

BikeBrampton minutes

October 21, 2020 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

ZOOM Video Conference call

Attendees: Cindy Evans, Polly Thornham, Yvon Rochefort, Dayle Laing, David Laing, George Sheppardley, Richard Williams, Steve Laidlaw, Rob Muller, Tracy Zason, Angela Bennett, Eyad Khalifah, Bruce Marshall, Gerald Pyjor, Amy Lee, Heidi Berki, Peter Bolton, Andrew Ellis, Simran Gill
cc: Nelson Cadete

Meeting Started: 6:31pm

Review & approve minutes [September minutes](#) -Steve moved, approved

Brampton City Update:

1. **Williams Parkway Pause – proposed widening from 4 to 6 lanes** – going to Committee of Council Nov 18th. BikeBrampton has been discussing issue since June, when Council requested pause. We strongly recommend Option #3 and strongly oppose Option #1. MPP Kevin Yarde responded to David’s request, confirming that DC charges can be used for Active Transportation! We need the courage to establish leadership to see a different future in this critical watershed moment for a cultural shift. We need environmental protection that will lead to economic prosperity for all in our community (Equity), align with our 2040 Vision for a green city that accommodates AT; fulfill our Active Transportation Master Plan; meets our 7% AT mode share target for the CEERP. **Action:** Members urged to write/ phone their Councillors, depute by letter, video or live virtually if able, to pass along information to other groups with which you are affiliated, voice your opinion on social media.
 - a. [Williams Parkway Pause Letter Template](#), for writing to your Councillors (this contains a thorough analysis of the options, as prepared by a subcommittee of BCAC)
 - b. [Virtual Council Workshop Presentation slides](#) – Jun 15th
 - c. [Council Live Stream link](#) – Jun 15th
 - d. [BikeBrampton Blog post](#) – Jun 25th
 - e. [Steve Laidlaw’s op ed in Brampton Guardian](#) – Jun 30th on-line, Nov 12th paper edition - citing extra 35,000 sq metres of hard roadway surface for **storm water runoff**, in view

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of extra wastewater tax that all Peel residents are now paying!

f. [Sierra Club of Canada blog post](#) – Jul 2nd

g. [letter to Councillors from BikeBrampton](#) – Jun 18th

2. **New Bike Lanes –Vodden/Howden, Guru Nanak, North Park.** The hash lines of separation on Vodden will have some additional barrier separation, as planned for in 2021 road resurfacing. Howden will have both bike lanes and multiuse path. Hanover will have bike lanes. Central Park Drive bike lane from Howden to Bramalea Road has already been completed, and will be extended south to Clark Blvd. Additionally, bike lanes planned for Balmoral from Bramalea to Torbram, and on Main from Nanwood to Wellington. Very positive discussion about this expansion to our cycling network. Discussion about the safety of cycling on Sandalwood, particularly at Heart Lake Road intersection to Etobicoke Creek Trail. **Action:** Dayle document how to safely handle cycling this area:
 - a. We consider the Sandalwood Pkwy & Heart Lake Road intersection one of the most dangerous in the City due to proximity to #410 ramps. Eastbound cars frequently cut across 2-3 lanes of traffic to exit southbound on 410. It is unlikely they would see a cyclist using either the road or the sidewalk. This [google map link](#) documents the suggested route. Please note many of us routinely ride a short distance on the north sidewalk between Royal Palm Drive and Heart Lake Road, while yielding to pedestrians and using great care at the two ESSO station driveways. The google map cannot show this level of detail. Our personal safety is our primary concern, and while we do not advise cyclists to ride on sidewalks, which contravenes the by-law when tire diameter is greater than 50cm, this exception, in our opinion, is the safest option until proper infrastructure is available.
3. **Road Resurfacing** – Further to our September report, links to Lisa’s delegation videos are posted: Lisa with Barry’s assistance, made 2 videos demonstrating the difference between [cycling on an Urban Shoulder](#) and [cycling in a Bike Lane](#). Lisa’s delegation including the 2 videos and [her covering video](#) was made on Sept 30th at Committee of Council. She invited Councillors to accompany her to cycle on both types of infrastructure. The videos very clearly provide the cyclist experience. Discussion about more progress has been made on Brampton AT in last 2 years than in all of last 7 years since BikeBrampton began! Council support has made a huge difference. Comments from Mississauga cycling community, that Brampton is lightyears ahead.

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Regional Update:

1. **PSARTS (Peel Safe and Active Routes to School)** – Polly reported that over the past 30 years, numbers of children walking and cycling to school has declined. Result has been more traffic congestion. Our Type II Diabetes has increased, even amongst children. Positive academic performance has been shown to be tied to children transporting themselves actively to and from school. (See [BikeBrampton's Brampton Kids on Bikes report](#), the Academic Benefits and Interview videos, and links to school safety information that we have been involved with since 2014.) Polly added that PSARTS subcommittee prepared a communications plan that was sent out to parents over the summer months. Parents were directed to avoid the bus and walk or ride with their kids to school. David added that he is working with TRCA on a pilot project for a wayfinding program with kids that emphasizes route planning, markings on the pavement. It is scheduled to roll out in November with 3 schools in Brampton and 3 in Caledon. TRCA also produced a parent AT in schools [guidebook](#)

BikeBrampton Projects:

1. **CCP – Pedalwise Protégé October Cycling Challenge** – David reminded members that registered protégés sign up with him in response to his email, are eligible for a cycling challenge of \$.10 / km to a maximum of \$750 distributed equally amongst the participating protégés. 5,000 km will maximize the payout! So far, 19 have signed up, and 55 of our 110 protégés proteges are new since the spring. **Action:** Mentors, encourage your protégés to sign up and to track their rides on Strava.
2. **(CCP) Community Cycling Program – [smART Ride Contest](#)** -Angela reported that this is being launched tomorrow. “In partnership with BikeBrampton, The Rose is celebrating the beauty of the bicycle through ART. Through dance, poetry, visual art, monologue, music, comedy or the artistic medium of your choice, submit an artistic piece that celebrates cycling for your chance to WIN! Whether you are moved by the thrill of racing the wind; taking control of your commute to work; the joy of exploring nooks and crannies of Brampton’s valley trails; or simply the satisfaction of a carbon fiber frame over a carbon footprint, we want to know what it is about cycling that INSPIRES you! So, put on your thinking cap along with your helmet, and show the world how spokes and wheels speak to you! Contest closes November 30, 2020.” Angela said that the panelists will provide a group mentoring session with the top 3 artists and a \$200 honorarium for a virtual showcase performance. Panels include: Steven Schipper, Executive Artistic Director, Performing Arts, City of Brampton; Norbert Augustine, artist (5 Vivian Lane cycling murals); Kez Vicario-Robinson, Stand-up comedy non-binary artist; and Angela Boyer (Mshimkehn Ense Kwe),

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Indigenous advocate for arts and culture.

3. Toby – discussion about Kevin’s son, who is undergoing immunotherapy at Hospital for Sick Kids. Steve has organized that those who are participating in this month’s Critical Mass Ride can meet at 6:15 at Gage Park in Halloween costumes. As people arrive, leaders have been assigned to guide groups of maximum 5 cyclists to Kevin’s driveway to see the family from a safe distance. David has organized a [Go Fund Me](#) campaign. Kevin will have extraordinary expenses as the family takes Toby back and forth from the hospital. 50% of the funds raised will be donated to the Hospital.
4. **Brampton Bike Hub** – discussion about possibilities for operating the bike hub during COVID-19 this winter. It will depend on public health rules for group size, etc. PCHS is expanding room 108 by taking over the until next door as well (109). Opportunity for bike co-op in downtown. We have had repairs, donations accepted at the bike cage by appointment only. We have to wait and see...
5. **Bike the Creek** – save the date for Jun 12, 2021. The planning committee will have to assess again in the new year and see what is possible considering COVID-19.
6. **Etobicoke Creek under #401** – George reported that trail is still closed. Steve reported that is worse than back in the spring and it is not nearly ready.
7. **G2G Trail** – George reported that trail surface between Blyth and Goderich is great now.

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. **Protégé training – Action:** Lisa with assistance from Steve and Kevin conducted two series of 4 ZOOM calls to educate protégés. Response was excellent. This series will be scheduled for 2021.
3. **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.
4. **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 on our website.
5. **Etobicoke Creek Trail** – trail in Mississauga under the #401, closed until November, due to construction. It is sometimes open on the weekends...
6. **Trail signage** – trails have been audited for signage. – Esker, Chinguacousy, Don Doan – some sign installation along Esker Lake Trail – incomplete

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7. **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 Municipalities conference.
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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 limited to current COVID-19 standards. Cyclists who wish to ride solo may do so. Vodden Street bike lane is the focus that has been discussed. See item on Toby above for this month’s suggested route.
 2. **Ontario Bike Summit** Postponed to Dec 1-3, 2020 - 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, which are still posted.
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- Next meeting Nov 25th, 6:30-7:30 pm** Meeting adjourned 7:48 p.m.
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