

# BikeBrampton minutes

**November 17, 2021 – 6:30pm – 8:30pm**

ZOOM Video Conference call

**Attendees:** Steve Laidlaw, Cindy Evans, Dayle Laing, David Laing, Lisa Stokes, Avani Kalicharran, Tyron Nimalakumar, Sonia Maset, Barry Lavallée, Joshua Lyttle, Wayne Noble

**cc:** Nelson Cadete

**Meeting Started:** 6:35pm – Land acknowledgement (Day of Truth and Reconciliation)

---

**Review & approve minutes**    [October Meeting Minutes](#) – Minutes approved

---

## **Brampton City Update:**

1. **How BikeBrampton works** – David explained for the benefit of several new members, that BikeBrampton is comprised of volunteers who encourage, promote and advocate for increased safe cycling in Brampton and Caledon. Our goal is for more people to cycle or walk for shorter trips instead of using cars to get around. It's better for the environment, it's better for our community and it's better for our health. The City of Brampton has an official citizen advisory committee of Council called the Cycling Advisory Committee (BCAC). The committee is mandated to provide input and advice to City staff and to Council regarding the development and maintenance of a safe and connected cycling network within the City of Brampton and to neighbouring municipalities as part of an integrated multi-modal transportation system and developing a culture in Brampton where cycling is a desirable activity and mode choice for both recreational and utilitarian purposes. BCAC assists staff with the development, implementation, and monitoring of the Active Transportation Master Plan. It reviews legislation and polices relating to cycling and advocates to City Council and other legislative bodies for cycling-supportive legislation and policies. It represents the broad interests of the Brampton cycling community and facilitate opportunities for additional community input. BCAC promotes all forms of cycling activities within Brampton through campaigns, community rides and events
2. **Streets for People** – update on 2021 implementation.
  - 10.6 km of bike lanes implemented (bike lanes, urban shoulders and multi-use paths)
  - 1.8 km of bike lanes are under construction
  - 2 bike-friendly signalized bike crossings (we have seen many more than 2)

# BikeBrampton minutes

---

- 22 PXO have implemented (pedestrian cross overs)
  - 25 curb cuts at walkways and trails
  - In response to Council's query about the new partially implemented **bike lanes on Charolais Blvd**, Lisa made a delegation to Committee of Council with this [video](#). She took the video during a ride along the street and overlaid it with commentary that clearly explains how and why this road fits into the network and the importance of a road diet for overbuilt underutilized roads. You can [watch](#) Lisa's video delegation and the subsequent Council discussion. It starts at 2:23:23 for item 6.8. **Action:** members are requested to send emails to their Councillors, tag their Councillors on social media regarding the importance of bike lanes to connect the network and reduce traffic speed for better safety.
  - Steve reminded us of the Jul 1, 2020 [shocking car crash on William Parkway](#) as reported on Global News. The driver lost control, smashed through a fence and flipped numerous times on adjacent Commodore Drive. Here's the Narcity [video](#) of the same incident, plus the aftermath and careless driving arrest. It was alleged that the driver was street racing at around 150km/hr. How can you argue against the need to traffic calm our streets? This would save much time if Peel Regional Police were not having to attend to these road crashes. The police budget would be saved, and our roads would be safer. Tyron commented that the social media complaints about aggressive driving far exceed negative comments about bike lanes! Steve added that bike lanes are added to streets that do not need 4 lanes due to low traffic count. Tyron suggested that residents oppose just because it is new. **Action:** idea for safety poster comparing screen capture of air-borne car vs. photo of family cycling along Howden bike lane.
3. **City Staff Bike Tour** – Lisa sent a follow up [letter](#) to staff and Councillor Santos, thanking them for the Aug 4<sup>th</sup> 30km ride, pointing out what works and what does not work. Lisa made positive suggestions for improvement to the Streets for People implementation roll out. **Several cross rides** have been installed over the last couple of years. They are a benefit to cyclists, however the need to stop and push the 'beg' button, even when vehicular traffic has a green light, is a barrier to seamlessly cycling on a road's adjacent multi-use path. The city is experimenting with methods to improve this. Steve reported that his recent read of the updated OTM Book 18 (Ontario Traffic Manual), encourages the engineering of cycling infrastructure so that cyclists can maintain a steady speed without constantly asking cyclists to inefficiently come to a stop. It is an outdated idea that

# BikeBrampton minutes

---

cyclists are inherently irresponsible and will come flying out from pathways and that you cannot count on drivers to see cyclists. Brampton is more risk-adverse than Toronto in this regard.

Discussion about the **great new curb cuts**, particularly along trails that intersect roads. This is a move to recognizing the responsibility of cyclists and to make it safer for cyclists with trailers, mobility devices. A depressed curb means cyclist spend less time in the potential conflict area as they cross a road. Conclusion that members are pleased to see AT progress.

4. **Clark Blvd & Eastern Ave EA** – A number of members submitted comments that David compiled into a BikeBrampton position [letter](#) which David has submitted on behalf of BikeBrampton.
5. **Budget 2022 “An Open Letter to Mayor Brown and Members of Brampton Council regarding Grow Green Initiatives”** – this letter from Brampton Environmental Alliance was endorsed by BikeBrampton at the last meeting. Individual members are encouraged to sign it via the link above. It is also going before BCAC on Dec 14<sup>th</sup>. Council is being encouraged to prioritize Brampton’s Grow Green initiatives including the ATMP (Active Transportation Master Plan). Steve commented that when a street fails, it is at the edge of the pavement. If you have light weight vehicles (bicycles), this should extend the life of roads before they need resurfacing. This is another benefit of bike lanes! [Vehicle Weight vs Road Damage Levels](#): Compared to an average car, a “fat man on a freakishly heavy bicycle” causes 0.00006 of the amount of road damage.
6. **Brampton Tourism Meeting** – David reported on the meeting with Brampton Tourism Staff. They are adding cycling tourism to their program plans. They are looking at 3 night/4 day tour from Toronto, through Mississauga, Brampton, and Caledon. This is an area that BikeBrampton has been working on with the City for years and we are delighted to see progress. It would combine cycling up the Etobicoke Creek Trail from the Waterfront Trail, or starting from GO Transit, and extending north to the Caledon Trailway. Hotels, B&Bs, restaurants, cultural attractions would be part of the package. According to [DestinationNEXT 2021FuturesStudy](#), sustainability is one of the 3 transformational opportunities related to travel trends.
7. **Orangeville-Brampton Rail Trail** – The train has recently stopped running and it appears that progress is being made on next steps, but we do not have any information. (See [January minutes](#) for background.) Orangeville, Caledon, and Brampton are all interested in MUP for pedestrians and cycling. The Mayor of Orangeville is pro turning it into a rail trail. 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

# BikeBrampton minutes

---

of Peel to all contribute to make a rail trail happen. If it is sold to private enterprise, this opportunity will be lost. The trail areas needing infrastructure are bridges at the Forks of the Credit and at #401. This rail trail could potentially extend north to Owen Sound. Wayne said the Caledon Trailway is perfect example of collective action for public benefit. Lisa cited the excellent example of emulating what Quebec has done with the Petit Train du Nord. **Action:** members to contact their Councillors to request the rail trail.

---

## Regional Update:

1. **Bike the Creek 2022-** first meeting scheduled for next week [Bike the Creek](#)– David – [blog post](#)  
Check out all the cool videos with drone shots! Save the date Jun 18, 2022! We are planning for an in-person event, starting at Jim Archdekin. City of Brampton arranged an ad in Ontario by Bike.
  2. **CCP Update** – Sonia reported the [CCP interim report](#) has been submitted. *This is an impressive read!* We interacted with 2,348 people during the 46 delivered BikeWrx pop-up sessions against a target of 2,000. 1,291 hours of volunteer staffing work. Energetic, young people volunteering at the bike cage to help with bike repairs to the 100 donated bikes. At least one student is now riding regularly who wasn't before. Massey Street Public School is taking children size bikes. Hopes to recruit more mentors for 2022 post COVID.
  3. **Downtown Bike Hub Location** – Sonia reported she is awaiting the signed lease agreement for the 36 Main St. storefront. Space is 900 square feet in total including main floor and basement. Occupancy scheduled for December and opening in the spring.
- 

## BikeBrampton Projects:

1. **NE Sunday morning rides**, leaving from McDonald's (Bramalea and Sandalwood Pkwy) at 9:30am
  2. **Nomination for Share the Road Wheels of Change award** – Dayle reported that BikeBrampton will be making a submission, which is due in January.
  3. **Re-Imagine the Parking Lot... Back Door Approach (John Street Junction)** [Poster](#), [Press Release](#) - David and Sonia hosted a BikeBrampton booth along with downtown merchants and the Downtown BIA on October 31<sup>st</sup>. Since Main and Queen will be torn up for construction for a couple of years, this will allow back door access to retail. It will encourage AT walking and cycling from adjacent low volume streets. Tracy Pepe is attempting to get downtown Brampton "Bike-certified".
  4. **Unnamed Trail west of McLaughlin** – Steve and Lisa reported that there trail west of Flower City Senior Centre, the McCleave Forest Conservation Area and the Roy McMurtry Centre. Some is comprised of desire lines and much of it is paved. It is a promising north south connection from
-

# BikeBrampton minutes

---

Queen St south to Torrance Woods (at the back of St Brigid School). It connects to the Charolais bike lanes and intersects the Orangeville-Brampton railway. **Action:** Lisa to discuss with Nelson re potential route.

---

## Caledon Update

1. Wayne reported that the **PXO installed on Olde Base Rd on the Caledon Trailway**, west of McLaughlin is an outstanding issue. There are currently no lights and minimal signage. Wayne has mentioned this to the Region. Lisa did a site visit and took photos. **Action:** Lisa to send Manvir an email with her photos.
  2. **Humber Station Rd** is nearly completed. It will have painted wide shoulders with asphalt curb at Caledon Trailway crossing #3.
  3. **Grange Rd** is now complete between Horseshoe Hill Rd and Heart Lake Rd.
  4. The **Caledon Trailway** is open, but construction for fibre optics between Olde Base and Gore Rd.
  5. Caledon will not be going to the **TO International Bike Show**, as event is postponed. Vendors do not have product to sell.
  6. Another **bike repair stand** has been budgeted for Bolton. Installation possibly next spring.
  7. Caledon has placed ad in **Ontario by Bike**. **Action:** lobby Ontario by Bike to put event in Brampton/Caledon.
- 

## Referred Matters List

1. [BCAC Delegation to Regional Council](#) –**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).
  2. [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
-

# BikeBrampton minutes

---

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.

3. **Bike-a-thon** – Anu Sharma, PCHS Chair and President approached us re PCHS bike-a-thon activity for next year – **Action:** Sonia to contact Ms. Sharma to see if there is still interest for an event in the spring of 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

1. [Critical Mass Rides](#), last Fri of every month  
Some members plan to do a Toby’s ride for the November CM and include Toby’s Way. **Action:** Lisa to reach out to Kevin to reconfirm. Check [BikeBrampton webpage](#) for information to this casual unstructured ride. Group rides limited to current COVID-19 standards. Cyclists who wish to ride solo may do so.

2. [Bike the Creek](#)  
June 18<sup>th</sup> 2022. Check the [website](#).

---

**Next meeting Wednesday  
December 15<sup>th</sup> 6:30-7:30pm** Meeting adjourned 7:45p.m.