



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on November 24, 2021, at 7:06 p.m., electronically.

Committee Present: David Daglish – Chair presiding, Councillor Burbach, Councillor Vassilakos, John Zelek, and Bernard Goward

Staff Present: Tatiana Dafoe – City Clerk, Nick Sheldon – Project Engineer and Nancy Bridges – Recording Secretary

Also Present: Sarah Merkel – HPPH (Huron Perth Public Health)

Absent: Wayne Sjaarda, Stephen Barlow, Anna Stratton and Lee Chandler

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the ATAC meeting to order at 7:06 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 John Zelek

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

4. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

a. Workplan

Sarah Merkel, representative from Huron Perth Public Health, developed a workplan for the committee to keep track of current and future projects. Much of the information contained in the workplan is represented in the annual report card developed by staff. Ms. Merkel outlined the various parts of the workplan.

The City of Stratford was given a Bike Friendly Community honourable mention and the committee intends to apply in 2-3 years in attempt to receive Bronze recognition. The workplan will be helpful for future applications and summarizing the reasons why Stratford should be recognized as a Bike Friendly Community.

Cycling Projects

- Romeo Street bike lanes require additional signage, chevrons and lines to be repainted. 2022 completion is anticipated.
- Three bike corrals have been installed
- Bicycle Implementation Plan
 - Post and ring units have been installed
 - "Request for post and ring bike rack" program will be carried forward
 - Councillor Vassilakos noted that the incomplete items in the Bicycle Implementation Plan should be carried forward by staff automatically
- Education using screens on transit busses in progress and will move forward in 2022
- Bike Share Program
 - Councillor Burbach noted the Bike Share Planning Guide 2018 compares different types of bike share programs
 - Many factors to consider when starting a program like this and there is the potential to have a third party administer the bike share program
 - Councillor Vassilakos noted the new inter-community transit service may allow for additional usage of a bike share program
- Bike Month Festivities could be carried forward to future years
- Sarah Merkel noted that once COVID-19 becomes less dominant, the school travel plan and bike rodeo could come back

Other Priorities for 2022

Councillor Vassilakos noted that many items in the workplan (example Cycling networks, Vision Zero, etc.) fall into the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan and may be completed in 2022 without any further involvement from ATAC.

Ms. Merkel sent staff a drawing of how Forman Avenue could be designed and she received a positive response. She noted that HPPH supports education pieces to promote sharing the road. Education pieces can be geared towards the entire population, not just children.

Councillor Vassilakos stated all the schools know how to administer the School Travel Plan however it may be a struggle to get them on board again. Ideally the program would re-launch in September 2022.

David Daglish inquired what mechanisms ATAC has used to reach the community regarding Share the Road in the past. Councillor Vassilakos noted Stratford Police Services have stickers on vehicles, signage, the HPPH releases information and uses social media. Ms. Merkel recommended building education into Bike Month and the School Travel Plan advertising.

John Zelek advised he would like to see the speed limit reduced to 40km/h within the City. Councillor Vassilakos noted the request was previously denied by Council however has gained some traction in the past few months. Currently Council is awaiting a report from staff.

Ms. Merkel noted she will begin drafting a schedule of projects so that the committee can stay on top of projects and items can be scheduled on the appropriate agendas.

A brief discussion followed regarding e-scooters and whether a scooter share program would work in Stratford. Councillor Vassilakos noted other municipalities are having a hard time with these types of programs and it may not be viable for Stratford.

Multi-use Trails

- TJ Dolan multi-use trail nearing completion
- Bernard Goward noted that blazing of the TJ Dolan trail will happen in the Spring with the assistance of Avon Trail volunteers and staff
- Councillor Burbach noted a report will be coming to Council from staff regarding the resurfacing of the multi-use trail along Erie Street, south of Lorne Avenue
- Councillor Vassilakos noted the multi-use trails on Douro Street and McCarthy Road have been approved by Council however there is no timeline for completion at this time

Nick Sheldon, Project Engineer, provided the following updates on various projects:

- TJ Dolan multi-use trail hard surface is complete and signage will be done in the Spring
- Survey work and base plan have begun for the Erie Street multi-use trail
- Survey work and drafting are being done for Douro Street multi-use trail

Councillor Vassilakos requested that staff consider accessibility when deciding whether to resurface the Erie Street multi-use trail or excavate the asphalt and leave as packed gravel.

Pedestrian Projects

Ms. Merkel noted that prioritizing sidewalks that require attention and coordinating with the Accessibility Advisory Committee should continue. Councillor Vassilakos inquired whether the Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan goes into detail on specific sidewalks and public consultation findings. The Project Engineer noted the plan may not include public consultation information. He provided a list of sidewalks that are being considered by staff:

- Douro Street multi-use trail
- John Street, east side, Cambria Street to Centre Street
- Martin Street, east side, Delamere Street to William Street
- Cambria Street, south side, St. Vincent Street to John Street
- Walnut Street, Dufferin Street to Railway Avenue

He noted that none of these items would require a Local Improvement cost sharing structure.

Ms. Merkel inquired if the master plan included information relating to pedestrian crossovers. The Project Engineer will look into this. Councillor Burbach noted the Downtown Traffic Study has flagged some locations that would benefit from a pedestrian crossover, including Downie Street and George Street, near the Avon Theatre.

Wayfinding

- Ms. Merkel noted the TJ Dolan trail head signage is in progress, including blazing the trail in two phases.
- Councillor Vassilakos indicated that Destination Stratford has already produced a cycling/hiking map therefore it can be removed from the ATAC workplan, outstanding items. A digital map exists and will be circulated to the committee.
- Report card update in progress
- Master Transportation Plan under review
- Ms. Merkel would like to prepare a letter on behalf of Public Health celebrating the successes of the committee

Ms. Merkel noted education may be required regarding the trail blazing and Mr. Goward noted additional signage is part of the wayfinding project. She will take the information discussed during the meeting and create a 2022 workplan and calendar of projects.

Ms. Merkel inquired whether a representative from Stratford Police Services could begin attending the ATAC meetings. Staff will review this request and reach out to Stratford Police Services.

5. New Business

David Daglish inquired if there was a timeline for returning to in-person meetings. The City Clerk noted staff is recommending the continued use of electronic meetings until all COVID-19 restrictions are lifted by the Province.

6. Next Meeting Date

Wednesday, January 26, 2022, at 7:00 p.m., electronically.

7. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Burbach, seconded by Councillor Vassilakos

THAT the November 24, 2021 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:06 P.M.

End Time: 8:16 P.M.