

BikeBrampton minutes

March 17, 2021 – 6:30pm – 7:30pm

ZOOM Video Conference call

Attendees: Cindy Evans, Tracy Zason, Barry Lavallee, Yvon Rochefort, Dayle Laing, David Laing, Lisa Stokes, Steve Laidlaw, Sunil Philip, Wayne Noble, George Sheppardley, Alina Grzejszczak, Bruce Marshall, Gerald Pyjor, Sonia Maset, Heidi Berki, Ewa Milewska, Simran Gill, Ross Redford

cc: Nelson Cadete

Meeting Started: 6:33pm

Review & approve minutes [February meeting minutes](#) - Steve moved, seconded by Bruce, approved

Brampton City Update:

1. [National Cycling Strategy](#) – Federal Minister Catherine McKenna announced \$400 million of funding over 5 years on March 12th. It is tied to trails, bike lanes and bridges that “can help Canadians get around, in faster, cleaner, and more affordable ways, ensuring good jobs while charting a path to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050”. Each community is figuring out what projects are ‘shovel-ready’. Discussion about Orangeville-Brampton rail trail. How the money will be allocated across the country is not known – more details early May. Mayor Patrick Brown sent a [letter](#) to Minister McKenna on June 24, 2020. BikeBrampton submitted our [response](#) to the National Urban Cycling Strategy Motion on May 12, 2020. David and Dayle attended the **National Bike Summit** in 2018, where the topic of a [National Cycling Strategy](#) was presented and discussed in a workshop.
2. **Active Transportation Annual Report** – going to Committee of Council on Mar 31st. Dayle will be delegating on behalf of BikeBrampton. (Agenda being published Mar 26th.)
3. [Riverwalk](#) – The Riverwalk Community Liaison Team Meeting was held Mar 9th. David, Dayle and Kevin attended. The City is receiving \$30.8 million from the federal government for flood protection. The risk of flooding has prevented development in Brampton’s downtown in the “Special Policy Area” (much of the downtown). Riverwalk will unlock development potential while flooding is mitigated. Riverwalk is part of the Etobicoke Creek Trail that is the backbone of the north-south cycling corridor for commuting, recreation and tourism. Other aspects of the design

BikeBrampton minutes

include a suite of unfunded proposals for this area. The City is seeking comments on the various designs ideas. The area of Ken Whillans Drive, Duggan and Roselea Park will be redeveloped, considering bike lanes on Ken Whillans and Centre Streets, enhanced bridges on Scott & Church Streets, grassed amphitheatre, public art, bioswales planted with native species and building intensification adjacent, creating a vibrant downtown. It is critical to consider how the trail will travel under the CN line. Expecting cyclists to exit and cross via Scott Street, then reconnect to the trail will not be convenient or be a workable option. The City has been engaging Metrolinx to use the opportunity when the tracks are being twinned, as has been done in Kitchener/Waterloo, where prefab concrete tunnels were placed with only a minimal 4-hour disruption. Polly is attending the [Riverwalk Public Information Session #2](#), which coincides with our meeting. **Action:** Dayle to request Polly to provide Riverwalk update at next meeting.

4. [Brampton Plan](#) – City is redoing its 2006 Official plan, last updated in 2014. Planners delegated at BCAC meeting. They personally commute to City Hall by bike. City-wide general workshop on Apr 10th 10:00-12:00. There will be a Climate Change session on May 10th and an Environment session on June 7th. The updated plan considers Brampton's 2040 Vision. **Action:** David to invite Staff to present at our next meeting.
5. **Grow Green Network** – David reported that this offshoot of Environmental Advisory Committee (BEAC), is in the process of becoming a not-for-profit organization, called **Brampton Environmental Alliance** (BEA). The focus will be on key environmental issues for advocacy and community outreach. The [Community Centre for Energy Transformation](#) (CCET), is also part of the implementation of Brampton's 2040 Vision (was originally to be called Institute for Sustainable Brampton).
6. [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

BikeBrampton minutes

and/or Soheil Nejatian. Timeline for comments not specified, but sooner is better.

Regional Update:

1. [Bike the Creek](#) – Wayne reported productive Monday meeting with focus on partner collaboration. It will be a virtual event over Bike Month (June), with an opportunity to enhance signage to make routes more permanent.
2. [BCAC Delegation to Regional Council](#) – Polly (BCAC Co-Chair) delegated to Region of Peel Council on Feb 25th with these [comments](#). Council received her delegation and requested Staff to report back on her request for “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.” Discussion about opportunities to improve quality of regional road infrastructure, ie. [‘porkchops’](#), narrow pavement on multiuse paths, inconsistent driveway treatment, pavement quality not of same standard as roadway. Porkchops require technical maneuvers to navigate the crossing. Porkchops do not work with Cross-rides, which are superior for cyclist safety, and instead favour driver speed for turning corners. One member reported that a newer porkchop at Queen and Laurelcrest has not resulted in drivers slowing down. A truck driver hit a young girl at this intersection. This is contrary to the main policy of Vision Zero. “Slip-lanes” are a danger because drivers are not looking to the right, only the left. Cyclists and pedestrians must assume that drivers cannot and will not see them. Discussion about speeding on Countryside Drive in Brampton, and in Caledon where a driver was clocked doing 140km/hr in a 60 zone. Residents have indicated they want speeds in their communities reduced. Bike lanes are being used as a speed-control solution, which we support, especially when they are buffered where possible. Lisa provided [image](#) that shows an excellent example of a raised cycle track along Hwy #7 in Vaughan. Intersections at driveways are seamless, and paint is used instead of switching from asphalt to concrete. How do we inspire change? 20 years ago, a young couple was killed by a driver turning right. Brampton residents were very affected but there has not been change to the design. With an update to OTM Book 18 Standard and with this motion to have both levels of government and the

BikeBrampton minutes

cycling advisory committees working collaboratively on solutions, we are confident that change will occur to make regional roads safer for cyclists and pedestrians. **Action:** David to invite Senior ROP Staff and Regional Councillors to cycle this infrastructure (in a safe, controlled manner that educates without scaring and displays positive changes as well as areas for improvement).

3. **PSARTS (Peel Safe and Active Routes to School)** – David reported there is a meeting next month to update the Terms of Reference.

BikeBrampton Projects:

1. **(CCP) Community Cycling Program** – David, Sonia and Dayle presented the [Year Two CCP Final Report](#) to the Region of Peel and then another presentation to bike hubs in Mississauga, Scarborough, Markham and Sheridan College, as well as Culture Link and Toronto Centre for Active Transportation (TCAT). This program contract ends Apr 30th, with a renewal option.
2. **smART Ride Contest** – We eagerly await the video premiere as the City prepares for our virtual showcase of the contest winners! We expect April.
3. **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!
4. **Future Ground Network** – BikeBrampton has joined 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." They offered us a free welcome session to discuss our needs, since we have a quorum of 3. **Action:** Additional BikeBrampton members are encouraged to sign up for this valuable resource.
5. **Caledon** – Wayne reported there will be 60km of [Caledon signed bike routes](#) this year. Region of Peel will sign a section of Olde Base Line, but wants to add extra pavement for wider shoulder, rather than restripe lines for narrower traffic lanes. Old School Road may be closed starting June 1st. Cycling infrastructure being added in Alton. Connections are being added to Etobicoke Creek Trail, West Bolton, Harvest Moon, Coleraine, Emil Kolb, Duffy's Lane, Castlederg. Three new bike repair stands: Southfields, Cheltenham, and Palgrave to be installed in May. Bolton signs installed by May

BikeBrampton minutes

1st. Paving middle of July. **Action:** members notify their Regional Councillors to request bike route signs on Regional roads.

6. **Orangeville-Brampton Rail Trail Update** – (see [January minutes](#) for background.) Orangeville, Caledon, and Brampton are all interested in MUP for pedestrians and cycling. Another rail company has submitted a proposal to continue the line for trains, which would potentially be good for connecting goods and people movement inter-regionally. 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.
7. **Claireville Trail North** – Lisa reported trail will start from parking lot at McVean Farm, just south of Queen Street East. It travels north, under Queen, following West Humber River, for about 3.8km and exits north of Cottrelle. It will connect from the ravine up to neighbourhoods. Route is impressive and well designed. Only issue is the limestone screenings trail surface and lack of winter maintenance. To be called AT, winter maintenance is required, as per our ATMP. Completion date scheduled for 2022. **Action:** Lisa will send a letter to TRCA Project Staff, requesting asphalt paving to make this an accessible AT route. Lisa to report back at Apr meeting.

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 2022
4. **BikeBrampton Introduction Video** – it was suggested 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 future meeting

Events

BikeBrampton minutes

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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 51st Anniversary! David has been invited to speak on behalf of BikeBrampton at [Climate Change Youth Forum](#) 7:00-8:30pm – re: Active Transportation impact on the Environment

 3. [Smelling Pink Festival](#) DIY event. BikeBrampton (David) has contributed bike route maps for the Pink Scavenger Hunt, and been part of the organizing committee. Brampton Bike Hub has contributed 1,000 gift cards for the FREE gift bags. (ongoing adjustments for COVID).

 4. [Bike Month](#) May 31 – June 30

 5. [Bike the Creek](#) Virtual event being planned for month of June. Check the [website](#).

 - Next meeting Apr 21st 6:30-7:30pm** Meeting adjourned 7:45 p.m.