



## Active Transportation Advisory Committee

### MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, February 25, 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, Kelley Teahen, Christine Lee (Avon Trail), Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Pat Ranney (Cycle Stratford)

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

**Regrets:** Nick Sheldon – Project Manager, Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters, Acting Deputy Chief Jason Clarke

#### 1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:03 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. Adoption of Previous Minutes

**Motion by** Kelley Teahen

**Seconded by** Councillor Nijjar

**THAT the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting dated January 28, 2026 be adopted as printed. Carried**

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

### **4.1 Update on TJ Dolan Foot Bridge**

Vicky Trotter stated that the information received from staff outlined this would be an expensive project (\$100,000-\$400,000) as they are required to install a 250-year flood structure in this area. A previous quote 15 years ago for a similar project came in at \$250,000.00.

Kelley Teahen inquired if just a small foot bridge, such as the other ones all along the river, could be built. Staff stated that those types of foot bridges have not been built by UTRCA.

Christine Lee asked if the bridge could be located somewhere else along the river, not on the flood plain. Ms. Lee also suggested a bridge similar to one in New Hamburg built with cement pads could be considered and questioned if there is another option that is less expensive or extreme. Ms. Trotter noted that the quote for the bridge sent by staff is likely the requirement but could reach out again to inquire if there are other options.

Councillor Burbach suggested that ATAC members could do some preliminary research on bridges to see what other trails have done and some creative solutions to bring back to the March meeting for further discussion.

### **4.2 Update on John Street Bike Lanes**

Vicky Trotter reported that staff is reviewing the management report from last year (July 2025), looking at traffic counts, etc. Ms. Trotter will provide the committee with an update once received.

### **4.3 Update on Pedestrian Crossings at Traffic Signals**

Vicky Trotter provided information in the update regarding signals that Engineering has provided regarding the calculations they use to determine timing. At this time, they have not considered using leading pedestrian intervals.

Pat Ranney inquired why at some intersections the walk signal is not initiated unless the crossing button is pressed. Councillor Burbach stated that the cycle for the light is shorter if there are no pedestrians and cars do not have to wait as long for cars to clear the intersection.

Kelley Teahen would like to see the walk signals show on both sides of the street. Sometimes it only shows walk on the pedestrian side. She would also like to time some of the signals to ensure that they are indeed seven seconds. Stratford's

average pedestrian walking speed may not be the same as the international walking speed given the demographics, and this needs to be taken into account.

#### **4.4 Swag Options for Review**

Vicky Trotter provided members with options for promotional items that ATAC could use give out at events. Members reviewed the items and Ms. Trotter will do some further research on reflective bands and flashlight options.

#### **4.5 PI Collision Data – Acting Deputy Chief Clarke**

Deferred to next meeting.

#### **4.6 Listing of Bike Racks at Recreation Areas**

Vicky Trotter reported that Community Services has provided a list of bike rack locations, she is still waiting on the list from Public Works.

Community Services current bike rack locations:

- Allman Arena
- York Street parking lot
- Boathouse
- Lakeside Drive
- Upper Queen’s Park
- Rotary Complex/Agriplex

Members suggested some other locations such as the splashpad, all-wheels park, pickle ball courts, extra racks at Upper Queens Park and review existing locations. Members will work on compiling a list of suggested areas for racks around the city as well as areas that have racks that are well used and could use more.

#### **4.7 Update on Request for “No Parking” Signs for Bike Lanes**

Vicky Trotter reported that in the Wright Business Park and Packham Sports Field area, the roads are painted for bike lanes, which is meant to indicate no parking. In order to add signage to those streets, there would need to be a by-law amendment with a report going to Council outlining costs.

As an alternative, staff has agreed to complete an enforcement schedule for late spring/early summer when baseball and soccer is starting. They will regularly visit the area and issue tickets for vehicles parked in the bike lanes. Tickets can have more of an impact than signs do and word will get around to the ball and soccer

teams and hopefully help with the issue. Parking enforcement officers will patrol the area, as well as request Stratford Police attend the area as well when possible.

Staff will review how the first couple of months go to see if parking in the lanes has decreased and re-assess at the June ATAC meeting.

Members suggested that the bike lanes be repainted with fresh paint and to also add no parking or bicycle stencils along the lanes to make it clear that the lines indicate a bike lane and that they are not permitted to park on it. Councillor Burbach suggested one large sign could be posted at the sports fields stating that there is no parking on the bike lanes. Information regarding parking could also be shared with sports organizations.

Kelley Teahen suggested a social media blitz to make all residents aware of the painted bike lanes, where the bike lanes are and that you are not permitted to ever park in them.

Vicky Trotter will contact staff regarding painting stencils on the bike lanes in the spring and arrange for an educational piece to be sent out to the clubs using the sports fields.

Councillor Burbach inquired if there was adequate parking for cars if they do not park on the bike lanes and where else would they park. Members did not feel like there would be enough parking in the area during sporting events. Councillor Burbach suggested a possible protected contra-flow bike lane on one side of the road and on-street parking on the other side. Members suggested that perhaps if there is a large tournament on, the City could make an exception. Staff noted that this is possible, organizers would need to attend Council to request this.

#### **4.8 Huron Street Reconstruction Update**

Vicky Trotter reported that there has been an update to the Huron Street reconstruction project limits after the estimates showed that it was forecasted to be well above the allocated budget. The new westerly limit of construction is the Roadhouse Drain and there will not be any updates to the Matilda Street intersection.

Councillor Burbach stated she has met with the Director of Infrastructure about the potential of still having a crossing installed. The Director is aware that ATAC would like to see a crossing along that area on Huron Street. Councillor Burbach stated that the crossing could possibly be part of the second phase of the project.

#### **4.9 Leading Pedestrian Intervals**

Joel LaCourse inquired if the City would ever consider trying leading pedestrian intervals at intersection. Councillor Burbach stated that it has not been a discussion here in Stratford.

**Motion by** Joel LaCourse

**Seconded by** Kelley Teahen

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that leading pedestrian intervals be added to all pedestrian crossings on Erie Street, Ontario Street and Huron Street to improve safety for pedestrians. Carried**

#### **4.10 Raised Crosswalks**

Councillor Burbach has discussed raised crosswalks with the Director of Infrastructure and if it would be possible to try one in Stratford. The Director stated that it is possible, however it does increase the cost of the crossing. Councillor Burbach discussed the idea at the last BIA meeting and they were very supportive of putting one in for the crossing on Downie Street (at George Street) that is scheduled for this spring. Unfortunately, it changes the design of the crossing and new plans would need to be completed for drainage and other engineering considerations. Staff suggested that it be done for one that is not already designed or installed.

**Motion by** Pat Ranney

**Seconded by** Kelley Teahen

**THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that a raised pedestrian crossing be included in the next approved pedestrian crossing installed in the City as a pilot. Carried**

#### **5. New Business**

None noted.

#### **6. Date of Next Meeting**

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 25, 2026 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

#### **7. Adjournment**

**Motion by** Councillor Nijjar

**Seconded by** Councillor Burbach

**THAT the February 25, 2026 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried**

Start Time: 7:03 P.M.

End Time: 8:19 P.M.