



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, February 26, 2025, at 7:00 p.m., in the Mansbridge Room at the Stratford Rotary Complex.

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

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

Regrets: Christine Lee, Inspector Jason Clarke, Nick Sheldon – Project Manager

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 Burbach

THAT the minutes from the Active Transportation Advisory Committee meeting dated January 22, 2025 be adopted as amended.

Kelley Teahen noted under Item 8.1 of the minutes she recommended members and City staff look at the Vision Zero campaign.

The Chair called the question on the motion. **Carried.**

4. Car-Free Friday Discussion

Representatives from the BIA were unable to attend the meeting. Councillor Burbach suggested forming a working group to focus on Car-Free Fridays or other initiatives that ATAC and the BIA could partner on. Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters, Pat Ranney and Councillor Burbach volunteered to attend the initial meeting with the BIA. Councillor Burbach will reach out to the BIA to set it up.

5. Festival Route Working Group Update

Pat Ranney and Vicky Trotter will be meeting next week and will provide an update at the next ATAC meeting regarding the plans moving forward, such as signage options and budget.

Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters inquired if ATAC and Cycle Stratford have ever considered using GPS instead of signs. Perhaps a QR code could be added to some of the signage to give people the option of both.

6. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

6.1 Missing Sidewalk Links Discussion

Councillor Burbach stated that, as part of the City staff review of missing sidewalk links and their priorities, they prioritize arterial roads first, then collector roads and then residential areas due to lower traffic. Vicky Trotter added that priority is also given to areas such as school zones. Staff will also wait and include sidewalk construction if there is upcoming planned road reconstruction. Nick Sheldon will be able to explain the breakdown of priorities to members at the next meeting.

At the March ATAC meeting, staff will request Nick Sheldon speak to the Lorne Avenue and Erie Street missing sidewalk link concerns. There are questions regarding if the streets consist of a mix of commercial, industrial and residential properties, how do sidewalks get installed and paid for.

Members discussed the following missing sidewalk links as priority areas:

- Railway Avenue (from Lorne Avenue heading north)
- Forman Avenue (from Huron Street heading south)
- Forman Avenue (near SDSS and church near Britannia Street)
- Worsley Street (from Birmingham to the school – on the school side)

Members also suggested repairs to sidewalks in the following areas:

- C.H. Meier (under water and heaved due to tree roots)
- Freeland Drive (west side near the Christian school is under water)

David Daglish inquired about the process to deal with sidewalks not being cleared of snow. Staff recommended that people call the Public Works Department and report sidewalks that require additional clearing or have been missed.

6.2 Safety Concerns Crossing Ontario Street at York Street

Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters inquired if instead of a crossing, could wayfinding be considered for tourists in this area to direct people to the nearby lights and crossing at Huron and Mornington Street. Members stated that the wayfinding is good for tourists, however locals especially, will still try and cross at York Street. It will be difficult to deter locals to use the lights. Ms. Gesinghaus Vaters stated that even if it directs some of the people down to the crossing in the interim until there is a different solution, it might be worthwhile.

Kelley Teahen will inquire with the Horticultural Society regarding their walking tours to see where their walks guide people.

7. New Business

7.1 Pedestrian Crossovers – Downie Street, Lorne Avenue

Members discussed the possibility of a pedestrian cross-over on Downie Street for safe crossings near the YMCA, skate park area and splash pad. Councillor Burbach noted that there is a cross-over now installed at Anne Hathaway Park for people going to the park and splash pad.

Councillor Burbach will provide ATAC members with a copy of the traffic study that the City completed, which addresses the intersection near the YMCA (Waterloo/Douro/Downie). The study includes three different recommendations to improve that area for drivers and pedestrians. Kelley Teahen suggested that members could review the recommendations and discuss their preferred option at the next meeting.

Kelley Teahen inquired if anyone has approached other parties, such as the YMCA or the University to see if they have concerns about the area and to get their feedback. Councillor Burbach noted that at the February 24, 2025 Council meeting, there was a recommendation passed to direct staff to take the next step in the research of the Grand Trunk site. The development of this area will impact traffic and pedestrian planning in the future.

Unfortunately, until there are sidewalks or multi-use paths along both sides of Lorne Avenue, a pedestrian cross-over would not be installed at Railway Avenue and Lorne Avenue.

7.2 Inquiry Regarding Bike Lockers

Councillor Burbach stated that she had an inquiry from a downtown resident regarding the possibility of a secure bike locker in the downtown area. This would allow downtown residents the option to store their bicycle somewhere if they do not have a storage option in their building.

Kelley Teahen noted that Union Station in Toronto has many lockers for commuters who travel in on the train and then take their bicycles to work. This could be looked at as either revenue generating or it could be a service, depending on how the City chooses to operate them. Ms. Teahen inquired if a study has ever been done regarding the lockers and what the cost of the units are, what would be a recommended cost recovery rental plan and could the lockers be looked at as a cooperative with building owners for their tenants. Councillor Burbach noted that lockers have been discussed in the past, however the local bicycle shops thought Stratford was too small for this type of service.

Vicky Trotter will investigate different options and pricing for bicycle lockers for further discussion at the next meeting.

Council Burbach will contact Zac Gribble at Destination Stratford to discuss the bike lockers and also any plans regarding bike share programs in Stratford.

8. Date of Next Meeting

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, March 26, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

9. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Joel LaCourse

THAT the February 26, 2025 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:03 P.M.

End Time: 8:28 P.M.