

BikeBrampton minutes

May 27, 2020 – 7:00pm – 8:00pm

ZOOM Video Conference call

Attendees: Lisa Stokes, Gurpreet Nagi (CCS), Heidi Berki, Kevin Montgomery, Steve Laidlaw, Wayne Noble, George Sheppardley, Councillor Rowena Santos, Rob Muller, Yvon Rockefort, Dayle Laing, David Laing, Leslie Benfield, Bruce Marshall, Alina Grzejszczak, Leonard De Sario, Barry Lavallee, Polly Thornham, Ewa Milewska
cc: Nelson Cadete, Vince D’Elia (TRCA)

Meeting Started: 7:00pm

Review & approve minutes [April minutes](#) – Steve - approved

Urgent Request for COVID-19 BikeBrampton Advocacy Priorities

1. **BikeBrampton Advocacy Priorities:** At our April meeting, Mayor Patrick Brown challenged us to advocate for more bike lane infrastructure. This is a once-only opportunity that we should seize during this pandemic and “unfreeze old patterns”. This item has therefore been placed at the beginning of the minutes. **ACTION: PLEASE SEE [ATTACHED SPREADSHEET](#) PDF TO SIGN UP FOR SUGGESTIONS BELOW THAT INTEREST YOU. DAVID WILL COORDINATE RESULTING GROUPS.**
 - a. **Request your Ward Councillors to have urban shoulders converted to bike lanes** – refer to the spreadsheet for the complete Ward list of city roads with urban shoulders that have been identified for future bike lanes
 - b. **Promote cycling to family-based sport events**, borrowing from other successful advertising campaigns linking to lifestyle eg. Automobile advertising
 - c. **Promote utilitarian cycling benefit** as a useful, integral part of daily life to get kids around, no matter how busy parents are. Returning to work away from home does not change this, based on our experience!
 - d. **Promote utilitarian cycling benefits at BikeBrampton pop-up repair café tent** to existing COVID-19 bike lane recreational cyclists to expand their use to purpose-trips ie. groceries, errands (low-hanging fruit).
 - e. **Promote Equity cycling benefits** for all ages, abilities, socio-economic groups, non-profits, community groups. Riding a bike extends marginalized people’s options. Teach people what

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they can live with and live without. Work with non-profits to promote to new immigrant groups (**Action:** Gurpreet Nagi to speak with her manager and contact David re adding cycling promo piece to her Service Canada presentations.) (Ardglen should reopen in the fall, as local townhouse residents are expected to return soon.)

- f. **Promote cycling economic benefits** to employers for work-from-home: downsizing from 2 to 1 car, lower cost of insurance, lower risk of vehicle collision costs (collision reporting down 80%) & injuries, avoid cost of regular transit use.
- g. **Promote “first mile – last mile” concept with Brampton Transit** to avoid people waiting for buses when transfers are needed. Limited schedule now. Cycling a short distance to the transfer point is less expensive and more efficient.
- h. **Social Media campaign** - participate with **key words:** #cycling #rideyourbike #cyclinglife #bikecommute #cycletowork #outsideisfree #mybike #commuting #gogreen **Velo Canada bikes Hashtags:** #bikefriendlycanada #peopleforhealthyplaces #bikestories **Share the Road Hashtag:** #bikescandothat

Brampton City Update:

1. **Vodden/Howden Interim Bike Lanes** [COVID-19 Bike Network Blog](#), [COVID19 Interim Bike Lanes Blog](#), [C.O.V.I.D.1.9 Blog](#), [Cycling in Covid Times Blog](#) – discussed that Howden bike lane is now painted and rental construction barrels are being removed. Staff supplied the [COVID-19 Bike Lane Bike Count for the week of Apr 27th](#).
2. **East – West Cycling Corridor Project** – 7km cycling facility on Vodden/Howden/Hanover from Isabella to Central Park Dr., Phase 1 of [ATMP](#) implementation – stakeholder and staff workshop for tomorrow (May 28th) to hear WSP consultant present the 30% project design progress report. – **Action:** report next meeting
3. **National Urban Cycling Strategy Motion** – [motion by Councillor Santos](#) at Council meeting May 13th, requesting Mayor Brown write a letter of support requesting national cycling infrastructure funding of at least \$265 million as part of COVID-19 economic stimulus package. [Supporting letter](#) by Jeff Binks, Red Mile Complete Street Advocacy Group, Calgary. Dayle sent this [BikeBrampton supporting letter](#). Councillor Santos reported that the motion passed unanimously by Council. Staff charged with working on Brampton’s official letter, which will be shared with BCAC and Region of Peel first. City will reach out to TRCA and CVC (Toronto Region Conservation Authority and Credit Valley Conservation Authority) for their support. Then the letter will go to Federation of Canadian

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Municipalities conference. Discussion about levels of government funding for cycling infrastructure. [Globe & Mail Architecture Critic Alex Bozickovic on TO bike lanes, May 24th](#); [Globe & Mail Urban Affairs Reporter Oliver Moore on TO bike lanes, May 25th](#). New Zealand “Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter has invited cities to apply for **90% funding** to widen sidewalks and carve out temporary cycleways, measures that can be put in place in hours and days rather than weeks and months that it can often take to install such infrastructure.” [Forbes Magazine Senior Contributor Carleton Reid, Apr 13th](#). Reid has been writing about transport for 30 years and describes this immediate taking of road space as “**tactical urbanism**”. NZ is the first country to make tactical urbanism into official government policy.

4. **New and Re-surfacing Road policy** – Councillor Santos reported that the Mayor put forward a motion to have all new and resurfaced roads be considered for bike lanes. **Action:** Dayle searched Planning meeting minutes - not yet posted. Bring forward for future search.
5. **BCAC Update** – Kevin reported on the unofficial May 19th ZOOM meeting, that Leslie and Rani will be attending **OBS** (Ontario Bike Summit) conference on behalf of BCAC. **Vision Zero** meeting Feb 3rd was well represented by stakeholders. While goals and targets for reaching Vision Zero were not specified, **Tactical Urbanism** was the approach selected for implementation. [BikeBrampton participated in a presentation at the 2014 [Tactical Urbanism Summit in Toronto](#). BikeBrampton also participated by installing the 2014 [Downtown Brampton Wayfinding Signs](#) in the 8-80 Cities’ Doable Neighbourhood Tactical Urbanism project.] There will be no **Community Rides** until at least the end of June. Jun 16th is the **next unofficial BCAC ZOOM meeting**. Kevin will submit a delegation of BCAC’s minutes to Brampton Planning & Development Committee to have meetings be on record.

Regional Update:

1. **PSARTS (Peel Safe and Active Routes to School)** – David reported on the May 21st virtual meeting: PSARTS received grant from Green Communities Canada. PSARTS engaged TRCA’s (Toronto and Region Conservation Authority) educational department to develop a teacher training program for both school boards for this autumn. TRCA has requested BikeBrampton’s CCP to create bike safety videos for this training. STOPR (the agency that runs the school buses), is tasked with developing an August campaign to encourage parents to allow their children to walk/bike to school. It may involve the “walking school bus” concept. Schools are closed until the fall and class sizes will be lower. It is expected that parents will avoid bussing their kids and may revert to driving without this PSARTS campaign. This was already PSARTS’ mandate; it’s more imperative now. Bike Month now in Oct.

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BikeBrampton Projects:

2. **(CCP) Community Cycling Program** – David reported that CCP has been renewed for another year by Region of Peel. [Final Report](#) , [Year two implementation plan](#) Many of the implications of COVID-19 were already considered in the plan. There will be a focus on use of videos for online instruction, including collaboration with TRCA as noted above. Dayle has created a “[Cycling Tips](#)” webpage under the Useful Links tab on our website. It includes the [COVID-19 Bike Lane Tips Video](#) that David, Steve and Dayle made. Councillor Santos suggested this video when we were discussing how to support the COVID-19 bike lanes. PCHS has supplied a Punjabi translation for this video. We will be adding other tips already prepared, and ones we are working on. These support physical distancing and safe cycling for COVID-19 and beyond. We also received a request from Caledon Regional Councillor Innis to create a trail etiquette video, since the Great Trail (Caledon Trailway) has slower cyclists and pedestrians that have been experiencing difficulties with cyclists blowing by without ringing their bells. This issue is applicable to Brampton trails as well. **Action:** please contact David if you wish to be involved in shooting any of these videos.
3. **CCP – Pedalwise** – Lisa announced our **Pedalwise Orientation Zoom calls** will be Thursday evenings weekly starting May 28th from 7:00-8:00pm. Lisa, David and Dayle are updating a 2015 presentation with extra tips, using local community images. It will likely take 5 sessions to complete the entire presentation given questions and interaction. David is inviting new and experienced Protégés and Mentors to attend. The goal is to provide a refresher and new information to bring everyone up to the same level of protégé theory training. David is in process of contacting protégés and mentors to sign up for the program again. Subcontractor contracts are being prepared. Kevin will be conducting a CAN-BIKE 4 advanced training for mentors this fall. This is an expensive program that will be offered for free for our mentors who make a commitment to the program. **Action:** members to put david@bikebrampton.ca into their contact list to avoid his emails ending up in their spam folders.
4. **CCP – BikeWrx Bike Loans** - Pedalwise protégé bike loan requests are up. They are handled by appointment only. We are using Ontario Health sanitation protocol, as per Region of Peel’s guidelines. *Everyone must wear a mask.* We have 5 new protégés, including a returning protégé who has moved back into our area, plus several who are renewing their commitment to the program. People have contacted us through our [Bike Donations](#) webpage and bike drop-offs also are by appointment. All members have noted big increase in cycling ridership in their areas.
5. **CCP – BikeWrx Repair Cafés** – Until we can safely reopen our bike hubs, having outdoor repair cafés will be the best option. It was one we were already considering for Bolton, prior to COVID-19.

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Councillor Santos had suggested a bike repair café set up in Garden Square, once emergency lock-down rules are lifted. It will have to be very carefully set up with appointments, well-spaced bike stands and sanitation. **Action:** David to contact Brampton and Caledon regarding permission and timing of when to proceed with this. Dayle to design and order an outdoor tent for this function. We had already ordered outdoor A-frame bike hub signs for Brampton and Caledon, after promotion discussions with Peter. This will bring good outdoor visibility.

6. **TCAT/ Share the Road Making Space: Adapting to Change Webinar** – May 27th – David and Dayle reported that Steven Farber (U of T Professor of Geography), Dave McLaughlin (National Active Transportation Practice Manager at WSP) and Shawn Smith (Senior Project Manager at WSP and author of Happy Trails) presented. Cycling trips are up 61% and transit use is down 90% in Toronto. More than 60% of TTC users will not return. Of these 60%, 8% are planning to switch to active transportation. A sidewalk of 5 metres can move 120 people/minute. We should expect short term solutions to be 1-2 years until vaccine is available, and then hopefully become permanent. Issues such as curbside bus stops and garbage collection can be worked out. TDM (Traffic Demand Management) needs to adjust to working from home. TDM has already determined that we can only build 30% of the previously projected demand by 2030! Markham SmartCommute has organized a “virtual bike ride”. DATA is most important for making decisions! Therefore, we need to drive that 8% AT mode share much higher!!! E-bikes will be increasingly important since they can take the average commute from 15kph to 22kph.
7. **Velo Canada Bikes** virtual meeting – May 25th – David reported discussion about the various programs across the country. Some discussion about interim bike lanes due to COVID-19 and quite a contrast of support in different communities – ranging from open to hostile Council response. **Action: Use hashtags: #Bikefriendlycanada #peopleforhealthyplaces #bikestories**

Referred Matters List

1. **Mentor training** – **Action:** Lisa and Steve to finalize re-certification training for existing and new mentors. This will include advanced skills for the practicalities of cycling – on-going
2. **Bike-a-thon** – Anu Sharma, PCHS Chair and President approached us re PCHS bike-a-thon activity for next year – **Action:** discuss possible date and time in May. David to contact Ms. Sharma to start the organization of the event. – carry forward to 2021.
3. **BikeBrampton Introduction Video** – it was suggested at the January meeting, that David’s introduction to the BikeBrampton background be captured on a short video clip that can be posted

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on our website.

4. **Etobicoke Creek Trail** – trail in Mississauga under the #401, closed until November, due to construction.
 5. **Trail signage** – trails have been audited for signage. – Esker, Chinguacousy, Don Doan – some sign installation along Esker Lake Trail – incomplete
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Events

1. **Critical Mass Rides**, last Fri of every month
Check [BikeBrampton webpage](#) for information to this casual ride. Group rides all cancelled now. Cyclists who wish to ride solo may do so. Vodden Street bike lane is the focus that has been discussed.
 2. **Ontario Bike Summit**
Postponed to Nov 9,10, 2020 - Marriot Courtyard 475 Yonge St. Toronto. Those already registered will continue to be registered, from cancelled Apr6,7th time. [Draft agenda from April](#)
 3. **Bike the Creek** Jun 12, 2021
SAVE the DATE. Check the [website](#) for 2020 details, still posted.
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Next meeting June 24th, 7-8:00 pm Meeting adjourned 8:05 p.m.