2:00pm City of Brampton has offered BBAC a free booth to be set up at the Soccer field behind Loafer's Lake Rec Centre. We can use the event to advertise Bike the Creek 2015, Brampton Kids on Bikes focus group sessions, Brampton Critical Mass Rides and voting in the municipal election, especially for those candidates who support active transportation. We may even hand out some free bike safety prizes! There will be a BBQ and games for the kids.
Action: BBAC members encouraged to attend and to let David know their availability. Lisa, Polly and Kevin have agreed to come.
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3. Bike the Creek Planning Rides & Meetings Meet at Jim Archdekin Recreation Centre (confirm with David if you are planning to attend)
North Loop – Tuesday Oct 28th 10:30am-1:30pm
South Loop – Monday Nov 3rd 1:00pm-4:00pm

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Next planning meeting: Tuesday Nov 18th 9:00am-11:00am

4. Brampton Downtown
Wayfinding Signage, Nov 2, 2014
10:00am-12:00pm

Wayfinding signage is meant to be whimsical and embrace cycling downtown for the benefit of cyclists, pedestrians and local businesses. It is meant to show downtown personality. An example: “10 minutes to the best tea in town”.

Action: BBAC members to gather at Brampton Downtown Development Corporation office on Main Street, just north of Vivian Lane. No tools are necessary as signs will be applied with simple zip ties. With many participants, this should only take an hour.

 5. FUSE Brampton Ideas Incubator
Speed Mentorship Thursday Nov
27th, PAMA

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.

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

 6. Critical Mass Rides

Critical Mass this Friday October 24th, Gage Park starting at 6:30pm (arrive by 6:15) – last Friday of every month (except this month to avoid Halloween)
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Referred Matters List

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

Action: Deferred until Nelson present
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2. Brampton Ward Rides **Action:** Bring forward discussion to January 2015 meeting, once new Councillors are in place

3. Mayfield Road Environmental Assessment **Action:** David to hear from Neal Smith regarding dates for public information feedback.

4. Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT) research project – Beth Savan & BDDC 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.

Meeting Adjourned 8:50p.m. Moved by Steve, seconded by Peter – Carried

Next meeting Monday November 17th at 6:30 p.m.