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Response to Administrative Inquiry
Re: Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure & Programs – Open Data

Councillor Paul Ainslie submitted an Administrative Inquiry under Municipal Code S27-61 to seek information regarding Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure & Programs open data sets with regards to Bike Share ridership.

1. Why has Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure & Programs stopped issuing open datasets on Bike Share Toronto usage as mandated by Toronto City Council?

On April 1, 2014 Bike Share Toronto was transferred to the Toronto Parking Authority (TPA) to manage and maintain. The TPA continues to issue open data on Bike Share usage. The City of Toronto's Open Data website, currently includes Bike Share live station information. This feed provides real time information on station occupancy levels and is available in the Data Catalogue, under Transportation Services on a page called "Bicycle Stations (Bike Share Toronto)". Below is the link to the page.

<https://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=ad3cb6b6ae92b310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD&vgnextchannel=7807e03bb8d1e310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

2. When will Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure and Programs regularly release open datasets and update them on a regular basis?

Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure & Programs unit currently maintains eight open datasets on the City of Toronto's Open Data portal. Updates on these existing datasets are prioritized based on frequency of requests, staff resources, costs associated with the release, and an analysis of privacy issues. Table 1 below reviews the various cycling datasets and update schedule maintained by Transportation Services.

Table 1. Cycling Infrastructure & Programs Data and Update Schedule

Data Type / Name	Last Updated	Update Frequency
Bikeways	August 2017	Yearly
Cycling Network Plan Shapefile – 2016 Council Approved	August 2017 – Currently under Open Data / GCC Review	None – One time upload
Bike Counts - Screenline 2010	September 2010	Update in progress to include 2013 and 2014 data
High Capacity Bike Parking	September 2014	Under review
Bike Parking - Indoor	September 2014	Under review
Bicycle Shops	September 2014	Under review
Multi-Use Trail Entrances	July 2014	Under review
Bike Counts - Historical, Screenline, Intersection	August 2016	As available (yearly, minimum)

These datasets can be accessed at the following link:

<https://www1.toronto.ca/wps/portal/contentonly?vgnextoid=1a66e03bb8d1e310VgnVCM10000071d60f89RCRD>

In respect to Bike Share data specifically, the TPA has been working with the Open Data team to update and improve the available data on the City of Toronto's open data site. TPA Staff are in frequent contact with Toronto Open Data to improve the available data and respond to public inquiries. In June 2016, the Bike Share Program implemented a system wide software change. The change in software provider improved the data availability for public use by enhancing the live feed, and providing a direct link to the feed for easier access. These technical changes have improved accessibility to the data and reduced the volume of glitches and errors. In Table 2 below, the update schedule for TPA's Bike Share program is detailed.

Table 2. Toronto Parking Authority's Bike Share Data and Update Schedule

Data Type / Name	Last Modified Version	Update Frequency
Bicycle Stations (Bike Share Toronto)	April 2017	Live

The Bike Share dataset includes information on all operational Bike Share terminal locations and includes all station occupancy data. This means that in real time it relays how many bicycles and docking points are available at each individual station location.

The TPA is currently investigating the addition of new Bike Share data related to:

- the trip duration,
- the start/end date of each trip,
- the start/end station of each trip,
- the bike identification number used for that trip, and
- whether or not the user was a registered or casual member.

Both Transportation Services and the TPA are committed to providing Open Data to the public. As such, staff from both organizations continue to evaluate posted datasets for potential updates and expanded fields to provide the most useful data to the public as possible.

3. When will Transportation Services, Cycling Infrastructure & Programs provide a detailed list of the soon to be released open datasets with the date for release?

Transportation Services and the TPA continue to work with the Open Data team and the City's Chief Information Officer's office, and are targeting January, 2018 for the release of the Bike Share datasets noted in Response 2 above.

Yours truly,

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Andrew Koropeski
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