



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, November 27, 2024, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

Committee Members Present: David Daglish – Chair Presiding, Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Pat Ranney – Cycle Stratford, Christine Lee – Avon Trail Rep, Kelley Teahen, John Lewis, Councillor Jo-Dee Burbach

Staff Present: Vicky Trotter – Council Committee Coordinator, Nick Sheldon – Project Manager, Casey Riehl – Recording Secretary

Regrets: Inspector Jason Clarke

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Reading of the Land Acknowledgement and Moment of Silent Reflection.

Reading of the Respectful Workplace Policy.

2. Declarations of Pecuniary Interest and The General Nature Thereof

None declared.

3. Welcome New Member Kelley Teahen

Members and staff introduced themselves.

4. Adoption of Previous Minutes

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Pat Ranney

THAT the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting dated October 23, 2024 be adopted as printed. Carried

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Festival Route Working Group Appointments

Pat Ranney reported that there are 3-4 Cycle Stratford members, including herself, that are interested in participating in the working group when it is formed. Kelley Teahen inquired if the route is geared towards residents or tourists. Pat Ranney stated that these details will be discussed as part of the working group to determine the best options for residents and for visitors. Consulting with Destination Stratford will be a valuable aspect for planning this project. Part of the discussion will also involve fundraising options. David Daghli volunteered to be a part of the working group. Vicky Trotter will forward the previous Cycle Stratford presentation on the proposed Festival Route to new members. The working group will plan to meet after the 2025 budget has been approved later in January and will report back to the ATAC at their monthly meetings with any updates.

5.2 Safety Concerns Crossing Ontario Street at York Street

Councillor Burbach discussed the area near Ontario and York Street, specifically the large intersection where Church Street/St. Andrew Street/Ontario Street meet. There is a downtown traffic improvement study, which identifies this intersection as a problem area, largely due to the proximity of the middle school. The consultant's solution for the area is to make the intersection smaller by filling in some of the street in front of the Courthouse to create a boulevard. This may help the traffic on Church Street but may not assist with traffic at the Church and Ontario Street intersection.

Some suggestions that the ATAC member discussed was the possibility of a roundabout in this area to slow down traffic, which are not necessarily pedestrian or cycle friendly, other than it does narrow the street.

Kelley Teahen noted that the problem with this area is safe pedestrian crossings, not necessarily cycling lanes. It is a high volume pedestrian area for residents, students and visitors and how do you safely connect the west and east sides. How can you safely install a pedestrian crossover on a provincial highway and where would be the safest place. Christine Lee suggested warning lights ahead of a pedestrian crossing, such as the ones on the highway in New Hamburg, would be beneficial in this instance.

Another option discussed was improving the pathway under the Huron Street Bridge. However, it needs a lot of work to make it accessible and how do you make it a visible crossing option for visitors who may not know it exists.

Members agreed that requesting a study for this area would be the logical first step in moving forward with this issue.

Motion by Christine Lee

Seconded by Kelly Teahen

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends staff review the possibility of a pedestrian crossing at Huron Street and York Street during the redesign of the Huron Street/St. Andrew Street/Church Street intersection;

AND THAT a warrant be completed to determine the feasibility of the project. Carried

Nick Sheldon explained that in the Transportation Master Plan there are currently (16) locations identified for pedestrian crossovers. Staff is focused on getting those ones completed as part of the Plan.

5.3 Pedestrian Access on Road 111 and Highway 7/8

Nick Sheldon noted that there was an inquiry at the last meeting if new subdivisions have requirements for bike lanes, pedestrian access or multi-use trails. All new subdivisions do have requirements for sidewalks and bike lanes and multi-use trails are location specific. These are determined as part of the draft plan process for the subdivision. Speed and volume of traffic determines what type of bike lanes are installed.

Another question raised was inquiring how Premier Ford's announcement impacts Stratford's Transportation Master Plan. Mr. Sheldon noted that currently there are three proposed projects in the Plan that would be impacted. There would be an additional step for the approval process to get them installed. This does not necessarily mean that the projects will not get done, it means the process has changed.

Councillor Burbach has reviewed the preliminary design and environmental assessment, which was made available on November 20, 2024. They are recommending a signalized intersection at Road 111 and Hwy 7/8, not a roundabout. On the preliminary design, it does not indicate details on pedestrian or cycling infrastructure. The City of Stratford borders up to the intersection and Perth East Township borders the other sides. People can submit feedback and comments for the next (30) days at www.highway7and8perthcountyroad.com

For the development of the subdivision, the intent is to try and keep most pedestrians and cyclists off the highway and redirected out the CH Meier

entrance/exit. There is feedback from the MTO to keep any City infrastructure off their corridor, such as water mains, sewers, etc.

6. New Business

6.1 Advanced Pedestrian Signals

Kelley Teahen inquired if advanced pedestrian signals at intersections are listed on the Transportation Master Plan. Ms. Teahen also inquired how many of the locations have the voice-activated signals and how are they maintained.

Nick Sheldon explained that there are different styles of audible crossings. One has two different sounds indicating to cross or not and another that is currently a trial, which has audible directions.

Councillor Burbach inquired if it is possible to install overhead lights on the pedestrian crossovers. She has received some feedback that it is difficult at night to actually see the people crossing, even though the flashing lights are flashing. Nick Sheldon stated that overhead lighting is not part of the installation, however it is valuable feedback.

6.2 Annual Reports

As Chair, David Daglish will be submitting an annual report for the ATAC next month to Council. Vicky Trotter will forward all the recommendations that ATAC has made this year. If any members have accomplishments that could be included in the report, please forward them to Mr. Daglish to be included.

6.3 Statistics on Vehicle, Pedestrian and Cycling Traffic

Christine Lee inquired if the City of Stratford has ever considered using a tracking system that can track people, cars, bikes, etc. to gain information on traffic. It has been used on the Guelph to Goderich Trail and has given them valuable information. These types of systems use tracking linked to cell phones. No personal information is accessed, it is strictly based off cell tower pings to note locations. Councillor Burbach noted that many cities use a similar program to collect information for tourism.

David Daglish thanked John Lewis for all his work on the Active Transportation Advisory Committee and wished him well as this is Mr. Lewis' last meeting for this term.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, January 22, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Christine Lee

THAT the November 27, 2024 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:00 P.M.

End Time: 8:10 P.M.