

# **Brampton Cycling Advisory Committee**

## **Subcommittee Zoom Meeting**

**Tuesday, May 4, 2021**

Present: Laura Bowman, Dayle Laing, Alina Grzeiszczak, Polly Thornham, Kevin Montgomery, Steve Laidlaw, Lisa Stokes, Eric Lister, Nelson Cadete, Councillor Santos, Rani Gill

Regrets: Patrick McLeavey, Leslie Benfield, Barry Lavallee

Chair Polly Thornham opened the meeting with the Land Acknowledgement.

### **Bike Month 2021: May 31- June 30**

Nelson Cadete began his presentation on the 2021 Bike Month plans with a brief review of past bike month activities, including Bike To Work Day, Community Rides and Bike the Creek. He reminded us of the effect of COVID-19 in curtailing most if not all Bike Month activities in 2020. The uncertainty of the situation made planning and delivering events difficult.

In spite of the continued lockdown due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Nelson and the GTA-wide Bike Month Advisory Committee, under Cycle Toronto, are planning a series of events to help people get out during the month of June. People will be able to find the events on [www.bikemonth.ca/brampton/events](http://www.bikemonth.ca/brampton/events)

For example, Bike the Creek will take place during the whole month, instead of a single Saturday. The 6 routes will be indicated ahead of time, with signage and stencilled paint icons on the paths. People will be encouraged to ride the routes on their own time in June. The theme for this year's Bike Month is "Discover the Joy of Biking". The recommended Twitter hashtags for sharing their rides are: #bikemonth, #bikemonth2021, and #bikemonthbingo.

Councillor Santos created a great video to let people know about the Etobicoke Creek Trail, Peel Region's best-kept secret. [https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2a\\_4ZPk6q02Gf-YjsYqsasnbYXORs/view](https://drive.google.com/file/d/15i2a_4ZPk6q02Gf-YjsYqsasnbYXORs/view)

Peel Region, through Cycle Toronto, is planning to deliver a series of free webinars on June 2, 9 and 16, from 7 to 8 PM, covering the topics of bike safety, sharing the road and all-weather biking.

Other events being planned is a Bingo Card containing challenges to be completed for prizes, as well as tracking of cyclists' biking distances. Details to be announced soon.

Nelson will share his slide deck with members of the committee.

**Dayle Laing's report on Bike Brampton's Bike Month 2021 plans:**

## 2021 05 04 BikeWrx Update for BCAC – Bike Month & the season

- CCP Program Manager Sonia Maset has been organizing the BikeWrx schedule based on the pandemic moving targets. The schedule includes events in 'June is Bike Month'.
- Strategy is to have BikeWrx pop-ups all over the city between when COVID restrictions lift and the end of September.
- We have 2 bike hub canopy tents and a borrowed City tent to allow for greater distancing.
- BikeBrampton is collaborating with City of Brampton to select locations to highlight new bike lane infrastructure and cover all Wards, by postal code.
- The schedule will be posted to [Brampton Bike Hub](#).
- We are also collaborating with TRCA and Nurturing Neighbourhoods to highlight Bramalea SNAP and new bike lanes in those areas.
- The goal is to make each event count for multiple objectives.
- Appointments can be booked for mini tune-ups with our bike mechanics.
- Volunteers will attach Region of Peel bike bells and lights, while engaging cyclists on when to use bell and lights.
- Volunteers will discuss general trail etiquette, and City of Brampton trail etiquette poster will be displayed.
- City cycling maps will be handed out, and route planning will be available at some of the locations.
- Staff will be supplying Sonia with a large scale Brampton cycling map, so that an overlay can be used to mark on erasable routes to instruct cyclists on their personal route planning.
- In the meantime, under lock down conditions, we have a series of Virtual BikeWrx workshops planned. Four have been held to date, with quite good reviews from participants. People preregister, explaining their bike issues. They are then assigned to 'breakout rooms' for help by 2 of our bike mechanics. Some people register for general mechanical instruction and watch others repair their bikes. The mechanics demonstrate on bikes in their own garages. Questions are answered and there is good engagement.
- We have lent out 5 bikes to Pedalwise protégés this year. Unfortunately, our bike library cage was burgled, and 10 freshly repaired bikes were stolen. Photos and serial numbers have been reported to Peel Regional Police. **Any extra donations of unneeded bikes are welcome.**
- Pedalwise Protégés who cannot ride will be offered training by CAN-BIKE instructors.
- Volunteers will be running Protégé and Mentor virtual training sessions.
- Volunteers will also be running Pedalwise route planning virtual workshops.
- Once the lock-down has been lifted, Protégés can be assigned to Mentors and cycling skills assessments and small group rides can be resumed.
- Virtual and pop-up events will be promoted on BikeBrampton's [Brampton Bike Hub](#) webpage,

on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Neighbourhood pop-ups will also be supported with door hangers or postcards.

- BikeBrampton will also be doing a series of short bike safety videos for both bike lanes and multi-use paths. These are designed for the dual purpose of Bike the Creek and for our [Cycling Tips](#) webpage.

Lisa reported that she has updated an expanded a training program for cycling mentors, to help them teach their proteges.

There were positive comments by Steve Laidlaw and others, about the Bingo card idea, with added suggestions that there be a card dedicated to families with children, with appropriate destinations/challenges. Also suggested were some incentives, such as chances at prizes for participation, for some city employees to have a week-long challenge to bike to work, and report their experiences. Councillor Santos said that a motion was already passed at Council, to create incentives for City staff to bike to work, so this should be in the making.

Councillor Santos suggested providing chalk for kids to make chalk art on the trails as a reflection of their biking experiences.

## **Etobicoke Creek Closures**

An issue was raised regarding repairs being done on the Etobicoke Creek Trail. Nelson asked the committee members to share the information of the closure of the trail from Kennedy Road in the south, to Westcreek Drive, for two weeks.

Along with this closure, a second one was flagged by committee members, north of Bovaird. The signage was considered inadequate and confusing. Nelson agreed to ask for some signage on the roadways, to flag the closure before cyclists venture down the path, only to have to retrace their route.

<https://photos.app.goo.gl/dfyYBsmJrikduGRF8> A temporary asphalt ramp was suggested for the detour onto and off Wexford. Lisa commented that the sign that was posted was an improvement, and is appreciated.

## **Other**

Dayle reported that Velo-CanBikes is organizing the first pan-Canadian “pedal poll” during the first week of June, for people to count bikes, similar to a bird count.

<http://www.canadabikes.org/pedalpoll>

She also mentioned an Equity webinar, by Clean Air Partnership, on May 27. Brampton and the Region of Peel are featured.

<https://www.cleanairpartnership.org/events/>

Zoom Registration link:

[https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_rWNuPcTQQFCAbly6BqEzPw](https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rWNuPcTQQFCAbly6BqEzPw)

Alina asked about signage for Brampton's signature B-Loop. Nelson answered that the signage had been planned to be done, along with marketing, after the missing links in the loop are finished, but that the 2021 Bike the Creek route signage is expected to be permanent, and will go some way to providing the needed signage for the B-Loop.

Lisa mentioned a vehicle which had been habitually parked in the bike lane on Vodden, which was ticketed by a bylaw enforcement officer after she spoke to him. COVID bylaw violations have taken precedence lately, so the bike lane parking has not been a priority. It will be interesting to see if the ticket has a deterrent effect.

Nelson made a request of the committee for volunteers to help spray paint the route indicators for Bike the Creek, as well as put up signage. He will send out an email request, including the date(s) for the work to be done.

It was asked by Nelson whether another meeting at our regular time on May 18 is wanted, or whether this meeting will be considered the May Subcommittee meeting. Polly will send out an email to ask for input, including potential agenda items, and a decision will be made, based on feedback.

Meeting was adjourned.