



The Corporation of the City of Stratford Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee MINUTES

Date: October 27, 2021
Time: 3:30 P.M.
Location: Electronic Meeting

Sub-committee Present: Councillor Burbach - Vice Chair Presiding, Councillor Vassilakos - Chair, Councillor Gaffney, *Councillor Ingram, Councillor Sebben

Staff Present: Taylor Crinklaw - Director of Infrastructure and Development Services, Jodi Akins - Council Clerk Secretary, Neil Anderson - Deputy Fire Chief, Nathan Bottema - Project Manager, Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Chris Bantock – Deputy Clerk

Also present: Larry Baswick, Zac Gribble, Rebecca Scott, Ron Dodson

1. Call to Order

The Vice-Chair called the Meeting to Order.

2. Disclosure of Pecuniary Interest and the General Nature Thereof

The *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act* requires any member of Council declaring a pecuniary interest and the general nature thereof, where the interest of a member of Council has not been disclosed by reason of the member's absence from the meeting, to disclose the interest at the first open meeting attended by the member of Council and otherwise comply with the *Act*.

Name, Item and General Nature of Pecuniary Interest

Councillor Vassilakos declared a pecuniary interest on Items 3.2 and 3.3 as her spouse is on the board of Cycle Stratford and she is a volunteer for Cycle Stratford.

3. Delegations

3.1 Delegation by Larry Baswick

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the presentation by Larry Baswick regarding quality of life concerns be heard.

Carried

Sub-committee Discussion: Mr. Baswick reviewed his letter that was attached to the agenda.

*Councillor Ingram now present at the meeting at 3:33 p.m.

He provided examples of renovations completed or underway by his neighbours, noting that this has been on-going for four years. Mr. Baswick expressed concerns with noise and visual distractions and stated he is unable to enjoy his backyard. Other neighbours share his concerns.

Examples of visual distractions were provided and concerns related to dust, specifically that dust makes breathing difficult, lays on plants and leaves dirty windows, were noted.

Mr. Baswick requested that guidelines be established around the level of intensity and duration of construction and attach compensation packages to construction contracts for neighbours to mitigate issues. He further requested that a quality of life understanding be signed by contractors and homeowners undertaking projects to include things like levels of radio noise, discreet location of washroom facilities and use of water when cutting stone.

He suggested an advisory committee could be established with a mission statement around quality of life and review current by-laws and proposed municipal legislation through a quality of life lens.

He concluded by requesting information be provided to contractors to make them aware of the impact they are having on neighbours and strike a Quality of Life committee that would have all legislation viewed through that lens. He volunteered to be a member should that committee be created.

It was noted that some of the issues identified fall under existing by-laws such as noise or debris on boulevards. It was questioned whether Mr. Baswick had contacted municipal by-law enforcement officers. Mr. Baswick

advised that he tried to address issues with owners and contractors directly. Workers were polite but the issues persisted. He stated he has not spoken with by-law but did go to a City office regarding the state in which a boulevard was left. He was advised that a contractor is responsible for that and it would be completed on their schedule. He suggested it would be better to have a by-law officer who would attend construction sites and monitor them on an ad-hoc basis.

It was suggested there are a number of by-laws already such as property standards that he could find relief under, however, there are limited resources and by-laws are enforced on a complaint basis. When issues such as this are brought up, it can create opportunities for by-laws to be reviewed.

Discussion was held regarding a quality of life committee and whether that was a common concept among municipalities. No one was aware of the existence of such a committee at this time.

The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services stated that the idea of quality of life is common among other municipalities and is typically addressed by by-laws for noise control, lot maintenance and property standards. These by-laws could be modified to address concerns but it was noted there are limitations on what can be implemented during daylight hours.

3.2 Delegation by Cycle Stakeholder Group

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the presentation by Zac Gribble and Rebecca Scott on behalf of the Cycle Stakeholder group regarding cycle tourism be heard.

Carried

Councillor Vassilakos, having declared a pecuniary interest on this matter, refrained from participating in the vote and the following discussion.

Sub-committee Discussion: Mr. Gribble, referring to a PowerPoint presentation, stated that the need for self-guided outdoor activities has risen during the pandemic and this includes cycling. Destination Stratford has identified cycle tourism as a priority for destination development projects and has collaborated with Perth County and St. Marys to build

infrastructure and leverage their cultural reputation to become a destination for cyclists.

A three year membership to Ontario by Bike has been purchased. It is a significant marketing opportunity and the region is now part of their advertising and marketing distribution channels.

To communicate that the area is a cycling destination, they led a collaboration with St. Marys and Perth County to create a foldable map. It is available free of charge from Destination Stratford and various businesses. A copy of the paper map was provided to Council.

Mr. Gribble advised this is a great start and acknowledged there is a lot of work to be done. Infrastructure investment requires both time and resources. Perth County is pursuing a cycle tourism strategic plan for the region and the stakeholder group is actively pursuing tourism grants for cycle tourism.

Rebecca Scott advised that the Downtown Stratford BIA has applied for cycle friendly designation through Ontario by Bike and she gave examples of the criteria for businesses to apply. She stated the benefits to Ontario by Bike certification are vast. They gain access to regional cycling information and can tap into Ontario by Bike marketing support. Businesses are offered decals, webinars and education around adapting their businesses to provide better service to cyclists.

The BIA has provided support of cycle initiatives in the past by hosting Car-free Fridays, promoted cycle stakeholder activity on social media and sponsored events such as the Perth County Cycle Tour. The Downtown Stratford BIA did an audit of existing bike racks in the downtown core and noted condition and placement of each rack. Members were surveyed to identify where bike parking was needed, and they are currently pricing out racks to fill in gaps. They are also researching pricing on bike repair stations and bike parking solutions to be located in Market Square and the boathouse area.

The stakeholder group continues to look at funding opportunities and it was suggested there could be opportunities for cost sharing between the City and stakeholder group. They are motivated to work towards becoming a bike friendly city.

The Chair advised an Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting was being held that night. The Committee would be discussing bike parking and receiving a presentation from staff about the state of bike parking. Rebecca was invited to the meeting for further collaboration.

3.3 Delegation by Ron Dodson

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the presentation by representatives of Cycle Stratford regarding their Cycling Road Surface Audit be heard.

Carried

Councillor Vassilakos, having declared a pecuniary interest on this matter, refrained from participating in the vote and the discussion related to Cycle Stratford's road audit.

Sub-committee Discussion: Ron Dodson advised that the idea of a cycling road audit came from years of comments about the state of city streets and how cyclists experience streets differently. The Board of Cycle Stratford endorsed the road audit and it encompasses the curbside 1.5m width where cyclists ride. The audit was completed by community members and is intended to be of assistance to staff as road budgets are struck.

Referring to a PowerPoint presentation, the highlights of the report were provided as follows:

- Safety of cyclists was the lens through which the audit was completed.
- The project was approached in four phases, beginning with an online workshop.
- They developed criteria for a green/yellow/red system. Green is safe, yellow is minimally to moderately safe and red is highly unsafe. Samples of each category were shown.
- Six teams of two rode each street across the City to map them and were spot-checked by another team. The results were then transferred onto a map.
- Streets are generally in good condition. However, there are also significant stretches of yellow and red. Four of the most dangerous sections were reviewed.

- They recommended rebuilding, not patching the identified streets. Patching surfaces can be dangerous for cyclists.
- Catch basins are dangerous and surfaces around them are deteriorating in many areas. Replacement of all catch basins with chevron catchbasins was recommended.
- Concerns with the usefulness of the Ping Street app were noted.
- They hope the audit proves useful for staff and Council when making decisions.

In response to questioning about the approximate cost of full repair of roads around catch basins versus patching, the Director advised he could bring that information to the next meeting

It was questioned whether some of the active transportation funds would be available to complete some of the larger areas of concern. The Director stated that multiple areas of concern are noted in the audit and they are addressed through different budgets. Some would be included under public works budgets and there are some capital funds for accessibility, sidewalk repair and replacement of sidewalks/trails.

It was suggested by the Chair to focus on areas near schools, including near Mowat and Rebecca Streets which were noted in the audit. The Director stated that there are staff that inspect roadways daily to ensure they comply with minimum maintenance standards but could pass on the information to the Manager of Public Works.

It was stated that the condition of the bike path along Erie Street is in poor condition and the bike lanes along McCarthy Road are full of gravel, dirt and rocks. The Director stated that the street sweepers have been out seven times this year but if large debris is spotted, the developer in that area can be contacted.

Discussion took place about the option for a segregated bike lane along McCarthy Road or a multi-use trail connector between Romeo Street and McCarthy Road. It was noted that it is on the approved but unfunded list.

Motion by Councillor Gaffney

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT staff look into the condition of the Erie Street multi-use trail and advise what is required to bring it up to current standards.

Carried

4. Report of the Project Manager

4.1 Huron Street Reconstruction Phase 1 Public Engagement and Recommendation (ITS21-038)

Staff Recommendation: THAT the description of the proposed design for the Huron Street Reconstruction Project Phase 1, be received for information;

THAT the comments from the online public engagement, be received for information;

AND THAT the design be accepted and staff authorized to proceed with construction tendering.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Project Manager reviewed the staff report. The current state of the infrastructure was reviewed. Funding has been received through the Connecting Links program and IBI Group has been retained to provide consulting services. An online open house was held to offer members of the public an opportunity to review the design and provide comments. The design objectives were described and it was noted that studies have shown that road diets calm traffic flow.

The project is planned to be tendered in November 2021, with construction from April to October 2022. During construction, traffic will be restricted to one lane in each direction.

In response to questioning about how much of the project is covered by the grant, the Project Manager advised the City received \$3 million through Connecting Links. An additional \$1 million is required from the City to complete the entire works.

Concern was noted with the road diet approach and it was suggested that right hand turns would slow traffic.

Motion by Councillor Vassilakos

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT the description of the proposed design for the Huron Street Reconstruction Project Phase 1, be received for information;

THAT the comments from the online public engagement, be received for information;

AND THAT the design be accepted and staff authorized to proceed with construction tendering.

The Project Manager clarified that the lanes are wider with the road diet and creates a safer environment.

The Chair called the question on the motion.

Carried

5. Report of the Manager of Recreation and Marketing

5.1 Request for Exemption from Noise Control By-law 113-79 for 2021 Lights on Stratford (ITS21-037)

Staff Recommendation: THAT approval be given to Festival of Lights organizers for an exemption to the Noise Control By-law 113-79 for their event held at Market Square at 1 Wellington Street from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily between Monday, December 13, 2021 and Friday, January 28, 2022 from the following provisions:

- Unreasonable noise [Schedule 1 clause 8]
- The operation of loudspeakers and amplification of sound [Schedule 2 Clause 2]
- Loading, unloading or otherwise handling or any containers, products, materials [Schedule 2 Clause 4] and,
- subject to applicable Provincial Orders and Public Health Guidelines in place at that time.

AND THAT approval be given to extend the operating hours of the outdoor washroom by 1 hour over the requested period of December 17, 2021 to January 28, 2022 and that where possible, staff make reasonable efforts to reduce the financial impact.

Sub-committee Discussion: The Chair stated that notice was sent to neighbouring properties and no concerns were identified.

It was questioned what the possibilities to mitigate are if there were concerns from residents a few weeks in, as the timeframe of the project is so long. The Clerk stated that if issues arise, staff will work with the organizer and complainant, or the complainant could report the issues to Stratford Polices as they enforce the Noise Control By-law. The Manager

of Recreation and Marketing can provide a fulsome response at Committee.

In response to whether the event goes out onto the street, the Clerk stated her understanding is that it is just taking place in Market Square.

Motion by Councillor Ingram

Sub-committee Recommendation: THAT approval be given to Festival of Lights organizers for an exemption to the Noise Control By-law 113-79 for their event held at Market Square at 1 Wellington Street from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily between Monday, December 13, 2021 and Friday, January 28, 2022 from the following provisions:

- **Unreasonable noise [Schedule 1 clause 8]**
- **The operation of loudspeakers and amplification of sound [Schedule 2 Clause 2]**
- **Loading, unloading or otherwise handling or any containers, products, materials [Schedule 2 Clause 4] and,**
- **subject to applicable Provincial Orders and Public Health Guidelines in place at that time.**

AND THAT approval be given to extend the operating hours of the outdoor washroom by 1 hour over the requested period of December 17, 2021 to January 28, 2022 and that where possible, staff make reasonable efforts to reduce the financial impact.

Carried

6. Capital Project Update

Sub-committee Discussion: The Director of Infrastructure and Development Services provided the highlights of the update as follows:

- Queen St. Trunk Storm Sewer project drilling starts on Monday,
- Report is coming to Council shortly with a recommendation to award the tender for the Transportation Master Plan,
- TJ Dolan multi-use trail paving starts next week,
- Engineering is busy with Subdivision applications,

- Water has shut down the Romeo Control Center to complete minor repairs, cleaning and technological upgrades,
- 50% of the Public Works fleet is ready for winter events,
- Public Works has swept the whole city seven times this year.

In response to questioning about Redford Crescent, the Director stated that many outstanding deficiencies have been addressed, but some are ongoing. They are trying to get the paving in as soon as possible but it is weather dependent. It is an ongoing discussion with the contractor.

It was questioned whether additional yard waste pickup dates have been added. The Director advised staff would review and make a decision in a few weeks time. Discussion took place regarding using leaves as natural mulch and it was suggested that the Energy and Environment Committee do an education campaign.

7. Advisory Committee/Outside Board Minutes

The following Advisory Committee/Outside Board minutes were provided for the information of Sub-committee:

- Stratford Town and Gown Committee minutes of September 23, 2020
- Energy & Environment Advisory Committee minutes of September 2, 2021
- Accessibility Advisory Committee minutes of September 7, 2021

8. Next Sub-committee Meeting

The next Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting is November 24, 2021 at 3:30 p.m.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Sebben

Sub-committee Decision: THAT the Infrastructure, Transportation and Safety Sub-committee meeting adjourn.

Carried

Meeting Start Time: 3:30 P.M.

Meeting End Time: 4:37 P.M.