

THE CITY OF TORONTO

City Clerk's Office

Minutes of the Toronto Cycling Committee

Meeting 5

Monday, May 15, 2006

The Toronto Cycling Committee met on Monday, May 15, 2006, Committee Room No. 2, Toronto City Hall, 100 Queen Street West, at 7:03 p.m.

Members Present:

Councillor Adam Giambrone, Chair
Ian Thomson, Co-Chair
Clay McFayden, Co-Chair
Judy Adler
Colin Biggin
Paulette Blais
Steve Crossman
Margaret Hastings-James
Martin Koob
Crawford Murphy
Brigitte Nowak
Charles O'Hara
John A. Sherk
Hamish Wilson

Regrets:

Craig Barnes
Derek Chadbourne
Peter Michael Dziak
Nancy Grieveson
Joe Hendry
Michael Paulin
Andrew Wood

Also Present:

Constable Stephen Burns, Traffic Services, Toronto Police Service
Barb Wentworth, Bicycle Safety Planner, Transportation Planning, City Planning Division
Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure
Alex Shevchuk, Parks and Recreation Planner, Policy and Development Division
Sean Wheldrake, Bicycle Promotion Co-ordinator, Transportation Planning

Councillor Giambrone in the Chair to 7:58 p.m.
Ian Thomson in the Chair to 10:10 p.m.

There were no declarations of interest under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

Confirmation of Minutes

On motion by Ian Thomson, the Minutes of the April 18, 2006 meeting were confirmed.

5.1. Toronto Public Space Committee

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered a presentation by Ron Nurwisah, Member, Toronto Public Space Committee.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee:

- (a) invited a representative of the Toronto Public Space Committee to attend the Toronto Cycling Committee meetings on an informal basis;
- (b) requested the City Clerk to add the Toronto Public Space Committee to the Toronto Cycling Committee full agenda mailing list: and
- (c) received the presentation by Ron Nurwisah, Member, Toronto Public Space Committee.

5.2. Toronto Youth Cabinet

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered a presentation by Keegan Henry-Mathieu, Member, Toronto Youth Cabinet and Rachna Contractor, Coordinator, Toronto Youth Cabinet, Social Development, Finance and Administration.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee requested the Works Committee and City Council to approve an amendment to the Terms of Reference for the Toronto Cycling Committee to allow a representative from the Toronto Youth Cabinet to be a member of the Toronto Cycling Committee and to invite the Toronto Youth Cabinet to appoint a representative to the Toronto Cycling Committee.

5.3. Cycling Conditions and Road Construction

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered a presentation on accommodating cyclists in construction/work zones by Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee received the presentation and written material from Daniel Egan, Manager, Pedestrian and Cycling Infrastructure.

5.4. Bikeway Network Projects, Bikeway Network Information System Sign Installation and Bikeway Network Trails

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered a presentation by Alex Shevchuk and Michael Shreiner reporting on the following:

- (1) the plans for implementing the Bikeway Network Information System in Parks, including the trails that are to be signed and the spending that will be allocated to that project from the 'Bikeway Network Expansion' budget items or any other line items;
- (2) the plans for new trails that will form part of the Bikeway Network with information on the trail projects planned and the funding that will be allocated to them, including:
 - (a) trail projects funded from of the 'Bikeway Network Expansion' budget item;
 - (b) trail projects that are stand-alone service improvements; and
 - (c) trail projects that are part of stand-alone Park improvements;
- (3) the plans for improvements, upgrades or repairs to existing Bikeway Network trails under the Capital Asset Management Program - State of Good Repair budget, including:
 - (a) compilation of the trail audit data for Bikeway Network related trails from the State of Good Repair Audits - Trails and Pathways for the East, West, North and South Districts; and
 - (b) the annual amount budgeted towards addressing State of Good Repair for the Bikeway Network related trails in the years 2006 to 2011;
- (4) the plan for repairs to trails and bridges that are part of the Bikeway Network that suffered storm damage in 2005, including the Wilket Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail, the Highland Creek Trail bridges, the Humber Trail and any other trails or bridges that were damaged; and

- (5) the status of the development of the Parks, Forestry and Recreation 5-year Capital plan, as it pertains to the Toronto Bike Plan, including plans for Bikeway Network Expansion, stand-alone service or park improvements, repairs and upgrades to trails that are part of the Bikeway Network as part of the CAMP-SGR program, and implementation of the Bikeway Network Information System.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee received the presentation and written material from Alex Shevchuk, Planning, Design and Development, and Michael Shreiner, Acting Manager, Construction Management, Capital Projects, Parks, Forestry and Recreation.

5.5. Promotions Subcommittee

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered the Promotions Sub-committee minutes dated April 19, 2006 and providing the following recommendations for consideration:

- (i) Promotions Chair request for TCC members to join TCC Promotions Sub-committee. Chair will ask for commitments from TCC for new Promotions Sub-committee members at May meeting.

Currently Nancy Grieveson is the only TCC member on the Promotions Committee. Promotions and Communications are a vital part of the Toronto Bike Plan. The TCC needs to help develop and support this area of the Bike Plan. Promotions can increase the number of cyclists which in turn will increase demand for infrastructure in the political arena and will raise driver awareness of cyclists, therefore improving safety. Social marketing, the art of changing peoples' behavior for societal good, is challenging and rewarding as is developing strategies for selling cycling culture. Nancy Grieveson will be on maternity leave starting August, and will be unable to chair the Promotions Committee. Please volunteer to serve on this sub committee. (see attached PDF of Bike Plan Promotions, sec 7)

- (ii) Promotions Sub-committee recommends to Transportation and Planning and Works Committee's that they honour their commitment to Encourage and Support Cycling by City Employees as outlined in the Toronto Bike Plan section 7.4 and detailed as a \$80,000.00 budget item between 2004 – 2011 in section 10-2 of the Bike Plan.

The City of Toronto has made several commitments of supporting physical activity, improved air quality and clean and beautiful city initiatives. Supporting the Toronto Bike Plan and being a leader in developing priorities for assisting city employees' ability to commit to commute to work by bicycle would be a huge step in validating the city's commitments to physical activity, health and cleaner air. Currently the city offers it's employee's free parking, but is resistant to providing incentives for

employees choosing to commute by bicycle to work. What message does this give to City employees, or to Toronto citizens?

- (iii) Promotions Sub-committee requests that Tourism Toronto be invited to present to the TCC what steps Tourism Toronto are taking to promote cycling to tourists.

Section 7.5 of the Toronto Bike Plan outlines how bicycling can play a role in the development of Sustainable Tourism in Toronto. Eco Tourism is based on a combination of ecological, economic, ethical, and social equality for local communities. Green industries are proving to be up and coming in the market place and are not only good for the environment and people's health, but are revenue generating and good for the economy. Section 7-7 of the bike plan recommends that Tourism Toronto be a partner to the City of Toronto in exploring opportunities with other interest groups, agencies and governments to promote bicycle tourism in Toronto.

The Toronto Cycling Committee also considered the following:

- (i) Extract of Toronto Bike Plan – Section 7; and
- (ii) Extract of Toronto Bike Plan – Section 10.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee:

- (a) postponed consideration of the Promotions Chair request for Toronto Cycling Committee members to become members of the Promotions Sub-committee, to its meeting to be held on June 19, 2006;
- (b) postponed consideration of the recommendation to the Transportation and Planning and Works Committees that they honour their commitment to Encourage and Support Cycling by City Employees to its meeting to be held on July 18, 2006, to allow the Bicycle Safety Planner, Transportation Planning, City Planning Division to bring forward a report that addresses this issue;
- (c) requested the City Clerk to invite Tourism Toronto to a future meeting of the Toronto Cycling Committee to make a presentation on what steps Tourism Toronto are taking to promote cycling to tourists; and
- (d) received the remainder of the Promotions Sub-committee minutes dated April 19, 2006.

5.6. Education and Safety Subcommittee

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered the Education and Safety Sub-committee minutes dated April 24, 2006 and providing the following recommendations for consideration:

Re: Licensing of Bicycles:

The Toronto Cycling Committee does not support the licensing of bicycles or cyclists and makes the following recommendations to City Council:

- (a) that City Council not support the licensing of bicycles or cyclists due to the following concerns:
 - licensing causes additional barriers to cycling
 - licensing is not cost efficient due to the administrative resources required and the direct costs to multi-bicycle households
 - licensing programs are not enforceable given the lack of police resources currently available for enforcing existing Highway Traffic Act infractions.
 - a license fee would raise expectations of cyclists that the City should be providing extensive bike lanes and other bicycle friendly services and a more robust response to bicycle theft.
 - licensing programs will not apply to cyclists entering Toronto from other jurisdictions.
- (b) that City Council recognize that all of the valid reasons that the City discontinued licensing bicycles in 1956 are still present today (as evidenced by reports in 1984, 1992 and 1996) and, that until these issues change significantly or disappear, that bicycle licensing not be entertained again in the near future.
- (c) that City Council recognize that encouraging more citizens to cycle benefits everyone living in Toronto by reducing congestion on our roads, improving air quality by reducing automobile use, reduces health care costs related to obesity and inactivity and that every effort must be made to remove barriers that prevent people from choosing to cycle.
- (d) that City Council implement a local tax credit for cyclists who ride on a regular basis in recognition that they pay their fair share of road taxes while contributing nothing to the wear and tear on our roads that require expensive road repairs.

Re: Truck Safety Update:

- (a) That the City report back on the feasibility of installing the following safety features on all City trucks:
 - sideguards
 - audible warning system for trucks making turns (similar to the audible system used when backing up)
 - more turn signals on the side of trucks
 - cameras and mirror systems to eliminate the blind spots on trucks
 - deflectors on the front of trucks (also know as an air dam or cow catcher)
- (b) that the City report back on the feasibility of requiring the above equipment on all City contracted trucks.
- (c) that the City report back on the feasibility of requiring the above equipment on all trucks entering the City
- (d) that the City recognize that bike lanes are intrinsically a safety feature that provides protection for cyclists from trucks and motor vehicles, making it easier for vehicles to pass cyclists safely and that in order to protect the City's citizens on bikes that bike lane installation receive the highest priority on roads.
- (e) that the City request Transport Canada to provide information on the progress of the Road Safety 2010 plan in regards to cyclists as vulnerable road users .
- (f) that the City request Transport Canada to provide information on what progress has been made in developing a policy for sideguards on trucks, the creation of standards for such sideguards and any statistics from other jurisdictions on the effectiveness of sideguards on trucks.
- (g) that the City report back on the feasibility of the following initiatives to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians:
 - (i) restricting truck traffic during rush hours
 - (ii) restricting truck traffic between 7 am and 7 pm on city streets
 - (iii) right turn restrictions for trucks on popular bicycle routes
 - (iv) restrict the size of trucks in the down town core

- (h) that City Council allocate 1% of the road budget towards road safety programs to reduce fatalities and injuries to cyclists in order to enhance the safe and efficient transportation of all road users.
- (i) that the Toronto Cycling Committee invite the following groups to present information on the education of truck drivers regarding interaction with vulnerable road users, licensing requirements, and their perspective on measures that can enhance road user safety at future meeting(s) of the TCC in order to form a partnership to work cooperatively to reduce truck - bicycle conflicts:
 - The Ontario Trucking Association
 - Transportation Association of Canada
 - Transport Canada
 - Ontario Ministry of Transportation (carrier safety and enforcement branch)
- (j) that Police Traffic Services and City Transportation and Planning Staff present an annual report to the Toronto Cycling Committee with detailed information on the circumstances associated with cycling fatalities and serious injuries.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee:

(A) adopted the following recommendations:

(1) Licensing of Bicycles:

The Toronto Cycling Committee requested that the Works Committee forward the following to City Council for consideration:

The Toronto Cycling Committee does not support the licensing of bicycles or cyclists and makes the following recommendations to City Council:

- (a) that City Council not support the licensing of bicycles or cyclists due to the following concerns:
 - (i) licensing causes additional barriers to cycling
 - (ii) licensing is not cost efficient due to the administrative resources required and the direct costs to multi-bicycle households

- (iii) licensing programs are not enforceable given the lack of police resources currently available for enforcing existing Highway Traffic Act infractions.
 - (iv) licensing programs will not apply to cyclists entering Toronto from other jurisdictions.
 - (b) that City Council recognize that all of the valid reasons that the City discontinued licensing bicycles in 1956 are still present today (as evidenced by reports in 1984, 1992 and 1996) and, that until these issues change significantly or disappear, that bicycle licensing not be entertained again in the near future.
 - (c) that City Council recognize that encouraging more citizens to cycle benefits everyone living in Toronto by reducing congestion on our roads, improving air quality by reducing automobile use, reduces health care costs related to obesity and inactivity and that every effort must be made to remove barriers that prevent people from choosing to cycle.
- (2) Truck Safety:
 - (a) requested the Works Committee to request the City Solicitor to:
 - (1) report back to the Toronto Cycling Committee on the following:
 - (i) whether it is within the legal jurisdiction of City Council to require the following equipment on all City contracted trucks:
 - (a) sideguards;
 - (b) audible warning system for trucks making turns (similar to the audible system used when backing up);
 - (c) more turns signals on the side

- of trucks;
 - (d) cameras and mirror systems to eliminate the blind spots on trucks; and
 - (e) deflectors on the front of trucks (also known as an air dam or cow catcher);
 - (ii) whether it is within the legal jurisdiction of City Council to require the above equipment on all trucks driving on roads owned by the City of Toronto;
- (b) request the General Manager, Transportation Services to report to the Toronto Cycling Committee on the following initiatives to improve safety for cyclists and pedestrians:
 - (i) right turn restrictions for trucks on popular bicycle routes; and
 - (ii) restricting the size of trucks in the downtown core;
- (c) request Police Traffic Services and the General Manager, Transportation Services to present an annual report to the Toronto Cycling Committee with detailed information on the circumstances associated with all reported bicycling collisions with vehicles in the City of Toronto;
- (d) forward the following recommendations to City Council:
 - (i) City Council recognize that bike lanes are intrinsically a safety feature that provides protection for cyclists from trucks and motor vehicles, making it easier for vehicles to pass cyclists safely and that in order to protect the City's citizens on bikes, that bike lane

installation receive the highest priority on roads; and

- (ii) City Council allocate one percent of the road budget towards road safety programs to reduce fatalities and injuries to cyclists in order to enhance the safe and efficient transportation of all road users;
- (B) requested the City Clerk to invite the following groups to present information on the education of truck drivers regarding interaction with vulnerable road users, licensing requirements, and their perspective on measures that can enhance road user safety at future meeting(s) of the Toronto Cycling Committee in order to form a partnership to work cooperatively to reduce truck - bicycle conflicts:
 - (a) The Ontario Trucking Association;
 - (b) Transportation Association of Canada;
 - (c) Transport Canada, and that they, in particular:
 - (i) provide information on the progress of the Road Safety 2010 plan in regards to cyclists as vulnerable road users; and
 - (ii) provide information on what progress has been made in developing a policy for sideguards on trucks, the creation of standards for such sideguards and any statistics from other jurisdictions on the effectiveness of sideguards on trucks; and
 - (d) Ontario Ministry of Transportation (carrier safety and enforcement branch).
- (C) received the remainder of the minutes of the Education and Safety Sub-committee dated April 24, 2006.

5.7. Bikeway Network Subcommittee

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered the Bikeway Network Subcommittee minutes dated April 26, 2006 and providing the following recommendations for consideration:

That the Toronto Cycling Committee request staff to encourage the creation of ward-specific BUGs by:

- (i) using the Cyclometer mailing list to forward announcements of BUG meetings in specific wards to list members in that ward; and
- (ii) reporting back to the TCC on a formal process to establish ward-based bugs.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee:

- (a) referred the following Recommendations contained in the Bikeway Network Subcommittee minutes dated April 26, 2006 to the Promotions Sub-committee for further development and requested that the Promotions Sub-committee report to the Toronto Cycling Committee at its meeting to be held on June 18, 2006:

That the Toronto Cycling Committee request staff to encourage the creation of ward-specific BUGs by:

- (1) using the Cyclometer mailing list to forward announcements of BUG meetings in specific wards to list members in that ward; and
 - (2) reporting back to the TCC on a formal process to establish ward-based bugs.
- (b) received the remainder of the minutes.

5.8. Cycling and Transit Working Group

The Toronto Cycling Committee considered the Cycling and Transit Working Group minutes dated May 9, 2006.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee received the Cycling and Transit Working Group minutes.

5.9. Outstanding List

Communication (May 1, 2006) from the City Clerk, providing the Outstanding Items List for the information of the Toronto Cycling Committee.

By consensus, the Toronto Cycling Committee received the communication (May 1, 2006) from the City Clerk.

The Toronto Cycling Committee adjourned its meeting at 10:10 p.m.

Councillor Giambrone, Chair

Ian Thompson, Co-Chair