

An update from BikeBrampton:

- On Feb 12th, David and Dayle met with Councillor Santos in her office to discuss an update on the 'Big Ask'. BikeBrampton and Bikeport by Kevin Montgomery, working with staff and at the request of Councillor Santos, delegated the Big Ask to the Committee of Council on Apr 3, 2019. See [Big Ask Report](#) on pages 63-116, [Big Ask delegation sides](#) on pages 29-62, and [Big Ask YouTube delegation](#), which starts at 52 minute mark and ends at 1:38.45. Most of the Big Ask was incorporated in the ATMP, which went to Council in Sept 2019.
- On Mar 11th, all CCP (Community Cycling Program) bike hubs in Brampton and Caledon were closed due to COVID-19, as a result of an alarming Globe and Mail column by Health Reporter, Andre Picard: [Shut it down: It's time for Canada to get serious about social distancing](#).
- On Mar 23rd a conference call including Councillor Santos, Kevin, David, Dayle and Staff was held to update on the Big Ask. Also discussed was the necessity for guidelines on how to maintain social distancing, promote healthy activity, prevent large gatherings, safely tune up bikes, get vulnerable people on bikes, lock up bikes safely, what other cities are doing, partnering with Peel Public Health, biking to transit.
- On Mar 23rd, the Bike the Creek planning committee conference call (TRCA, Brampton, Caledon, Mississauga and BikeBrampton) voted to cancel the event for 2020. A new date of Jun 12, 2021 was selected. Please mark your calendars.
- On Mar 27th Dayle posted a blog [Cycling in COVID-19 times](#) on the BikeBrampton website.
- On Apr 3rd an article was published in the [Globe and Mail](#). David sent an email to Councillor Santos asking if it were possible for the city to temporarily dedicate some of the underutilized streets in Brampton to active transportation. She forwarded on the email to the Mayor, also citing concern for us practicing physical distancing.
- On Apr 4th, Councillor Santos emailed back that she and the Mayor were working on plans with Staff, and to stay tuned.
- On Apr 5th, David reached out to CCP Pedalwise mentors and protégés, who had expressed interest in how they could continue to cycle safely in their Pedalwise groups. He asked them for suggestions, and heard back from several.
- On Apr 6th, David emailed Councillor Santos on communication aspects in safe and healthy social distancing while biking. All those who had made suggestions were copied on the email.
- On Apr 7th, Councillor Santos replied, thanking the group for the excellent ideas, and said that the CAO would be providing the Mayor and her with recommendations on moving forward.
- On Apr 7th Dayle posted a [C.O.V.I.D.1.9](#) blog (based mostly on the Globe article), on the BikeBrampton website. Alina suggested the acronym for COVID. The Apr 2nd webinar in this post, is amazing to watch. [YouTube](#)
- On Apr 9th, Region of Peel informed BikeBrampton and PCHS, that the CCP (Community Cycling Program) is being renewed for another year.
- On Apr 9th afternoon, Ewa, one of our CCP Pedalwise protégés, noticed the COVID-19 temporary bike lane signs had just been posted.
- Lisa posted Ewa's photo on Twitter, which has exploded with positive comments about Brampton being 'cool' according to Vision Zero, with shout-outs to Mayor Brown and Councillor Santos. It has reached across Canada, US, Australia. Mississauga, Toronto, and Ottawa Twitter followers have asked that their Council and Mayors be nudged to follow Brampton's lead!
- David and Dayle followed up with Councillor Santos in the evening of Apr 10th. The Mayor, Council and staff are working 24/7 on this pandemic. Planning is evolving very quickly. It

requires input from a variety of city departments. They appreciate any help we can give them. We discussed a few ideas, like videos, tips for pathway/temporary bike lane etiquette, COVID-19 etiquette, a video on how to pack groceries on the bike and managing social media. Councillor Santos was not sure exactly which roads were selected for temporary closure other than Vodden at that time, as staff was still working on final details. She asked us to produce COVID-19 loop options that could be incorporated into a city map.

- On Apr 12th, David and Dayle cycled Vodden and determined that the route signed for COVID-19 temporary bike lane includes Vodden from Ken Whillans Drive east to Howden and then east to Central Park Drive. Notice of coming temporary signs appear at some of the intersections on adjacent streets, like Centre St.
- Dayle created a tips sheet and forwarded it to BCAC for comments to go to Councillor Santos the same evening.
- David designed COVID-19 loop options with input from Lisa. The purpose of the routes was to connect to essential trips to groceries, pharmacies, and health care. Exercise was considered for physical and mental wellbeing. These were forwarded to BCAC for comments. The package was sent off to Councillor Santos Apr 12th, Easter Sunday evening.
- On Apr 13th, David and Dayle had a conference call with Staff to discuss their thoughts on Route map edits. Brampton Communications was set to create a production quality map for residents.
- On Apr 14th, another follow up call with Staff occurred to clarify some more details.
- On Apr 25th, the City hosted its weekly COVID-19 Town Hall teleconference. More than 15,000 people 'attended'. During the meeting, a vote was held asking if residents voted yes or no that they approved of the temporary bike lanes. The response was 70% yes!
- On Apr 17th, the City will issue a Press Release, and some of the construction barrels are being installed.
- On Apr 18th, the bike lanes on both sides of Vodden and Howden will open. They are billed as "interim" as per the [City's website](#).
- On Apr 22nd, there will be a Press conference at City Hall, where the new route maps will be unveiled.
- Also on Apr 22nd, Share the Road Cycling Coalition along with TCAT (Toronto Centre for Active Transportation) will be hosting a webinar to bring Ontario Stakeholders together to talk through efforts to Rebalance Streets; the public health implications, feasibility, guiding principles. Brampton is the first in Ontario to implement this.
- It is anticipated that the City will subsequently hold a virtual Town Hall about the Big Ask and implementation of the ATMP. A consultant studied this and recommendation will be presented to the public.
- There will be an opportunity for the CCP (Community Cycling Program) to be involved in programming in a physical distancing manner as restrictions for COVID-19 lift. There could be bike repair in Garden Square, videos showing various aspects of BikeWrX and Pedalwise, that will add to the online aspect of our programming.

Report prepared by Dayle Laing