



A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on March 24, 2021 at 7:03 p.m., electronically.

Committee Present: David Daglish – Chair presiding, Councillor Burbach – Vice-chair, Councillor Vassilakos, Wayne Sjaarda, John Zelek, Stephen Barlow and Lee Chandler

Staff Present: Ed Dujlovic – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk and Nancy Bridges – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Laura Edgar – HPPH

Regrets: Bernard Goward

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the ATAC meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Stephen Barlow

THAT the ATAC minutes dated February 24, 2021 be adopted as printed. Carried

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting May 4, 2021 at 11:30 a.m.

David Daglish and Councillor Burbach volunteered to attend the May 4th Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting to discuss project priorities.

b. Report Card design update

Councillor Burbach noted that she has updated the draft report card to include transit and other relevant data. She is waiting for information from Engineering and once updated she will circulate to the committee for review.

Councillor Vassilakos noted ATAC has money in the budget to make the report card look esthetically pleasing. She recommended reaching out to Stratford Police Services to obtain updated 2020 accident data.

David Daglish inquired when the updated Bike & Pedestrian Master Plan will be available. Councillor Burbach noted that staff still need to be hired and part of their position will be to complete this review.

c. Infrastructure deficiencies report

Mr. Daglish enlisted the help of a friend who has been walking routes around every road in Stratford making note of infrastructure deficiencies. He provided a summary of the findings to the committee as well as a map highlighting problem areas. Councillor Vassilakos noted the narrative that accompanied the map was very informative. Mr. Daglish noted his friend will continue to walk and provide updates as necessary.

John Zelek stated he has a list of deficiencies and will provide the information to Mr. Daglish so a complete list can be compiled.

The committee agreed that there is an issue with installing a multi-use trail on Lorne Avenue as the Province has not indicated when the by-pass will be constructed. Ed Dujlovic, Director of Infrastructure and Development Services noted the by-pass has been in discussion for numerous years and there are still many studies to be completed and funding to be obtained prior to the Province continuing with the project. He does not anticipate this project being completed in the near future. Staff may need to decide whether the multi-use trail is a priority and proceed without a decision from the Province.

The project recommendations from ATAC will be presented at an upcoming Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting and then a joint recommendation will be made to staff.

5. New Business

a. TJ Dolan Drive Closure

Wayne Sjaarda stated he attended the public meeting regarding the closure of TJ Dolan Drive and understood the concerns that were brought forward regarding winter conditions on St. David Street. He recommended TJ Dolan Drive be converted to a one-way street with a multi-use trail beside the road. Councillor Vassilakos noted TJ Dolan Drive requires a lot of repairs and there are problems with flooding. The maintenance and repairs are expensive in relation to the number of users. The number of days where weather would be an issue does not merit eliminating the multi-use trail project. Councillor Vassilakos noted converting the road to a multi-use trail would allow for parking to be included in the design.

Mr. Daglish inquired whether flooding would be an issue with a multi-use trail. The Director noted that the ground under the road becomes over saturated and then when the heavy cars drive on the road it becomes weak and causes damage. Walking and biking would not cause the same damage

and therefore flooding should not occur. Staff are looking for an option that preserves the mature trees in the area and a one-way street combined with a multi-use trail may not allow for this. The one-way street option will be addressed in a future staff report. There have been no issues noted by emergency services regarding this option.

Councillor Vassilakos advised the intent is to reclaim parkland and save money on road maintenance and repair. The multi-use trail will be maintained all year round.

Motion by Lee Chandler, seconded by Wayne Sjaarda

THAT the ATAC recommends the City consider constructing a multi-use trail from St. David Street to Centre Street upon the closure of TJ Dolan Drive. Carried

b. Federal funding for active transportation infrastructure

Mr. Daglish noted the Federal Government has announced a \$400 million grant program specifically for active transportation infrastructure. Councillors Vassilakos and Burbach, and the Director agreed that this appears to be the same money that the government has announced a few times already. The Director noted \$342,000 has been awarded to Stratford and the application to obtain the funds has been submitted. The funds would cover the cost of Phase 1 and 2 of the TJ Dolan Drive conversion to a multi-use trail project. There are numerous other projects that could be completed with the funds should this project not be approved.

Mr. Zelek inquired whether the applications could be combined with the County to obtain more money. Councillor Vassilakos noted that Stratford is a single tier municipality therefore it is difficult to jointly apply for funds with another municipality. The Director stated joint applications are rarely done unless there is a project both municipalities agree has a favourable outcome. For example, the creation of bike lanes on a rural road that continues into the City.

Mr. Zelek wondered if the Guelph to Goderich trail could be a project where collaboration with another municipality would be an option. Councillor Vassilakos noted that RT04 would be a good organization to work on an extension of the trail into Stratford. RT04 (tourism) funding would be a better option than infrastructure funding.

c. Wayfinding

Mr. Sjaarda wondered if the committee would be having any subsequent discussions on wayfinding. Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, advised staff circulated information to committee members for review and comments were received from the Avon Trail. Future discussions will be scheduled for the May ATAC meeting.

Mr. Sjaarda noted the Wayfinding strategy report does not include much information about cycling and he is concerned that cycling routes may be missed.

The City Clerk noted the consultant did their best to include every aspect of wayfinding but some areas require additional work, including cycling. Staff will be reaching out for feedback in the future so that cycling can be included in the final implementation plan.

d. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, April 28, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

e. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Lee Chandler

THAT the March 24, 2021 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start time: 7:03 p.m.

End time: 7:43 p.m.