



A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on May 26, 2021, at 7:07 p.m., electronically.

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

**Staff Present:** Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk and Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Laura Edgar – HPPH

**Regrets:** Stephen Barlow and Anna Stratton

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## MINUTES

### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the ATAC meeting to order at 7:07 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 Wayne Sjaarda

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

### 4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

#### a. Report Card update

Councillor Burbach noted there were no updates on the statistics portion of the report card and she will reach out to Stratford Police Services to obtain data prior to the next meeting.

#### b. Wayfinding update

Tatiana Dafoe, City Clerk, reviewed the wayfinding project and implementation plans and noted the first round of wayfinding signs have been installed in the downtown core. She noted ATAC has \$5,000 included in their 2021 budget for TJ Dolan trail head signage, installation and education. She outlined the requests that were made by the Avon Trail organization, including the use of blue blazes, small trail signs, the 24 locations that were identified and educational signage in the TJ Dolan parking lot.

The Clerk noted bicycle wayfinding would need to ensure directional signage completes all links, that the marked routes have regulatory signage and pavement markings. The wayfinding strategy estimated \$25,470.00 for 18 bicycle directional signs and \$57,300.00 for 15 multi-use directional signs around the Avon River. She reviewed the next steps and suggested a sub-committee of ATAC be formed to provide feedback prior to the June ATAC meeting. Bernard Goward, John Zelek and Wayne Sjaarda volunteered for the sub-committee.

The Clerk noted staff will then begin work to draft a design and aim for possible signage installation in October 2021 to be ready for the 2022 season.

She confirmed that Community Services staff have no objections to painting the blazes on the trees. A wayfinding memo will be forwarded to ATAC members after the meeting.

Councillor Vassilakos inquired if the TJ Dolan should be the focus for 2021 as there are funds set aside in the ATAC budget. The Clerk agreed and recommended the committee then review the plan as a whole and list the priorities going forward.

Councillor Burbach noted that funds may allow for signage that incorporates the blazes. The Clerk suggested reviewing the intent of the signage and amending the information to be included. Councillor Burbach asked Wayne Sjaarda if a node system would work in Stratford. Mr. Sjaarda noted this type of system is intended for rural applications and not shorter City routes.

The Clerk stated she will contact the three members of the sub-committee to arrange a meeting in the next few weeks.

## **5. New Business**

### **a. Review of ATAC member composition and Terms of Reference**

The Clerk explained the reasons for the proposed new composition of Energy & Environment members on ATAC. The proposal would reduce the current two (2) representatives to one (1) representative. This representative would always be the Vice-Chair of the Energy & Environment advisory committee.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Lee Chandler

**THAT ATAC request Council amend the Terms of Reference to reduce the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee representation on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee from two representatives to one. Carried**

### **b. Bicycle Friendly Community Award**

Councillor Burbach reported that Stratford received an honourable mention this year for having a safe place to bike, but she feels it leaves room for

improvement. A media release has gone out and ATAC should discuss if some sort of signage would be beneficial.

**c. Share the Road Report**

Councillor Burbach reviewed the feedback report received from Share the Road.

**1. Engineering - Update Transportation Master Plan**

Councillor Burbach will reach out to the Director of Infrastructure and Development Services to see if, during the process of updating the Master Plan, ATAC can review and provide feedback. Councillor Vassilakos noted there will be a public consultation process and that Vision Zero has been incorporated into the plan.

**2. Scaling up bike parking for businesses**

Councillor Vassilakos noted the idea of providing bike parking at a cost to businesses has been included in the bike parking plan with Community Services. Reviewing the bike parking plan will be added to the June ATAC meeting for discussion.

**3. Integrate cycling and public transportation**

The committee agreed on investigating the feasibility of adding bike racks to the transit busses or budgeting for them to be included when new busses are purchased. A request was made for the Manager of Transit to attend the June meeting. John Zelek suggested consideration be given to allowing riders to bring their bikes onto the bus.

**4. Connecting Cycling Network through an across-town route and building accompanying infrastructure**

Councillor Burbach noted that adding the T.J. Dolan trail may assist with connections but a completed route is a difficult concept. Councillor Vassilakos stated that the goal is not a perfectly connected route; it is a signed, safe route through the city. Bike lanes, combined with the parks system and T.J. Dolan trail will make completing a safe route more feasible.

**5. Focus on all ages and abilities**

Councillor Burbach noted the City requires more infrastructure work but the T.J. Dolan link will help. The City needs to be looked at as a whole to see where to create new links using the Transportation Master Plan as a guide.

**6. Education**

Councillor Burbach noted there needs to be an increase in bicycle and road safety training and that Cycle Stratford could be a good resource.

Mr. Sjaarda noted that on the Cycle Stratford website there is a plan called "Ride with Confidence" which is a free two-day program being held on the last two Saturdays of June at the parking lot of St. Mike's Secondary School. Space is limited to eight participants due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Councillor Burbach noted the bike rodeo will hopefully run next year for children in the community and there may be ways ATAC can assist. It would be beneficial to work with the Corporate Communication Lead at the City to create educational information to post. Creating annual education posts that are coordinated and include all aspects of licensing, safety and Share the Road concepts is ideal. A brief explanation of the bike licensing program was provided. An updated education plan could be rolled out for Spring 2022. The City Clerk noted staff would appreciate ATAC providing specific information that they want included in the education plan.

7. Expand School Travel Plan to more schools

Councillor Vassilakos advised all schools in Stratford have participated, however the pandemic paused further school planning programs. Going forward the program will require dedicated manpower at the schools and they will need to individually choose to continue with the program as there is no longer City staff to assist.

8. Encouragement

Councillor Burbach noted encouragement can come in the form of investing in cycling and trails as a tourism and economic development strategy. She recommended getting involved with the Ontario by Bike Network.

Members were advised Destination Stratford participated in a webinar which encouraged businesses to attract cyclists to Stratford. Councillor Vassilakos noted that having the BIA register with the Network might be something for Stratford to review and easier than expecting each individual business to join.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by Lee Chandler

**THAT ATAC recommend that the Stratford City Centre BIA consider registering to become Ontario By Bike certified. Carried**

9. Offer an open street type event by closing off major corridor to auto traffic and allow for pedestrians, cyclists and outdoor group activities

The committee discussed closing Lakeside Drive to traffic again this summer. Members are supportive of the closure and encouraging events such as yoga and walking groups.

Motion by John Zelek, seconded by Wayne Sjaarda

**THAT ATAC recommends to the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee that Lakeside Drive be closed again for the 2021 summer season. Carried**

10. Continue to plan and implement Bike Month

Councillor Burbach noted this would be a 2022 project to review.

11. Evaluation and Planning

Councillor Burbach noted the Engineering Department may be hiring a specialist in this field to assist with and work on active transportation projects.

12. Develop and apply Complete Streets Design Approach

Councillor Burbach noted there should be a standard Infrastructure design for engineering when tendering and planning jobs. Include Complete Streets design on new projects and reconstructions.

13. Take advantage of Provincial and Federal Infrastructure Funding Programs

The committee agreed this should be an ongoing discussion so they can be ready when potential funding becomes available.

14. Establish annual goals and report to Council

Councillor Burbach recommended the Committee list annual goals and make recommendations based on short-term goals developed using the Master Plan. Councillor Vassilakos suggested integrating goals into the report card design and showing what ATAC wants to see happen in the upcoming year(s).

Wayne Sjaarda inquired who receives this Share the Road report. Councillor Burbach noted that currently it is only ATAC that reviews the report however she suggested providing it to Council for their information. Councillor Vassilakos noted she will discuss with staff when a good time would be for an ATAC representative to attend an Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting to present the report for information and discussion. This would also get some public exposure because currently the meetings are recorded and posted to social media. David Daglish noted he would be interested in being the presenter at this meeting.

**6. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, June 23, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.**

**7. Adjournment**

Motion by John Zelek, seconded by Lee Chandler

**THAT the May 26, 2021 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 7:07 P.M.  
End Time: 8:14 P.M.