



A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on June 23, 2021, at 7:03 p.m., electronically.

Committee Present: Councillor Burbach – Vice-chair presiding, Councillor Vassilakos, Wayne Sjaarda, John Zelek, Bernard Goward, Stephen Barlow, Anna Stratton and Lee Chandler

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Taylor Crinklaw – Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, *Michael Mousley – Manager of Transit and Nancy Bridges – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Laura Edgar – HPPH

Regrets: David Daglish

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

The Vice-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 John Zelek, seconded by Wayne Sjaarda

**THAT the ATAC minutes dated May 26, 2021 be adopted as printed.
Carried**

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

The manager of Transit was not present at the meeting yet therefore the Committee agreed to move his item to later in the meeting.

a. Open Street Events for Lakeside Drive

Councillor Burbach noted Council has not approved a road closure to date as there are many factors to consider, including the Stratford Festival and Summer Music.

Steve Barlow recommended making Lakeside Drive one-way and continuing it all the way around the river. He noted this would be a good compromise for all users and would be good as a long-term solution. Councillor Burbach noted the high costs involved to make the road one-way, including safety

barriers. Councillor Vassilakos noted one-way streets often lead to higher vehicle speeds and therefore safety is a large concern. Staff are looking at a more long-term solution for around the river to accommodate separated cycling infrastructure. Taylor Crinklaw, Director of Infrastructure and Development Services noted no RFP has been issued to hire a consultant to investigate this solution. Ideally there will be a proposal by the fall and implementation by 2022. The Director will follow-up with the Stratford Festival regarding their schedule and thoughts on the temporary summer closure.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos, seconded by John Zelek

THAT the ATAC expresses support for the weekend closures of Lakeside Drive during the summer;

AND THAT staff be requested to reach out to the Stratford BIA to look at other road closures that can be incorporated to encourage open street events in other parts of the City's core. Carried

Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit is now present at the meeting – 7:13pm

b. Installation of Bike Racks on City Transit Buses

Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit, noted there is not a large need for bike racks on busses. Current policy says it is driver discretion whether to allow a patron to come on the bus with their bike. The bus being full is the main factor for not allowing someone to bring their bike on the bus. The peak times are primarily between 7:30 am - 9:00 am and 3:00 pm - 4:30 pm. It is the rider's responsibility to secure the bike while on the bus.

The Manager noted the following issues when considering the addition of bike racks to the front of the busses:

- The storage garage is too small. It is made for 14 busses and currently it stores 15. Bike racks would add 2-3 feet to the front of the bus.
- Intention to switch to battery electric busses in the future and they require a lot more infrastructure for charging. Space will become even more of an issue at that time. May need to look at new facility.

The Manager provided examples of the different styles of busses available and noted that the City has the Nova style. The driver sits relatively low in the Nova style bus and the bike rack impedes their sightlines making it not the ideal style of bus for bike racks. The New Flyer and Orion bus styles are more suitable for bike racks as the driver sits much higher.

Laura Edgar, HPPH, inquired if there is directional signage or bike mounts on the bus. The Manager noted the bus operator will provide direction to the patron and usually directs them to sit in the mobility seats, so they have more space to secure their bike.

Councillor Vassilakos asked the Manager if there were any opportunities for promotion to make the public more aware that they are permitted to take their bikes on the bus. The Manager noted there are screens on every bus that are used for advertising and to get information to the public. The Manager explained that specific slides can be created with the help of Mike Beitz, Corporate Communications Lead, and ATAC that could be displayed regularly on the electronic screens in all busses.

John Zelek recommended also including passive signage in the mobility seat area so patrons are aware that they may secure their bike in this space. The Manager will look into making a sticker that can be used to communicate this information.

Councillor Burbach asked the Manager how the bike lanes are affecting the bus operators. The Manager noted he has received no negative comments from staff or the public regarding the addition of bike lanes around the City.

Wayne Sjaarda volunteered to have his photo taken to be used for the advertising on the screens.

*Mike Mousley, Manager of Transit, departed the meeting at 7:49 p.m.

c. Bicycle Parking Improvement Plan

Councillor Vassilakos noted the Bicycle Parking Improvement Plan was approved by Council and that numerous aspects of the plan have been completed. Two items that still need to be completed are:

- Expanding the post and ring program to businesses and developing an online request system.
- Bike parking outside the core to include all city facilities.

She inquired on the total number of post and ring units that have been purchased and installed. Wayne Sjaarda noted two bike corrals were installed in 2020 but wondered if the city had any plans to purchase additional units. The Director will report back to ATAC at a future meeting. ATAC requested staff provide an update on the status of the plan at the September meeting.

d. Report Card Goals for 2022

Councillor Burbach reached out to Stratford Police Services for various pieces of data to be included in the report card and she will provide an update at the September meeting. She noted the police are considering a new bike registration program. The report card still requires some additional data to provide a good overall picture of active transportation in Stratford.

Councillor Burbach asked for clarification on whether the public benches to be included in the report card should include only City owned benches or all benches where active transportation occurs. The committee agreed that all

benches should be included. Councillor Burbach will reach out to staff and the Parks Board to gather the total number of benches.

The committee also agreed that some categories need to be drilled down further to include more specific information. Annual statistics are better than providing only averages across years.

5. New Business

a. TJ Dolan signage

Councillor Burbach noted there is signage for the TJ Dolan trail located at the entrance across from Spruce Lodge and it needs to be included in any new sign designs that are implemented.

6. Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, September 22, 2021 at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Wayne Sjaarda, seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the June 23, 2021, ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:03 P.M.

End Time: 8:20 P.M.