



## Active Transportation Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, January 28, 2026 at 7:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

**Committee Members Present:** David Daglish – Chair Presiding, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach, Joel LaCourse, Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters, Kelley Teahen, Christine Lee (Avon Trail), Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Pat Ranney (Cycle Stratford)

**Staff Present:** Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

**Also Present:** Inspector Jason Clarke

**Regrets:** Nick Sheldon – Project Manager

#### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Conduct Statement

#### 2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and The General Nature Thereof

None declared.

#### 3. Election of 2026 Chair & Vice-Chair

Staff declared nominations open for the 2026 Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee.

Kelley Teahen nominated David Daglish.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

**Motion by** Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

**Seconded by** Christine Lee

**THAT the nominations for the 2026 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Chair be closed. Carried**

David Daglish indicated that he would allow his nomination to stand.

**Motion by** Kelley Teahen

**Seconded by** Christine Lee

**THAT David Daglish be elected as the 2026 Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Carried**

Staff declared nominations for the 2026 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee open.

David Daglish nominated Kelley Teahen.

Staff asked if there were any further nominations. No further nominations were made.

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Rhonda Gesinghaus-Vaters

**THAT the nominations for the 2026 Active Transportation Advisory Committee Vice-Chair be closed. Carried**

Kelley Teahen indicated that she would allow her name to stand.

**Motion by** Councillor Burbach

**Seconded by** Pat Ranney

**THAT Kelley Teahen be elected as the 2026 Vice-Chair of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee. Carried**

Joel LaCourse now present at the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

#### **4. Adoption of Previous Minutes**

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters

**THAT the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting dated November 26, 2025 be adopted as printed. Carried**

#### **5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes**

##### **5.1 Campaign with Secondary Schools to Promote Crossing Huron Street at Signaled Intersections**

Vicky Trotter is continuing to work on this project and will provide an update at the February meeting.

Kelley Teahen inquired if there was consideration given to installing a flashing crosswalk when Huron Street was being signed. Vicky Trotter noted that the request would go through the Province as it is a connecting link and staff would need to determine how close a crosswalk can be located in between two signaled intersections.

Councillor Burbach noted that there are signaled intersections along that corridor that are significantly closer together (CH Meier/Zehrs), so adding a pedestrian crossover in this area might still be a consideration.

Kelley Teahen stated that a decade ago, the former population of Central Secondary was not attending school at SDSS. There are a lot more people crossing into that area from other parts of the city, causing a change of circumstances and traffic pattern in terms of pedestrian use.

**Motion by** Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters

**Seconded by** Joel LaCourse

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends a pedestrian crossing or traffic signal be installed in the area of Huron Street and Matilda Street during the reconstruction of Huron Street in 2026. Carried**

## **6. New Business**

### **6.1 Review of 2025 ATAC Annual Report to Council**

Vicky Trotter reported that in the past, the annual report to Council is written by the Chair of the Committee and sent on to Council for their information. It has been decided that starting with the 2025 report, there will be an opportunity for Committee members to review the Chair's report prior to it being submitted to provide any comments or feedback. Ms. Trotter shared with committee members the report that Chair David Daghish has submitted.

Committee members reviewed the report and had no concerns; Vicky Trotter will proceed with the submittal.

### **6.2 Planning for 2026 Projects**

Vicky Trotter explained that advisory committees will need to be extra organized this year as the municipal election is taking place in October and committees will not be meeting in October or November. Plans should be in place prior to summer, as September may be the last opportunity to meet in person.

Members discussed some suggestions on projects that ATAC could focus on:

- Keep tracking the Festival Bike Route – signs installed, ride launch, publicity;

- Install an information sign for the Festival Bike Route located in Market Square where the route starts and finishes;
- Consider an ATAC table at the Earth Day event – Pat Ranney will get details on this event to provide members. Members will consider a possible draw item to take to this event;
- Placing bike racks outside the downtown core, other areas that could use racks such as parks, recreation areas. Vicky Trotter will contact Public Works for a list of locations the bike racks are placed throughout the City;
- Participate in Car-Free Friday event again this year. Pat Ranney can provide bike lights to give out, Kelley Teahen will also provide some additional information to hand out regarding reducing car use – Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters, Pat Ranney and Councillor Burbach have volunteered to lead this event on behalf of ATAC;
- Research how the timing of the pedestrian crossing signals at intersections is determined – Vicky Trotter will contact staff to inquire;
- Research vulnerable road users, where were people injured, identify problem areas – Inspector Clarke will provide a report with data from the last three years;

Inspector Clarke noted that in 2025 there were (791) collisions total in Stratford, St. Marys and Perth South. Of those collisions, (68) were personal injury collisions, (29) of those occurred on Erie, Ontario and Huron Streets.

- Investigate a possible foot bridge over the river near Dunn’s Bridge as part of the Avon Trail. Christine Lee will provide ATAC members with an Avon Trail map, Vicky Trotter will contact City staff and the UTRCA staff to inquire about this request;
- Possible partnership with the Energy & Environment Advisory Committee on TJ Dolan trail improvements, trail signage, installing bollards or gates at trail entrances. Vicky Trotter will reach out to the E&E Ecological working group to inquire about a partnership and also the Parks & Forestry Manager;
- Update report card – Councillor Burbach volunteered to work on this project. Vicky Trotter will provide Councillor Burbach with the information she has gathered.

Vicky Trotter updated members on the following budget line amounts:

- Bike racks & Bike rack safety - \$2,000.00

- Education (cycle month, conferences/workshops, promo items) - \$2,750.00
- Committee banner - \$250.00
- School travel planning - \$2,000.00
- Wayfinding & trail signage - \$4,000.00

Ms. Trotter will research options for various ATAC promotional items (seeded bookmarks, buffs, etc.) that the committee can use at events, as well as bring a draft of the banner to the February meeting.

### **6.3 Video Footage of Parking Concerns on Bedford Drive and Pedestrian Crossing Visibility Concerns**

Inspector Clarke shared two videos with ATAC members – one of the parking situation on Bedford Drive near Bedford Elementary School and another showing the difficulty cars would have seeing the signage approaching pedestrians crossings, for their information. The SPS are doing some extra enforcement and education campaigns regarding parking around schools, as well as some educational reminders about pedestrian cross-overs.

ATAC members discussed their concerns with some of the pedestrian cross-overs not having any sort of flashing lights to indicate pedestrians are crossing. Inspector Clarke stated that for some of the current crossings that are less safe to cross at, safety improvements could be identified and implemented in the future.

Joel LaCourse stated his concern with the pedestrian crossing area at the traffic lights on Ontario Street at Zehrs/TD Plaza. The concern is that the sidewalk continues across the parking lot of the plaza and pedestrians often just continue walking across, unaware of the crossing signals as they are walking down the sidewalk.

## **7. Date of Next Meeting**

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 28 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

## **8. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters

**Seconded by** Christine Lee

**THAT the January 28, 2026 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 7:02 P.M.

End Time: 8:27 P.M.