



# MINUTES

**Meeting of  
Cambridge Cycling and Trails Advisory Committee  
February 11, 2020  
7:00 p.m. – Virtual (Zoom)**

**Committee Members In Attendance:** Chris Smith, Victoria Lewin, Selwyn Langlois, Stephanie Bangarth, Rebecca Roy, Julie Graham, Councilor Nicholas Ermeta

**Staff Members in Attendance:** Shane Taylor, Landscape Architect, Lisa Chominiec, Sustainable Transportation Coordinator, Brian Geerts, Manager of Operations Forestry and Horticulture

**Presenters in Attendance:** Tricia Radburn, R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited; Matthew O'Neil, Region of Waterloo; Tom Strickland, CycleWR

**Regrets:** Kristi Enns

## **1. Meeting Called to Order**

The regular meeting of the Cambridge Trails Advisory Committee of the City of Cambridge was held virtually via Zoom. Stephanie Bangarth, Chair, welcomed everyone present and called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. The meeting adjourned at 9:16pm.

## **2. Disclosure of Interest**

There was no disclosure of interest.

## **3. Standing Items**

### **Approval of January 14, 2021 CCTAC minutes**

#### **Motion #1**

Moved by: Chris S.

Seconded by: Victoria L.

THAT the CCTAC minutes of Thursday January 14, 2021 be adopted as printed.

CARRIED

#### 4. Presentations

**a) Preston-Blair EA**, Tricia Radburn, R.J. Burnside & Associates Limited  
Tricia Radburn from R.J. Burnside provided an update on the Preston-Blair Environmental Assessment. CCTAC had a number of questions:

- Q: How close is the trail to the existing railbed that used to be there? Why wasn't this alignment looked at?
  - A: The trees in the area have matured quite a bit since the rail line was there and some wetlands exist. There would be more environmental impact along this route (in terms of species, cutting down trees). The preferred alignment was also Rare's request.
- Q: Will the trail and bridge be a 4 seasons route?
  - A: The project is not at that level of detail yet. The EA was to determine the location of the route. Next steps will be to get into the details like the surface. This will be a discussion between the city and the landowner.
- Q: How sensitive are the bobolink to habitat disturbance?
  - A: Sensitive, but still going on with the farming. Noise and human use in the area is potential to disturb the habitat. That is something that is being considered—thinking about how to keep people *on* the trail and not wander off the path.
- Q: Any concerns about flooding in the area?
  - A: The area is within a floodplain so it will flood from time to time. Hydraulic monitoring has been done. The trail itself will flood, but not likely the bridge. The trail will need to comply with GRCA regulations (no extra fill, same grade as the land etc.).
- Q: With such a sensitive ecosystem, who is going to be responsible for reminding people to keep their dogs on a leash?
  - A: The City would look to secure an easement over this area and would be responsible for all trail maintenance, signage, enforcement etc.

**b) Stage 2 ION**, Matthew O'Neil, Region of Waterloo

Matthew O'Neil from the Region of Waterloo presented the planned AT facilities being considered with the LRT that is planned for construction in 2028. Matthew went through the comments that CCTAC submitted in Spring 2020 and there were discussions with each segment of the route. Some key questions/comments were:

- Preston station/area: CCTAC really emphasized that this is an essential area to get right. Given that the pedestrian refuge island is coming out on King St (closing the connection to Riverside Park) and the numerous trail connections

nearby, there is a lot of complexity to this whole area. CCTAC requested to be involved as much as possible with this area in the design phase of the project.

- Eagle St: Opportunities to be explored considering existing MUT connections.
- Request to have the Linear Trail follow the LRT line on Chopin.
- Gated crossing at Russ will have bell flashers and gates
- Looking at making the Hespeler Road facility more AAA.
- Next steps: Approved EA by June. Currently developing the scope of work for the design phase. Back in the summer/Fall to gather more feedback.
- CCTAC thanked Matthew for the attention and level of detail in the responses to the comments raised by CCTAC.
- CCTAC requested that during detailed design the Region reach out to City staff and CCTAC committee directly to assist and provide further comment.

**c) Galt Core Ring Road & AAA Connections, Tom Strickland, CycleWR**

Tom Strickland presented a vision for cycling in the downtown. Tom is a resident of Cambridge and a member of CycleWR. His presentation included expedited works to create a AAA Ring Road connection around the Galt downtown core. His presentation also included some gaps in our network he considered important and urgent. There were discussions around particular routes and why they were chosen. CCTAC asked for a copy of Tom's map and presentation so that they could review it in more detail and provide feedback.

**5. Agenda items**

**a) Work Plan for 2021 (continued)**

Item moved to March meeting.

**6. Other News/Business**

- a. Transit Oriented Development Community Improvement Plan Public consultation will be starting soon and Lisa will share the link.

**Next Meeting:** THURSDAY, MARCH 11<sup>TH</sup>, 2021 7pm via Zoom link.

Close of Meeting

Moved by: Chris S.

Seconded by: Selwyn L.

THAT the Cambridge Cycling and Trails Advisory Committee meeting does now adjourn at 9:16 pm.

CARRIED



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Chairperson

Stephanie Bangarth



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Recording Secretary

Lisa Chominiec