



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: David Daglish – Chair Presiding, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Joel LaCourse, Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters, Kelley Teahen, Christine Lee (Avon Trail)

Staff Present: Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Nick Sheldon – Project Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Inspector Jason Clarke

Regrets: Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Pat Ranney (Cycle Stratford)

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and The General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

Seconded by Councillor Burbach

THAT the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting dated October 22, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

4.1 Suggestions for an Alternate Bike Route for Erie Street

Nick Sheldon stated that in the Transportation Master Plan, the Erie Street bike route is listed as a priority route. The committee could look at alternate routes to push an existing planned non-priority one up to a priority.

Members have discussed John Street as an option if the new parking lane is removed. Councillor Burbach stated that most of the staff opposition to the bike lanes on John Street were due to the Queensland intersection and potential safety issues with adding a bike lane where the road narrows. Councillor Burbach also noted that with John Street now having a parking lane, it makes it even more unsafe to ride a bike along it, even though it is signed a "bike route". Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters stated that it is important to look for a route with dedicated bike lanes, as opposed to a signed route.

Members discussed St. Vincent Street as an alternate route, bringing the alternative suggestions for St. John Street back to Council after it had been previously tabled or possibly exploring the option to pave a bike lane on the west side of Erie Street in lieu of the existing sidewalk.

Kelley Teahan explained that the only way to keep people safe is to have dedicated lanes for walkers, bikers and drivers. Painting lines does not keep cyclists safe. Stats indicate walkers and cyclists are greatly reduced when there are separate bike lanes (bollards, planters, etc.). Members discussed the possibility of a rumble strip along the painted bike lane, to notify drivers that they have entered the bike lane.

Nick Sheldon stated that a 3.5m wide driving lane is usually the target for roads. Bike lanes should be at least 1.5m wide.

Motion by Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

Seconded by Christine Lee

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends painted bicycle lanes with a rumble strip on John Street (from Queensland Road to Easson Street) and a signed bicycle route on Easson Street (from John Street to Church Street) as an alternate cycling route to the previously approved bike lanes on Erie Street. Carried

4.2 Discussion on Priority of the Proposed Pedestrian Cross-overs on the Transportation Master Plan

Kelley Teahan inquired if the pedestrian crossing is still being installed on Downie Street at George Street. Nick Sheldon stated that the crossing is still scheduled to be

completed. It is currently in the design stage and is scheduled to be installed in 2026.

Kelley Teahen suggested that the timing for pedestrian crossings at traffic lights should be adjusted for the wider 4-lane roads. The timing to cross some 4-lane roads is the same as the timing to cross 2-lane roads. Ms. Teahen used the example of crossing at the lights at Front Street and Ontario Street. The timing to cross over Ontario Street (4 lanes) is the same as the timing to cross Front Street (2 lanes). Councillor Burbach noted that the City of Toronto has started using advanced pedestrian signals, which turns the pedestrian signal on and all the traffic lights for cars remain red and the pedestrian gets a three second head start. Ms. Teahen stated that steps need to be taken to make crossing over 4-lane roads in Stratford safer. Inspector Clarke stated that most of the injuries are happening on the 4-lane roads and mainly at intersections (with and without traffic lights). Ms. Teahen stated that the data on what intersections would be interesting to review.

Councillor Burbach stated that the installation of pedestrian crossings on 4-lane roads and highways should be placed as top priority. Nick Sheldon stated that there are currently two on the list (Erie Street and Ontario Street).

Members discussed the Ontario Street crossing (at Parkview or Queen Street) and a crossing on Erie Street (at St. David Street). Both locations are busy and should be given priority installation. Councillor Burbach inquired if pedestrian crossings are required to be at intersections or can they be mid-block. Nick Sheldon will inquire if they can be offset in between intersections.

Motion by Kelley Teahen

Seconded by Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends the pedestrian crossings on Erie Street at St. David Street and Ontario Street at either Queen Street or Parkview Drive be made priority locations for installation. Carried

Kelley Teahen inquired if there has been any feedback regarding some of the recent pedestrian crossings installed on Waterloo Street and McCarthy Road. Councillor Burbach stated that she has not received any direct feedback, however she has witnessed cars not stopping for pedestrians and hopes that it will just be a matter of time for drivers to get used to having the crossings in these new locations.

5. New Business

5.1 Pedestrians Crossing on Huron Street near Matilda Street

Joel LaCourse inquired if there can be something done to deter people from unsafely crossing Huron Street at Matilda. It is always very busy with students in that area and an unsafe area to cross. Councillor Burbach stated that she did request a crosswalk there and has been informed that it is being included as a possible add-on location. Vicky Trotter suggested reaching out to the secondary schools and doing a campaign to encourage students to walk down Forman Avenue and cross Ontario Street at the lights for safety. Members like the idea of a campaign and working with local community officers who visit the schools regularly. Ms. Trotter will work with Inspector Clarke regarding campaign options for the secondary schools, specifically student council or school clubs.

5.2 Pedestrian Bridge near Dunn's Bridge (Old Grove Area)

Christine Lee previously inquired about the City possibly installing a bridge near Dunn's bridge and the matter of a landowner issue and questioned if it is a Conservation land issue or a private owner issue. Nick Sheldon stated that the property is owned privately.

6. Date of Next Meeting

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Kelley Teahen

Seconded by Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

THAT the November 26, 2025 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:02 P.M.

End Time: 8:23 P.M.