

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee

Meeting 4

Wednesday, May 11, 2005

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee met on Wednesday, May 11, 2005, in Committee Room 4, 2nd Floor, City Hall, Toronto, commencing at 1:36 p.m.

Members Present:

J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair
Helen Riley, Co-Chair
Rita Brooks
Deanne Fisher
Laurel Fortin
Dr. Bob Frankford
Daina Leja
Dylan Reid
Councillor Bill Saundercook
Peter Tesar
Elizabeth Walker, Older Womens' Network
Councillor Sylvia Watson

Regrets:

Igor Batuk
Paul Collier
Angela Kennedy, Trustee, Toronto Catholic District School Board
Crawford Murphy, Toronto Cycling Committee
Wayne Scott, Feet on the Street

Also Present:

Joan Doiron (Feet on the Street)
Ian Wheal, Toronto Field Naturalists
Rona Swarbrick, Pedestrian Planning Network
Bob Leah, Homewood Neighbourhood Association
Dorothy Fletcher, Older Womens' Network

Staff Present:

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit,

J. Richard Nelson in the Chair.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Elizabeth Walker, the Minutes of the meeting of the Toronto Pedestrian Committee held on April 6, 2005, were confirmed.

4.1 St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project

Joanna Musters, Program Manager, Transportation Planning and Scott Duggan, Project Manager, Toronto Transit Commission presented the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee considered the following communications:

- (1) (April 20, 2005) from Helen Riley, Co-Chair, Toronto Pedestrian Committee, recommending the following motion:

“WHEREAS the City’s overview summary of the Environmental Assessment study says, ‘Upgrading transit service on St. Clair Avenue West, by giving priority to streetcars, indicates a commitment to reducing auto-dependency and creating a more liveable, people-friendly, attractive and sustainable City improved streetcar service on St. Clair Avenue West supports the land use planning objectives of seeing this corridor develop as a vibrant, mixed-use Avenue where the emphasis is more on the quality of the pedestrian environment than on the accommodation of traffic’; and

WHEREAS contrary to this overview, pedestrians are being squeezed into whatever space is left over after vehicles have been accommodated; and

WHEREAS the current plans for St. Clair Avenue West call for sidewalk cuts of up to 3.6m., leaving reconstructed sidewalks of only 2.0 m. at major intersections; and

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WHEREAS a sidewalk width at intersections of 2.0 m. is not sufficient for a major road and a transit route, bad enough in summer, but in winter there is nowhere to put the snow; and

WHEREAS the transit platforms are not all 2.4m wide as recommended for accessibility; and

WHEREAS pedestrians have to cross seven lanes of vehicles in order to cross St. Clair Avenue West without adequate safety islands; and

WHEREAS it is possible to have a dedicated streetcar lane and a people-friendly environment by reducing the space allocated to through vehicular traffic; and

WHEREAS Councillors in approving the study decided on 'Preserving the current sidewalk width on St. Clair Avenue West as a key guiding principle in the detailed design work';

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Pedestrian Committee requests the Works Committee to ensure that sidewalk widths on St. Clair Avenue West remain at least at their current widths at intersections - in order to provide safe areas for pedestrians waiting to cross, to reduce the distance required to cross the street, and to permit the incorporation of trees and benches on the sidewalk.'; and

- (2) (May 9, 2005) from Helen and Robert Hansen, requesting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to ensure that adequate sidewalk widths are maintained for the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project.

A. Helen Riley moved that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the Planning and Transportation Committee that City Council adopt the following motion:

“WHEREAS City Council, in approving the Environmental Assessment study for St Clair Avenue West, decided on, 'preserving the current sidewalk width on St. Clair Avenue West as a key guiding principle in the detailed design work'; and

WHEREAS the current plans for St. Clair Avenue West fail to meet City Council's intent by calling for sidewalk cuts of up to 3.6 m., leaving reconstructed sidewalks of only 2.0 m. at major intersections; and

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WHEREAS the reduced sidewalks will not provide safe pedestrian waiting areas, will increase the distance to cross the street, and will prevent the incorporation of trees and benches on the sidewalk; and

WHEREAS it is possible to have a dedicated streetcar lane and a people-friendly environment by reducing the space allocated to through vehicular traffic;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Toronto Pedestrian Committee advised the Planning and Transportation Committee to, wherever a sidewalk is being reduced along the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project, advise the Design Team for the Project to make it a top priority to maintain the current width of sidewalk.” **(Carried.)**

(Sent To: Planning and Transportation Committee, c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - May 19, 2005)

B. Helen Riley moved that Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the Planning and Transportation Committee that City Council, approve for Phase II of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project, between the two St. Clair Avenue subway stations, the following design changes:

- (1) reducing the width of the vehicle lanes to 2.75 metres; and
- (2) reducing the radius of the corners at intersections to 2.0 metres.

The Co-Chair ruled this motion in order as the motion was ruled to be properly before the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

Councillor Saundercook challenged the ruling of the Co-Chair as the matter would require a re-opening at City Council.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee, on a vote, did not uphold the Ruling of the Chair.

Motion (B) by Helen Riley was Out of Order.

- C. Helen Riley moved that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the Planning and Transportation Committee that City Council direct, for Phase II of the St. Clair Avenue West Transit Improvement Project, west of St. Clair Avenue West subway station, the Design Team to investigate the option of permanent parking bays with pinchpoints at intersections.

The Co-Chair ruled motion (C) by Helen Riley Out of Order as the motion was not properly before the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

4.2 Development Infrastructure and Policy Standards Project

Kathleen Llewellyn-Thomas, Director of Development Engineering, Technical Services presented the Development Infrastructure and Policy Standards Project to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it the following communications:

- (1) (April 20, 2005) from the City Clerk advising that City Council on April 12, 13 and 14, 2005, considered Report 3, Clause 15 of the Planning and Transportation Committee, headed, “Development Infrastructure Policy and Standards Review”, and directed that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee be consulted as one of the stakeholders and that a copy of the Clause be forwarded to the Committee for information; and
- (2) (May 9, 2005) from Helen and Robert Hansen, requesting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee consider the following during their review of development infrastructure and policy standards:
 - (a) shorter radius corners would allow more space for pedestrians who gather at crossings, and make the crossing distance somewhat shorter and safer;
 - (b) increase walk signal timing in order to provide more time than the present assumed speed of 1.2 metres per second – many older pedestrians and younger ones, such as toddlers, cannot and do not walk that fast;

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- (c) sheet metal signs at push button locations – these signs have sharp edges and are not currently mounted in a safe way – they should be bent around the post or framed;
- (d) slope of sidewalks at driveways – slope should be minimal, and should extend beyond the curb – at some locations pedestrians must walk single-file because the slope is hazardous, especially with winter ice and snow; and
- (e) inner edge of sidewalks at exits to malls and commercial places should be marked with a big STOP on the pavement, and with STOP signs, and/or bumps.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee referred this matter to the Pedestrian Friendly Environments - Urban Design and Streetscaping Working Group.

(Sent To: Pedestrian Friendly Environments – Urban Design and Streetscaping, c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - May 19, 2005)

4.3 Guidelines for Drive-Through Establishments

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee advised the Planning and Transportation Committee that the Committee endorses the Guidelines for Drive-Through Establishments and their pedestrian friendly approach.

(Sent To: Planning and Transportation Committee, c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - May 19, 2005)

4.4 Transportation Services Pedestrian Projects – Staff Update

Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Infrastructure Unit, Transportation Services presented Pedestrian Assessment Tools to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it the following communications:

- (1) (April 27, 2005) from the Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit, Transportation Services, providing, for information, a review of pedestrian assessment tools and 2006 new sidewalk installations; and
- (2) (May 11, 2005) from the Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit, Transportation Services, providing, for information, a review of the pedestrian assessment tools Charette held on May 2, 2005.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the communications.

4.5 Working Groups

- (i) Promoting Walking;
- (ii) Pedestrian Friendly Environments – Urban Design and Streetscaping; and
- (iii) Pedestrian Safety:
 - (a) Proposed Priorities from Helen Riley.

On motion by Elizabeth Walker, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Working Groups updates.

4.6 Updates – Committee Members

No action taken on this matter.

4.7 Designated Senior Staff Person on Pedestrian Issues

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (April 27, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Chair, Feet on the Street, requesting that the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommend to the Works Committee that City Council designate a existing senior staff person be put in charge immediately of the pedestrian realm in order to beautify and make the streets of the City of Toronto walkable, as part of the staff changes after April 15, 2005.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee deferred the matter to its meeting on June 8, 2005.

4.8 Item for Information

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (April 14, 2005) from William E. Brown concerning pedestrian safety and a vehicle operated by the Toronto Hydro Electric System Limited.

On motion by Rita Brooks, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the Item for Information.

4.9 Appointment – Feet on the Street

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (May 8, 2005) from Joan Doiron, Chair, Feet on the Street, advising that Joan Doiron will be the representative for Feet on the Street on the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

On motion by Councillor Saundercook, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee recommended to the Works Committee that City Council appoint Joan Doiron as the representative for Feet on the Street on the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

(Sent To: Works Committee, c: J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair; Helen Riley, Co-Chair; Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure Unit - May 19, 2005)

4.10 Toronto Seniors' Forum – Community Consultations

No action taken on this matter.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it a communication (May 6, 2005) from the Community Resources Unit, inviting the Toronto Pedestrian Committee to participate in the Toronto Seniors' Forum, Community Consultation meeting on May 16, 2005, and complete the Survey.

4.11 Policy of Replacing Existing Street Signs

Michelle Lo, Engineering Technologist Transportation Services presented the Policy of Replacing Existing Street Signs to the Toronto Pedestrian Committee.

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee had before it:

- (1) a excerpt of Report 5, Clause 16(i) of the Works Committee to be considered by City Council on May 17, 2005; and
- (2) a communication (April 6, 2005) from Councillor Mihevc (Ward 21, St. Paul's West) advising that the Works Committee has requested Transportation services staff to consult with the Toronto Pedestrian Committee on the replacement of all remaining Toronto street signs with the oversized black on white signs.

On motion by Dylan Reid, the Toronto Pedestrian Committee received the excerpt and communication

The Toronto Pedestrian Committee adjourned its meeting at 4:26 p.m.

J. Richard Nelson, Co-Chair