



Active Transportation Advisory Committee

MINUTES

A meeting of the Active Transportation Advisory Committee (ATAC) was held on Wednesday, March 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, Councillor Harjinder Nijjar, Christine Lee

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

Regrets: Inspector Jason Clarke, Nick Sheldon – Project Manager, Rhonda Gesinghaus Vaters

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 Councillor Nijjar

Seconded by Pat Ranney

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

4. Festival Route Working Group Update

Vicky Trotter and Pat Ranney reported that they are continuing to work on this project. The plan is to sign the clockwise route initially to save funds. Ms. Ranney has created a detailed map and list of how many signs are required and an initial quote was obtained from the manufacturer for signs, posts and hardware in the amount of \$4,800.00. The committee may be able to secure a better price for the posts and hardware from the Public Works Department. The quote does not include the cost of installation.

The next step in the process will be to design the signs and determine exactly what they look like and what to include on them. They will also contact Public Works to inquire about the cost of installing the signs and posts. Further updates at the April meeting regarding installation costs and budget discussion on funds for this project.

5. Business Arising from Previous Minutes

5.1 Missing Sidewalk Links Discussion

Vicky Trotter reported that staff at the Accessibility Advisory Committee updated members that some of the sidewalk projects scheduled for completion in 2025 are:

- Gordon Street (from Ontario to Willow Street);
- Willow Street (from Canterbury Ave. to Gordon Street);
- Erie Street (from Lorne Ave. to the existing sidewalk at Midas);
- The existing multi-use trail along Erie Street (south from Lorne Avenue) is scheduled to be reconstructed;

Staff is also investigating the section of the sidewalk missing on Forman Avenue (in front of the church) as a possible 2026 project. There are hydro poles and trees along that section that they need to consider before a sidewalk can be installed.

ATAC members can have further discussion regarding their list of priority missing sidewalk links with Nick Sheldon at the April meeting.

5.2 Safety Concerns Crossing Ontario Street at York Street

Kelley Teahen updated members that she did inquire with the Horticultural Society regarding their garden tours. There are no walking routes indicated on the Horticultural tours, they indicate the stops, not a specific route.

Joel LaCourse stated that if eventually there is a safe crossing at York and Ontario Street, perhaps the pathway under the bridge should be closed

permanently. He believes it is not up to code, a liability and someone is likely to get hurt using it.

5.3 Downie/Waterloo/Douro Street Intersection Discussion

Councillor Burbach circulated a study to ATAC members that was conducted pertaining to this area. Considerations for this area, including roads, is greatly dependent on the future development of the Grand Trunk site. Vicky Trotter stated that the draft plan for the Grand Trunk site indicates an additional road coming out from the site at Downie Street (near the bus terminal) and one coming out on St. David Street.

Kelley Teahen stated that flagging this problematic area early on in the development process will be key to prioritizing safety, as this is a busy area used by pedestrians and cyclists.

Councillor Burbach stated that ideally, traffic lights would be installed at the Downie/Waterloo/Douro intersection. Members stated that even a pedestrian crossover in the meantime would make the area safer than nothing at all.

Councillor Burbach stated that there was a pedestrian crossover planned for Downie Street at George Street prior to the pandemic. Joel LaCourse suggested that Downie Street could possibly be closed in this area as it is very busy with the Festival. When the theatre lets out, people can wander safely down the street and enjoy restaurants, patios and dining options. Ms. Trotter will follow up with staff for a status update on the crossover on Downie at George Street.

Motion by Kelley Teahen

Seconded by Joel LaCourse

THAT the Active Transportation Advisory Committee recommends Council direct staff to investigate options for a pedestrian crossing in the area of Downie Street, Douro Street and Waterloo Street. Carried

5.4 Bike Lockers Update

Vicky Trotter reported that she received two quotes for the bike lockers. Each unit is a 2-bike locker, each side has its own locker with individual locks. Not including installation, hardware and locking mechanisms are approximately \$5,000.00 each.

Councillor Burbach stated that while at the BIA Car-Free Fridays meeting, there were some other options discussed, which may not necessarily all fall under a City expense;

- install bike storage in the empty lot next to the police station where there is already surveillance and bikes are less likely to be stolen;
- possibly use vacant building space to create an indoor bike storage/parking area;

Christine Lee inquired if it would be possible to have cameras installed at a location where lockers or bike corrals are installed. Members noted that cameras could be installed, however having them monitored is another issue.

Councillor Burbach will contact the citizen who first brought this issue to her attention and gather some additional information and pricing.

Christine Lee suggested getting the local secondary schools involved and perhaps having their shop classes fabricate bike lockers. Vicky Trotter will contact the school to inquire about this option.

5.5 Update on Partnership with BIA for Car-Free Fridays or Events

Pat Ranney reported that, in partnership with the BIA, they are going to continue with Car-Free Fridays for the month of June, as June is cycle month. The check-in tent will be located in Market Square. The hope is that with this partnership, the event will grow and continue. The first event will take place on June 6, 2025, most likely from 8:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. and will run each Friday for four weeks. Organizers may run some fun competitions again this year, such as City employees versus BIA member employees to see who has the most people who bike to work.

Vicky Trotter will work with Mike Beitz to advertise the events on social media, newspapers and city buses. The BIA could also advertise. Vicky Trotter will assist with prizes if ATAC would like to continue with this.

Volunteers will be required each Friday to help set up the tent in Market Square. Kelley Teahen suggested that each Friday, they could rotate between downtown coffee shops to supply the coffee at the tent. Ms. Teahen also suggested that helmet safety is a big issue. Perhaps someone could be present at the tent to offer information on how a helmet should fit. Gift certificates to purchase new helmets could also be considered for prizes.

Joel LaCourse inquired if there can be some sort of incentive program to get downtown employees to ride the bus and not park downtown. Councillor Burbach noted that the BIA already has a program in place that offers discounted bus tickets. Members also suggested that better signage and pavement painting could be used in the Cooper parking lot indicating that there is additional parking in the Downie lot.

5.6 Request for Bike Lanes on John Street

Councillor Burbach reported that, to speed up the process, she brought forward an ATAC recommendation from the January minutes regarding painting bike lanes on John Street and the motion passed at ITS Sub-committee. Vicky Trotter will inquire with the Clerk on the process of the Management Report now that the motion has passed at Sub-committee.

6. New Business

6.1 Dufferin/Oak/Elm Street Intersections

Joel LaCourse inquired about safety issues with the two yields at these intersections and feels that it is a dangerous situation if two vehicles are turning right at the same time. Mr. LaCourse suggests that one of the yield signs should be an actual stop sign to avoid a collision.

Vicky Trotter will contact the Infrastructure Department to inquire about this area.

7. Date of Next Meeting

The next ATAC meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, April 23, 2025 at 7:00 p.m. at the Stratford Rotary Complex in the Mansbridge Room.

8. Adjournment

Motion by Councillor Burbach

Seconded by Councillor Nijjar

THAT the March 26, 2025 ATAC meeting adjourn. Carried

Start Time: 7:03 P.M.

End Time: 8:14 P.M.