



2024 ANNUAL REPORT TO STRATFORD CITY COUNCIL

Committee Name: Active Transportation Advisory Committee

Date Submitted: December 6, 2024

1. Outline of accomplishments/projects completed in 2024:

This year the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) collaborated with the Downtown BIA to expand the bicycle parking facilities in the Downtown core, serving a need identified by cyclists and businesses. 14 pole-mounted lock points (a mix of black circles and red hearts) were purchased, and sites were selected in consultation with City staff. Installation will be complete shortly.

Over the last several years ATAC has worked with the Avon Trail group to find suitable signage and locations to aid the public in exploring the City through walking the Stratford Side Trail. A three-sided design was selected, maps and content created by the two groups, and the first sign set was installed near the Bridge to Nowhere where the trail turns towards the Art Gallery. In addition, ATAC has offered to assist the Avon Trail group in installing standard trail blazing markers through the City. This is a project that has been delayed since 2019.

In the spring, two members attended the 2024 Share the Road Bike Summit on a single shared pass. Attendance at this event has been aspirational, as there are seasons on many aspects of cycling that can benefit our advice to the City; the 2024 conference was in Kitchener-Waterloo, permitting day attendance for our members.

The Report card has been updated with 2022 data, the most recent complete set available. The updates will continue as new data is made public.

Events brought to ATACs consideration permitted the Committee to provide comments into the implementation of the Transportation Master Plan where vulnerable road users would be at risk from vehicular traffic. Please see the list of motions to Council for examples. ATAC also worked with the Accessibility Advisory Committee to create a list

of suggestions to City Staff as input into possible sidewalk network enhancements for budgeting considerations.

ATAC planned, supported, and executed June bike month events, including a Bike Rally by Market Square. Weather conditions were not ideal, but many visitors enjoyed the stands, and the children who participated were quite enthusiastic about it. With the support of City Staff, the School Safe Arrival stencils were deployed around several of the Elementary schools in the City to encourage Active Transportation methods of arriving at the schools.

2. Summary of how the Advisory Committee’s mandate in the Terms of Reference is reflected in the Committee’s accomplishments/projects for 2024:

The continuing assessment of both cycling and pedestrian infrastructure, and the reports from those to council and city staff, promotes and enhances the state of Active Transportation in the City of Stratford. The promotions, including notices on the City buses during Bike Month and at other times of the year provide further awareness of the Committee to the public, with the hope that comments, concerns, and suggestions will be directed to the Committee. Education and encouragement of children in utilizing active transportation in making their way to school promotes a healthy regard for walking and cycling in the next generations.

3. Summary of 2024 recommendations:

Recommendations Provided to Administration:

Date	Motion
February 28, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee work with the Downtown Stratford BIA on the development and installation of new post and ring bike racks in the downtown core; THAT up to \$3,000.00 of the 2024 budget be spent on the bike racks; AND THAT a final plan be brought back to ATAC for their final approval.
February 28, 2024	THAT a three-day pass to the Share the Road 2024 Ontario Bike Summit be purchased at a cost of \$545.00 plus HST, provided members are able to each use the pass on a different day.

Date	Motion
February 28, 2024	THAT a quote to update the report card be obtained from Molenhuis Design Co. and up to \$500 be spent from the 2024 budget to update the report card.
March 27, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$600.00 + H.S.T. to send up to two (2) committee members to attend the 2024 Ontario Bike Summit on Thursday, April 4, 2024.
April 24, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee proceeds with the 2022 Active Transportation Report Card with the above noted amendments and spend up to a maximum of \$500.00 from their 2024 budget.
April 24, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee spends up to a maximum of \$500.00 on stencil painting for the School Travel Planning Project, working through the list of locations as funds allow.
June 12, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee spends a total amount of \$3,636.34 from their 2024 Budget to purchase a 3-sided trail sign to be located in Upper Queens Park near the Bridge to Nowhere.

Recommendations Provided to Sub-committee, Committee or Council:

Date	Motion
March 27, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Stratford City Council include bike racks in the construction of the new outdoor gym on Shakespeare Street.
June 12, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends that Stratford City Council include in the 2025 Budget a contra-flow bike lane on Hibernia Street where it is one-way (from John Street to Mornington Street) and a bike boulevard where Hibernia Street is two-way (from O'Loane Avenue to John Street).
June 12, 2024	THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends to Stratford City Council that the safety concerns regarding the West Gore Street and St. Vincent Street intersection warrant a traffic study to determine if a four-way stop would be justified.

4. Please summarize how your 2024 projects/plans have reflected the City's strategic priorities:

The scope of activities for the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) are a significant part of the "Work Together for Greater Impact" priority.

The integration of the Cycle Stratford and Avon Trail organization with ATAC aid in shaping new routes in Stratford residents and visitors alike, as suggested in the "Enhance Our Infrastructure" and "Work Together for Greater Impact" priorities.

Improvements and enhancements to the Active Transportation networks will reduce the dependence on private vehicles, aiding in the greening of the city in the "Intentionally Change to Support The Future" priority. The focus on youth in events such as the Bike Rally and Safe Arrivals also support this priority.

5. Comments regarding impact of COVID-19 on your Committee's operations in 2024:

COVID-19 has not had a noticeable impact on the committee's activities in 2024. If there was an impact, it may have been what led to the absence of committee members from the meetings, as we had a high level of absent members in 2024 including at least one meeting that failed to meet quorum. We did not ask for, and members did not explicitly volunteer, any health issues related to those absences.

As a result of several projects having been delayed by the effects of COVID-19 within City operations, much more was accomplished this year than in several of the preceding years.