

BikeBrampton minutes

June 24, 2020 – 7:00pm – 8:00pm

ZOOM Video Conference call

Attendees: Cindy Evans, Wayne Noble, Heidi Berki, Eyad Khalifah, Alina Grzejszczak, Dayle Laing, David Laing, Gerald Pyjor, Rob Muller, Nelson Cadete, Steve Maxwell, Lisa Stokes, Anmol Kalsi, Steve Laidlaw, Councillor Rowena Santos, Peter Bolton, Simran Gill, George Sheppardley, Angela Bennett, Bruce Marshall, David Cooper, Tricia Prato, Gerry, Alex Srdoc, Louis Kdouh, Kevin Montgomery, Polly Thornham, Phirose Philip, Chinonye Ugwu, Andrew Ellis, Barry Lavallee, Yvon Rochefort

cc: Nelson Cadete, Vince D’Elia (TRCA)

Meeting Started: 7:07pm

Review & approve minutes [May minutes](#) – Eyad, Bruce - approved

Brampton City Update:

1. **Williams Parkway Pause – proposed widening from 4 to 6 lanes** – discussion about our critical watershed moment for a cultural shift to positively impact City’s growth, align with our 2040 Vision for a green city that accommodates AT; fulfills our Active Transportation Master Plan. We need the courage to establish leadership to see a different future. We need environmental protection that will lead to economic prosperity for all in our community (Equity). Discussion about posters up along Williams Pkwy that make Option #1 rendering appear to have trees, when there would actually be mostly wall-to-wall asphalt/concrete. We strongly recommend Option #3 and strongly oppose Option #1. **Action:** Members, make yourself aware of this issue (a.), take the [SURVEY](#) (b.), write/phone your Councillors, 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. **ACTION: City of Brampton SURVEY link – deadline Aug 1st!!!**
 - c. [Virtual Council Workshop Presentation slides](#) – Jun 15th
 - d. [Council Live Stream link](#) – Jun 15th
 - e. [BikeBrampton Blog post](#) – Jun 25th

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- f. [Steve Laidlaw's op ed in Brampton Guardian](#) – Jun 30th
 - g. [Sierra Club of Canada blog post](#) – Jul 2nd
 - h. [letter to Councillors from BikeBrampton](#) – Jun 18th
1. **East – West Cycling Corridor Project** – (turning the **COVID-19 interim bike lanes along Vodden/Howden** into permanent infrastructure) - 7km cycling facility on Vodden/Howden/Hanover from Isabella to Central Park Dr.– Discussion about Phase 1 of [ATMP](#) implementation – stakeholder and staff workshop May 28th. WSP consultant presented the 30% project design progress report. - Discussion about the importance of this critical piece of east-west infrastructure which was a feature of the “Big Ask”. Discussion about a small group to meet virtually with Staff and Consultant regarding next steps. Lisa and Dayle volunteered.
 - a. [COVID-19 Bike Lane Bicycle Count comparisons](#)
 - b. **ACTION: [Have your Say Public Engagement Survey](#)** – critical for us to fill out this survey to make our opinions known to Staff
 - c. [COVID-19 Bike Network Blog](#), [COVID19 Interim Bike Lanes Blog](#), [C.O.V.I.D.1.9 Blog](#), [Cycling in Covid Times Blog](#)
 2. **BCAC Update** – Steve reported the Community Rides are cancelled for 2020. Great demand for routes for new cyclists and families. Refer to [Bike the Creek webpage](#) for planned routes of different lengths.

Regional Update:

1. **Regional AT Infrastructure** – Construction projects on Queen St E, Dixie Rd. – Esker Lake Trail gaps at Queen Street without signage or infrastructure to show where trail starts again. Discussion about taking every opportunity to include AT infrastructure during regional road construction projects. Recent opportunity not taken for signage or pathway during reconstruction of curb and sidewalk at NE corner of Queen and Laurelcrest/West Drive, or continuation of trail at Norton Park on south side of Queen. On Dixie Road, south of Steeles, road reconstruction without AT infrastructure. This route links to north end of Etobicoke Creek Trail at GTAA airport lands (Dixie and Mid-Way Blvd.). Recommendation that ROP delegate road projects to BCAC for AT input to take advantage of every opportunity for increasing AT mode shift and wise use of taxpayer money, in keeping with [Peel Sustainable Transportation Strategy, 2018](#).
 - a. **BikeBrampton [letter to ROP staff](#)** - Jun 18th
 - b. **[ROP letter to BikeBrampton](#)** – Jun 30th

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c. [BikeBrampton back to ROP](#) – Jul 1st

2. **PSARTS (Peel Safe and Active Routes to School)** – David reported bus capacity this fall will be reduced from 70 to 12 kids to meet physical distance standards! Essential to avoid increase in volume of parents driving children to school with an AT campaign. Pre-pandemic school rush hour traffic was already 20-25% due to parents driving kids. 70% of kids live within 2-7 kms from schools, which is easily walkable/cycleable. 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. PSARTS received grant from Green Communities Canada and 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 create bike safety videos for this training. We have submitted our portion of the ABC Quick Check, which is being edited by TRCA.

BikeBrampton Projects:

1. **(CCP) Community Cycling Program – BikeWrX Repair Cafés** – Until we can safely reopen our bike hubs, having outdoor repair cafés are being planned. David has been in contact with Brampton and Caledon and is organizing permits and insurance. We had already ordered outdoor A-frame bike hub signs for Brampton and Caledon, after promotion discussions with Peter. We have ordered a branded BikeBrampton/Brampton Bike Hub/ Caledon Bike Hub tent. The events will have to be very carefully set up with well-spaced bike stands and sanitation of tools, masks, face shields, hand sanitizer. Sign in sheets and waivers are necessary before service. The focus will be on pathway etiquette, making sure cyclists have bells and know when to use them. We did get ROP bells and will need more. Masks must be worn. **Action:** see Events below for dates. Let David know if you are available to volunteer.
2. **CCP – Pedalwise** – Lisa reported on our **Pedalwise ZOOM Orientation Zoom interactive presentation series** Thursday evenings 7-8pm weekly. First series held May 28, Jun 4, 11, 18. Lisa reported 15-25 attendees per call with positive comments about the learning experience for everyone, even very experienced cyclists. Lisa, David and Dayle updated a 2015 presentation with extra tips, using local community images. Sessions included presentation with question and answer. David invited new and experienced registered Protégés and Mentors to attend. The goal was 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.

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Action: See Events for next round of ZOOM calls.

3. **CCP – BikeWrx Bike Loans** – 17 new Pedalwise protégé bike loans in past 4 weeks! 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*. People have contacted us through our [Bike Donations](#) webpage and bike drop-offs also are by appointment.
4. **#DiscoverBramptonbyBike** – Lisa started hashtag with her social media posts. Focus on cycling for transportation in Brampton. Include images of loaded bike, destinations. Post to Twitter, Instagram. Councillor Santos and other members have also been using hashtag. – good promotion for COVID-19 destination cycling and general appropriate AT habits.
5. **Share the Road 5th “E”** – discussion about Enforcement having been removed from Share the Road’s 5 “E”s which are: Education, Engineering, Encouragement, Evaluation, Enforcement. Since 2013, BikeBrampton has included “Equity” as our 6th “E”, on the advice of Portland Oregon’s Bicycle Transportation Alliance. – Discussion about importance of achieving **Vision Zero**, increase in reckless speeding during COVID-19 low volume roads, **hit and run crashes** injuring and killing cyclists and pedestrians, and **cyclists’ poor behaviour** that have blocked Caledon Roads. Peel Regional Police laid **70—80 charges of street racing** so far during their campaign. Discussion about the concept of enforcement as conforming to societal norms to prevent anarchy. Consideration of years of partnership with **Peel Regional Police** and **OPP Caledon** in Bike the Creek, Greg’s Ride, Peel School Safety Committee, Bramalea CycleFest, Bike Month events, etc. **Community policing** is practiced in both Brampton and Caledon, where there are **officers riding bikes**. PRP offers **bike serial number registration** to deter bike theft. Discussion about lack of police visibility for enforcement, and increased use of technology instead. There are **10 speed cameras** in Brampton school zones, which will be reset in September. **Comments and feedback encouraged** from members both during and after this meeting. This is a sensitive topic where consensus may be reached, however, each of us has had a different life experience that may make consensus not possible. Share the Road has taken this step regardless of any feedback from their cycling communities; aligning itself with the American League of Cyclists, which runs the Bike Friendly Community program. **Action:** Please reach out to David to make your views known if you were not able to do so during the meeting. BikeBrampton has always attempted to provide a safe inclusive environment for all our members.
6. **Brampton Grow Green Network** – relaunch meeting held Jun 17th with over 40 participants,

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representing about 20 organizations. Support given for GGN Mission and Vision for Brampton moving towards environmental sustainability. Brampton's environmental plans align with organizations' goals although they would like to see more focus on equity and increased biodiversity. The top three things members would like to gain from participation in the Network are: Opportunities to network, ability to form partnerships, Access to workshops. **Next meeting:** Aug 12th 7:00pm

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 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

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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.

- 2. **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

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 on our website.
4. **Etobicoke Creek Trail** – trail in Mississauga under the #401, closed until November, due to construction. It is sometimes open on the weekends...
5. **Trail signage** – trails have been audited for signage. – Esker, Chinguacousy, Don Doan – some sign installation along Esker Lake Trail – incomplete
6. **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?
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

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Valley Conservation Authority) for their support. Then the letter will go to Federation of Canadian Municipalities conference.

Events

1. BikeWrx Pop-up Cafés

Sat Jun 27, 10:00am-12 - The Journey parking lot, 9 Ardglan Drive. This will be our 1st event. By appointment: info@bikebrampton.ca

Sun Jun 28, 10:00am-12 – Valleywood, Etobicoke Creek Trail, at foot of Newhouse Park

Sat Jul 11, 10:00am-12 – Caledon East, on Caledon Trailway, W of Airport Rd

Sun Jul 12, 10:00am-12 – Duggan Park, Etobicoke Creek Trail, S of Vodden bike lanes, E of Ken Whillans

Tues Jul 21, 6:00-8:00pm – Somerset Dr PS, Etobicoke Creek Trail, N of Sandalwood

Wed Jul 22, 6:00-8:00pm – Valleywood, Etobicoke Creek Trail, at foot of Newhouse Park

Thur Aug 13, 6:00-8:00pm - Esker Lake Trail at Vodden bike lane, Parr Lake North Park, E of Lakeridge Dr.

Fri Aug 14, 6:00-8:00pm – Brampton Downtown

Sun Sept 14, Brampton Downtown

Mon Sept 15, Bolton, Caledon

Bike mechanics on site with strict physical distancing, sanitation. Focus on safety, trail etiquette, ROP bells, lights, municipal maps. Wear masks, everyone!

2. Pedalwise ZOOM Orientation

For registered Pedalwise mentors and protégés. Second series of interactive presentations – July 2, 9, 16, 23. 7:00-8:00pm. If you do not receive an invitation from David, send him an email: info@bikebrampton.ca **Action:** members to put david@bikebrampton.ca into their contact list to avoid his emails ending up in their spam folders.

3. [Critical Mass Rides](#), last Fri of

Check [BikeBrampton webpage](#) for information to this casual ride. Group rides all cancelled now. Cyclists

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every month

who wish to ride solo may do so. Vodden Street bike lane is the focus that has been discussed.

4. 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](#)

5. [Bike the Creek](#) Jun 12, 2021

SAVE the DATE. Check the [website](#) for 2020 details, which are still posted.

Next meeting Sept 23rd, 7-8:00 pm

Meeting adjourned 8:26 p.m.