

BikeBrampton Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 12, 2025 – 6:30pm – 8:00 pm Virtual Meeting

Attendees: Sonia Maset, Steve Laidlaw, Heidi Berki, Polly Thornham, David Laing, Dayle Laing, Barry Lavallee, Brandon Quigley, Ewa Milewska, Meghan Coleman, Wayne Noble, Cathy Pickering

Meeting started: 6:30pm

Review & approve minutes from last meeting

Indigenous Land Acknowledgment

[February Meeting Minutes](#) - Steve moved to approve minutes. Passed

Brampton City Update

1. [Outdoor Adventure Show – Feb 21-23rd, International Centre](#) – Thank you to all who volunteered. Our volunteers are key to promoting tourism and our programs at this event. Bike the Creek (registration open), Community Rides and Different Spokes were promoted. QR codes allowed the 572+ attendees to register and get more information. Brampton’s booth was across from Caledon. Mississauga exhibited a week later in the e-Bike show and is considering the Outdoor show next year. Range from children to seniors attended. One person came from Quito, Ecuador! Wayne added many said they knew about BtC and had ridden before. No negative comments from any attendees. Brampton displayed 5-minute video loop. Attendees glanced at portions of the video. 4 volunteers voted to use video idea again; one voted against. Wayne also attended the e-Bike Show, and does not recommend attendance for either Caledon or Brampton. Consensus recommendation is the Outdoor Adventure Show for next year.
2. **ATAC** – interim meeting suspended for March.
3. **Etobicoke Creek Trail under QEW** – although located in Etobicoke, this is part of our ECT connection southeast through Mississauga and Toronto to Lake Ontario. Steve requested an update from Toronto Councillor Amber Morley re the storm-damaged condition of ECT under the QEW. Before the storm, the trail was in rough shape and had not been completed or paved. It was barely passable. After the storm, it was worse. A trail easement agreement was made with MTO, for this provincial highway. A shoreline enhancement

BikeBrampton Meeting Minutes

design was completed by TRCA. Trail construction is now anticipated for Fall 2025 to late 2026.

4. **Winter Storm Maintenance** – Steve presented issues of snow clearing and removal due to two huge back-to-back storms in February. Wayne commented on problems all over Ontario, including Toronto and even Montreal (which is accustomed to more snow than we are). There were 10-12ft snowbanks covering bike lanes in northern Ontario. When there is that quantity of snow, plows cannot see where the bike lanes or barriers are located. The guard rails in rural areas are somewhat easier to see than the bollards in urban areas. Hence the damage we noted to concrete barriers and metal flexi-posts on Vodden. Wayne added that snowblowers take 3-4x longer for clearing than when using trucks with blades. People walked in the bike lanes when their sidewalks were not cleared. Subsequent snow drifts filled in previously plowed areas. While it is understandable that maintenance was overwhelmed and delayed, there were still bike lanes not cleared three weeks after the last storm, despite completely clear roadways. Steve will be raising this at ATAC to make AT snow clearing a priority.

Regional Update

1. **[Different Spokes](#) Downtown Brampton Bike Hub update** – Sonia reported it was confirmed today that she has another year of funding for the Community Cycling Program (CCP) that is run out of Different Spokes location.
 - a. **Spring workshop series:**
 - i. Intro to Repair – Fri Mar 14th 6pm
 - ii. Spring Cleaning & Maintenance – Fri Mar 28th 6pm
 - iii. Brakes – Fri Apr 11th 6pm
 - iv. Intro to Repair – Fri Apr 18th 6pm
 - v. Gears & Drivetrain – Fri May 9th 6pm
 - b. Winter hours remain the same. Check website for spring hours and workshops. Annual Membership fees are \$50. One-time workshop fee for DIY use of tools is \$20. Book your time slot.
 - c. Hotel on Rutherford has been renovated as a transition house for youth. Sonia reported her team will be supplying donated bikes for their youth, as per request from Peel Region.

BikeBrampton Meeting Minutes

2. [Bike the Creek](#) – June 7, 2025 – Our region-wide signature cycling event. Sonia reported her group will once again run the bike valet and minor bike repair. Heidi reported she has a ladies medium BtC jersey available (fits a small). Wayne supports both BtC technical jerseys and more economical cotton t-shirts for sale. Please forward the [Sponsorship Package](#) to any businesses you think would be a good fit.

BikeBrampton Projects

1. **Update on Ontario Bill 212** – The *Charter Challenge will be held on April 16th*. In March, the judge stayed the decision on the temporary injunction against the province. During the injunction hearing, the province produced an internal document showing that prior Bill 212 passing, MTO staff had reported to the Minister, that ***collisions were expected to increase by 54%***. The judge asked for clarification and commented that although the province legally had the right to remove bike lanes, there was no credible reason for doing so. It does not appear any bike lanes will be removed before the 16th. Check Cycle Toronto for ongoing protest rides. Etobicoke Lakeshore MPP Christine Hogarth (riding where Bloor St bike lanes located) lost her seat to Liberal candidate, Lee Fairclough in February election. Ridings along the 3 bike lanes in question went to Liberal or NDP, not Conservative candidates. The position against bike lanes was not a political win. Polly noted that in pure numbers, Green Party Leader Mike Shreiner received more votes than any other MPP in Ontario. It's not too late to sign [Cycle Toronto's petition](#) "I love bike lanes", which now has over 26,325 signatures!
 - a. [Cycle Toronto's quotes from MTO internal document](#):
 - i. ***"Cycling has been shown to have a positive impact on congestion in North American cities."***
 - ii. ***"...the net result of bike lane removals could simply be more vehicles queued along already congested streets without significant reductions in travel times."***
 - iii. ***"[removing protected bike lanes]...suggests more than 54% increase in the total number of collisions (i.e., for all road users, not just those involving cyclists)."***

BikeBrampton Meeting Minutes

2. **George will be inducted to the City of Brampton Sports Hall of Fame on Tuesday May 6th at The Rose Theatre in the “Builder, Cycling” category – congratulations George for your much deserved honour!** Rose Theatre 6pm. Tickets are \$55 for adults. Ceremony at 7pm. Call box office: 905-874-2800 or <https://tickets.brampton.ca/Online/seatSelect.asp> Let’s get a group going!

BEA Projects

1. **Brampton Environmental Alliance Annual General Meeting** March 19th – [REGISTRATION. Sign up for, or renew your membership.](#) It’s only \$15/yr. (\$10 for youth or seniors; \$20 for organizations). Location: Green Briar Rec Centre.

Caledon Update

1. Wayne reported Caledon Trailway may not open until 3rd week in April due to the heavy snowfall and late spring.

EVENTS:

1. [Ontario Bike Summit](#) – May 27-30th, Windsor, Share the Road Cycling Coalition – Canada’s largest cycling and active transportation conference
2. [Bike the Creek](#) –June 7, 2025. Registration open!

[Different Spokes](#) Rides & Workshops

BikeWrx Workshops & Rides, Different Spokes: [Registration to attend events](#)

Adjourned 8:00-pm.

Next meeting April 16, 2025 – 6:30-8:00pm.