

BikeBrampton minutes

February 17, 2021 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

ZOOM Video Conference call

Attendees: Yvon Rochefort, Dayle Laing, David Laing, Gerald Pyjor, Sonia Maset, Heidi Berki, Polly Thornham, Lisa Stokes, Cindy Evans, Barry Lavallee, Peter Bolton, Steve Laidlaw, Alina Grzejszczak, Bruce Marshall, Kevin Montgomery, Simran Gill, Rob Muller, Andrew Ellis, Wayne Noble, George Sheppardley

cc: Nelson Cadete

Meeting Started: 6:33pm

Review & approve minutes [January meeting minutes](#) - Cindy moved, approved

Brampton City Update:

1. **Brampton Snow Clearing** – Steve reported on his [delegation to BCAC](#) about winter maintenance. Discussion about valley paths being cleared by truck and priority winter wonderland network (including Etobicoke Creek Trail) are checked daily. Asphalt, not gravel paths cleared. Some bridges are too narrow for trucks and require hand clearing. Multiuse paths beside roads are cleared only to width of narrower sidewalks (1.5m). If both a sidewalk and MUP are present, only one is cleared. Bike lanes are cleared to the extent that plows clear to the road edge, which depending on the level of snow fall, may not completely expose the bike lane. New paint has worn off several of the new bike lanes over the winter. Snow level standards for clearing differ in valley vs. road. The City is responsible for clearing regional roads. City building bike racks are cleared by building staff. Therefore, gaps in service exist. BCAC plans to hold a winter maintenance workshop in one of the upcoming subcommittee meetings so that a complete discussion with recommendations may be made for a comprehensive policy for next winter. This is very positive progress on what has been a difficult annual winter experience for the cycling community.
2. **Bartley Bull Parkway bridge** – Steve reported that a City road engineer contacted AT staff for AT input into the bridge reconstruction design. Discussion about how positive this is that AT is becoming a consideration across City departments.
3. **Bike Lanes 2021** – Steve reported on [2021 AT Project](#) presented to BCAC by Staff. Demands for traffic calming, pandemic demand for increased AT space, and a priority Council focus has led to positive shift in AT for 2021. The [Preliminary Road Resurfacing Program](#), as discussed in January

BikeBrampton minutes

meeting, along with AT budgeted infrastructure will lead to approximately 25km of new bike lanes. Some of these will be in or adjacent to the Bramalea SNAP area. This new infrastructure will slow the traffic and make it much safer for commuter and recreational cyclists.

4. **Grow Green Network** – David reported that GGN, which is an offshoot of Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC), is in the process of taking the organization into not-for-profit. This will allow the 18 current member organizations to continue to operate between Council terms in an autonomous manner. Discussion about advancement of Brampton’s 2040 Vision and exciting news on the environmental front.
5. [Heart Lake Road & Countryside intersection EA](#) - Environmental Assessment announced in October on City Website. This is a traffic calming opportunity to **install a roundabout** at intersection of Heart Lake Road and Countryside Drive. Slowing traffic will help protect the wildlife on this road situated within a Provincially Significant Wetland, and which is designated a Cultural Heritage Landscape. City has adopted the short-range action items of the **Design and Function Review of Heart Lake Road Corridor Report**: installing 2 more wildlife culverts, and wildlife fencing. The roundabout was the longer-range action item. **Action:** members to familiarize themselves with this link to [HLR background](#) which has links to all the relevant documents since 2011. Please open City link and click on [Notice of Study Commencement](#) and make comments known to Dave Hallman and Soheil Nejatian. Timeline for comments not specified, but sooner is better.

Regional Update:

1. **PSARTS (Peel Safe and Active Routes to School)** – no committee meetings recently. Will likely be reactivated for June is Bike Month.
2. [BCAC Delegation to Regional Council](#) – Polly (BCAC Co-Chair) presented the delegation that she will be making on Feb 25th. The request is: “Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee respectfully requests a policy for notification and consultation of upcoming Regional road projects so that Active Transportation plans of Region of Peel and all three municipalities can be coordinated and implemented for the benefit of all road users. BCAC has worked with City of Brampton on a list of priorities for implementing the Active Transportation Master Plan’s network projects and road resurfacing opportunities. This leverages our goals and makes better use of municipal resources. This level of civic engagement allows the cycling advisory committee members to use their experience, expertise and local knowledge to provide valuable input that saves taxpayer dollars and benefits the community.”

BikeBrampton minutes

Kevin reported that google now longer allows people to update maps to add new cycling infrastructure. Discussion about mid-lines painted on MUP are helpful to control traffic flow for cyclists and pedestrians. Toronto Mayor indicated that it is not financially feasible to plow 2x/day.

BikeBrampton Projects:

1. **(CCP) Community Cycling Program** – David introduced the new Program Manager for the CCP, Sonia Maset. She will be working for PCHS full time. This evolution was in our Year Two workplan and we are pleased to welcome Sonia. She brings experience from her volunteer work at Bike in Peterborough and her cycling around the streets of Taiwan. She found us on the BikeBrampton website and is eager to build the equity and cycling confidence in our BikeWrx / Pedalwise programs in the CCP. In the next couple of weeks, David, Dayle and Sonia will be presenting the final report to the Region of Peel. This program contract ends Apr 30th. Provided renewal occurs, it could be supplemented with an additional grant to expand and ramp up the BikeWrx pop-ups. The objective would be to incorporate elements of Pedalwise and mentorship that have been difficult to offer during COVID. It is also difficult to replicate the success of some of the volunteer mentors without hiring additional staff. Idea is to operate with on-line registration to limit crowding beyond what public health permits, and to offer service 3 x /wk for 20 weeks. We found with the 10 pop-ups in 2020, that the public was asking for more frequency and return offerings to the same location. “Are you coming back tomorrow night?” In addition to offering bike repair, we could add route planning and skills assessment, and CAN-BIKE instruction for families, youth and adults. We envision engaging Brampton Performance Arts for comedy for a more engaging program experience. Schedules would be published well in advance and promoted via flyers into the surrounding community. See the [Interim Report](#) for assessment of needs. The Final Report will be published shortly. The City is offering a few adventure camps through Recreation. Our experience indicates there is a much larger demand for programming. Remember to lock your precious bikes! [Blog post on locking](#). Gerald reported he has repaired about 20 bikes this winter, in advance of the cycling season and potential demand from new protégés. David reported 4 have signed up recently. Bruce suggested we use a news release when we have an announcement to make.
2. **smART Ride Contest** – The panelists met and selected winners who then answered their skill-testing question! This has been a productive partnership between BikeBrampton and The Rose Theatre / City of Brampton. For the gala in COVID times, we will have a YouTube world premiere of a video compilation that showcases the winning art, features the artists’ descriptions of their pieces

BikeBrampton minutes

and what inspired them for artistic creation and cycling. The panelists will provide video feedback on the art pieces! City of Brampton will be working their magic to pull all this together into a video! Stay tuned for the time and date, which will be announced on the website and on social media. Panelists 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 (Mshimkehrn Ense Kwe), Indigenous advocate for arts and culture.

3. **Bike the Creek** – meeting planned for Mar 15th for partners to make plans for 2021.
4. **David Suzuki Foundation** – reached out to BikeBrampton to coordinate advocacy assistance for City of Brampton to achieve and exceed its Active Transportation targets for 2021. Exciting opportunity to work collaboratively with their superior level of expertise!
5. **Future Ground Network** – BikeBrampton has been invited to join this grass roots not-for-profit organization that builds cooperatively on everyone’s strengths. “supporting local action for a sustainable future”. FGN is a “hub of groups taking action in their communities to secure healthier, more viable futures in the areas of climate justice, biodiversity, waste reduction and sustainable systems. Joining the network means connecting with organizers from other groups to share best practices, find inspiration and work together to achieve common goals. Network members will gain access to free training and digital tools to help mobilize their communities and amplify their voices.”
Action: BikeBrampton members are encouraged to sign up. Once we have a quorum of 3, they will offer us a free welcome session to discuss our needs. Discussion about how Report on Business has frequent articles about corporations responding to shareholder demands for sustainability accountability.
6. **#413 Update** – (see Nov 2020 minutes for background.) Discussion about province’s expansion of Greenbelt announcement being expected shortly. #413 is coming up for vote at Region of Peel. Mississauga, Halton Hills, Vaughan are against. Brampton and Caledon have voted to request an EA from the federal government. Some greenbelt is scheduled for #413 development through wetlands and over ravines and conservation area. Much is ‘white belt’ in Caledon which is slated for residential; no longer farming. Caledon has to absorb 330,000 new residents over the next few years as per the Places to Grow Act. Issue is contentious since it is difficult to know how transportation demand will evolve with transit vs. personal automobiles. Very unlikely that demand will be on the same trajectory with the pressures of climate emergency and the fall-out from

BikeBrampton minutes

COVID-19 usage patterns.

7. **Old School Road, Caledon** – Region of Peel declining to sign road as a bike route despite wide paved shoulders. ROP suggests Boston Mills instead. Discussion about poor gravel quality of Boston Mills for cycling route. **Action:** members notify their Regional Councillors to request bike route signs on Regional roads.
8. **Orangeville-Brampton Rail Trail Update** – (see January minutes for background.) Trains have ceased to operate at end of 2020. Orangeville, Caledon, and Brampton are all interested in MUP for pedestrians and cycling. We need to advocate for 3 communities and Region of Peel to all contribute to make a rail trail happen. If it is sold to private enterprise, this opportunity will be lost. Caledon Trailway is perfect example of collective action for public benefit. **Action:** members to contact their Councillors to request the rail trail.
9. **Humber Trail** – Wayne reported that gap exists in mid Humber at Weston Road (south of #401). Plan to close gap by 2023. Toronto Councillors support. Trail will be important for Caledon and Brampton tourism, connecting to Waterfront Trail. Cyclists need B&Bs for accommodation along the trails. Municipalities are requesting parking for B&Bs, however cyclists will not need this!

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. **Trail signage** – trails have been audited for signage. – Esker, Chinguacousy, Don Doan – some sign installation along Esker Lake Trail – incomplete – **Action:** bring forward to March meeting
6. **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](#)

BikeBrampton minutes

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.

7. **Riverwalk:** Discussion re: bike facilities as part of Riverwalk and issue with tunnel under railway. Question whether AT can be included in CN building of 3rd track for 2-way all day GO train for 2024. **Action:** Dayle to report on AT status of Riverwalk.

Events

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| 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. |
| 2. Earth Day Apr 22, 2021 | 50 th Anniversary! |
| 3. Smelling Pink Festival | Virtual event. Cherry blossom walking tour in Joyce Archdekin Park, beside Etobicoke Creek Trail (opposite Brampton Mall, Main Street). BikeBrampton (David) has contributed bike route maps. |
| 4. Bike Month | May 31 – June 30 |
| 5. Bike the Creek Jun 12, 2021 | SAVE the DATE. Check the website . |
| Next meeting Mar 17th 6:30-7:30pm | Meeting adjourned 7:54 p.m. |