Trails and Active Transportation Committee Meeting Agenda

Friday, September 16, 2016
10 a.m.

Council Chambers
Aurora Town Hall
Town of Aurora
Trails and Active Transportation Committee
Meeting Agenda

Date: Friday, September 16, 2016
Time and Location: 10 a.m., Council Chambers, Aurora Town Hall

1. Declaration of Pecuniary Interest and General Nature Thereof

2. Approval of the Agenda
   
   Recommended:
   That the agenda as circulated by Legislative Services be approved.

3. Receipt of the Minutes
   
   Trails and Active Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2016
   
   Recommended:
   That the Trails and Active Transportation Committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2016, be received for information.

4. Delegations

5. Matters for Consideration

6. Informational Items
1. **Memorandum from Manager of Parks**  
Re: Atkinson Park Trail Extension to St. John’s Sideroad  

**Recommended:**  
1. That the memorandum regarding Atkinson Park Trail Extension to St. John’s Sideroad be received for information.

2. **Memorandum from Manager of Parks**  
Re: Lake to Lake Trail Update  

**Recommended:**  
1. That the memorandum regarding Lake to Lake Trail Update be received for information.

3. **Memorandum from Mayor Dawe**  

**Recommended:**  
1. That the memorandum regarding Conservation Ontario Council Report – Passage of Bill 100 Supporting Ontario Trails Act, 2016 be received for information.

4. **Extract from Council Meeting of July 12, 2016**  
Re: Trails and Active Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2016  

**Recommended:**  
1. That the Extract from Council Meeting of July 12, 2016, regarding the Trails and Active Transportation Committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2016, be received for information.

7. **New Business**

8. **Adjournment**
The Vice Chair called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m.

1. **DECLARATION OF PECUNIARY INTEREST AND GENERAL NATURE THEREOF**

   There were no declarations of pecuniary interest and general nature thereof under the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*.

2. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

   Moved by Laura Lueloff  
   Seconded by Nancee Webb

   THAT the agenda as circulated by Legal and Legislative Services, with the following additions, be approved:

   - Delegation (a) Klaus Wehrenberg, Resident  
     Re: Rail corridor expansion impacts on Aurora’s trail system
3. RECEIPT OF THE MINUTES

Trails and Active Transportation Meeting Committee Minutes of May 20, 2016

Moved by Richard Doust  
Seconded by Laura Lueloff

THAT the Trails and Active Transportation Committee meeting minutes of May 20, 2016, be received for information.

CARRIED

4. DELEGATIONS

(a) Klaus Wehrenberg, Resident  
Re: Rail corridor expansion impacts on Aurora’s trail system

Mr. Wehrenberg provided an overview of the submission that he made to Metrolinx regarding the impacts of the impending rail corridor expansion on Aurora. He noted that the Trails Master Plan includes provisions for trails crossing rail lines, and expressed concern regarding the lack of commitment from Metrolinx to non-motorized traffic crossing rail lines. Mr. Wehrenberg requested that the Committee recommend to Council that the Trails Master Plan be wholly respected during negotiations with Metrolinx. He submitted two items of correspondence with Metrolinx for the record.

Moved by Nancee Webb  
Seconded by Alison Collins-Mrakas

THAT the comments of the delegation be received for information.

CARRIED
(b)  Klaus Wehrenberg, Resident  
Re: Highland Gate

Mr. Wehrenberg expressed concern regarding comments from Parks & Recreation Services, which indicate that the Highland Gate proposal is not in compliance with the Aurora Trails Master Plan. He also expressed concern regarding the lack of a creative, collaborative process to develop a proposal that could be used as a tool during the mediation process to clarify the needs of the community. Mr. Wehrenberg suggested that all underpasses currently in place at Highland Gate should remain and that linear parks be considered. He recommended that a creative process be initiated and that the comments on record from Parks & Recreation Services be communicated.

Moved by Nancee Webb  
Seconded by Bill Fraser

THAT the comments of the delegation be received for information.  
CARRIED

5. MATTERS FOR CONSIDERATION

1. Extract from Trails and Active Transportation Committee Meeting of May 20, 2016  
   Re: Item 1 – Memorandum from Program Manager, Environmental Initiatives, Re: Corporate Environmental Action Plan (CEAP) Update

Moved by Richard Doust  
Seconded by Bill Fraser

THAT the memorandum regarding Corporate Environmental Action Plan Update (CEAP) be received for information.  
CARRIED

6. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

None
7. NEW BUSINESS

The Committee put forward a recommendation, further to the delegation of Klaus Wehrenberg, regarding the Metrolinx rail corridor expansion impacts on Aurora’s trail system.

New Business Motion No. 1  
Moved by Alison Collins-Mrakas  
Seconded by Nancee Webb

THAT the Trails and Active Transportation Committee recommend to Council:

- THAT the two items of correspondence between Klaus Wehrenberg and Metrolinx, dated December 15, 2015, and May 11, 2016, be received; and
- THAT the Town, when negotiating with Metrolinx, ensure that the principles as outlined in the Trails Master Plan are integrated into any consideration of rail upgrades in the Town of Aurora.

CARRIED

The Committee discussed various aspects of the proposed Bike Aurora Day initiative, which will focus on cycling safety as well as showcase Aurora’s trails, and agreed to the next steps.

The Committee suggested working with the Accessibility Advisory Committee regarding accessibility of the Town’s trails, and with the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee regarding trail signage that complies with the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA).

The Committee suggested that street catch basins, in relation to the safety of on-street cycling lanes, should be reviewed and discussed with Infrastructure & Environmental Services.

The Committee inquired about public awareness of the Town’s trail system. Staff advised that there was extensive public consultation during the development of the Trails Master Plan and that, in addition to the Streets, Parks & Trails Map, information is available on the Town’s website and is also included in the seasonal Parks & Recreation Program Guides.
8. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Nancee Webb  
Seconded by Bill Fraser

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 10:47 a.m.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS ARE NOT BINDING ON THE TOWN UNLESS OTHERWISE ADOPTED BY COUNCIL AT A LATER MEETING.
Memorandum

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

Date: September 16, 2016
To: Trails and Active Transportation Committee
From: Jim Tree, Manager of Parks
Re: Atkinson Park Trail Extension to St. Johns Side Road

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Atkinson Park Trail Extension to St. Johns Side Road be received for information.

Background

Staff has been advised that it may be desirable to provide a trail connection from Atkinson Park to the South side of St Johns Side Road.

Upon review of the site conditions it may be possible to provide this trail connection as illustrated on the attached Aerial Photo Plan.

In terms of actual construction of this trail it will be necessary to determine the type of trail surface materials that should be used to complete the trail as this will have a significant impact on the associated costs of the project.

Should it be determined that a simple mowed grass trail is sufficient, this could be competed with little cost and not in any way significantly impact the capital or operation budgets. However, this type of trail may not provide the level of accessibility required during wet periods.

Alternatively, should it be determined that the trail should be constructed with a granular or asphalt surface there will be a more significant cost that will require the allocation of sufficient funds. Depending on the trail surface i.e. granular or asphalt, staff estimates that the costs could range between $8000.00 to 30,000 which in either case would require a budget approval by Council.
In addition, due to the location of the trail in the flood prone area, the project would be subject to approval by the Lake Simcoe Region Conservation Authority and possibly the Region of York in view of the connection to their road allowance and side walk running along the south side of St Johns Side Road.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Aerial Photo Plan Atkinson Park Trail
Memorandum

Date: September 16, 2016
To: Trails and Active Transportation Committee
From: Jim Tree, Manager of Parks
Re: Lake to Lake Trail Update

Recommendation

1. That the memorandum regarding Lake to Lake Trail Update be received for information.

Background

The York Region Pedestrian and Cycling Master Plan (2008) recommended the creation of an on-road and off-road cycling route and walking trail from Lake Simcoe in the north through York Region and the City of Toronto to Lake Ontario. Accordingly, York Region has completed a comprehensive design study that has resulted in the selection of a preferred route as well as preliminary design, cost estimates, and details about how the Lake to Lake Route could be implemented. The Lake to Lake Cycling Route and Walking Trail will be a major recreational and commuter Regional Trail and is expected to be a major destination and amenity for all York Region and City of Toronto residents and visitors.

The Lake to Lake route spans 90 km in York Region and another 25 km in the City of Toronto. It will include 6 municipalities in York Region (Georgina, East Gwillimbury, Newmarket, Aurora, Richmond Hill and Markham). The route consists of mostly off-street, multi-use pathways but some portions will exist on roads.

The Aurora component of the trail route would follow primarily along the Tim Jones Trail. The Region has identified a gap in the trail from Bloomington Road north to Vandorf Sideroad. To address this gap, the Region plans to construct a wide paved shoulder on the west side of Bayview as part of their resurfacing project scheduled for 2018. They would then like to 1) make a trail connection at Evans Park to the paved shoulder, 2) extend the in-boulevard trail on Vandorf Road from Monkman Court to Bayview, and 3) provide a mid-block trail crossing of Vandorf.
The Region has not indicated to staff that there are any cost implications for the Town associated with the proposed works within the Town of Aurora

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 - Lake to Lake Trail Map
Attachment 1

YORK REGION LAKE TO LAKE CYCLING ROUTE AND WALKING TRAIL PRELIMINARY CANDIDATE ROUTING ENTIRE REGION - MAP 5.1
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Memorandum</th>
<th>Office of the Mayor</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Date:</td>
<td>September 16, 2016</td>
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<tr>
<td>To:</td>
<td>Trails and Active Transportation Committee</td>
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<tr>
<td>From:</td>
<td>Mayor Geoffrey Dawe</td>
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**Recommendation**

1. That the Trails and Active Transportation Committee:

   - [x] Receive the correspondence for information
   - [ ] Endorse the recommendations
   - [ ] Provide direction
Conservation Ontario Council Report

From: Richard Wyma, General Manager, Essex Region Conservation Authority; Conservation Ontario representative on the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee

Date: June 15, 2016

Subject: Passage of Bill 100: Supporting Ontario Trails Act, 2016

Summary

On June 1, 2016, Ontario passed legislation, the Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2016, which includes the stand alone legislation, the Ontario Trails Act, 2016, which, when proclaimed in force, proclaims an annual trails week, and allows for the establishment of voluntary best practices, a trails classification system, and the recognition of Ontario trails of distinction. The Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2016 also includes amendments to existing legislation to address liability, trespassing and protection of property issues. Amendments will come into force according to their respective schedules. As an implementing body of the Supporting Ontario Trails Act, the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee (OTCC) is reviewing its Terms of Reference to provide opportunities for trail partners and stakeholders to provide input on the implementation of the Act (e.g. Trail Classification systems).

Recommendation

THAT Conservation Ontario Council receives this report.

Background

On June 1, 2016, Ontario passed legislation, the Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2016, that is intended to protect and enhance thousands of kilometres of the province’s urban, suburban, rural and remote land and water trails, while encouraging expansion.

The Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2016 includes the stand alone legislation, the Ontario Trails Act, 2016, which, when proclaimed in force, proclaims an annual trails week, and allows for the establishment of voluntary best practices, a trails classification system, and the recognition of Ontario trails of distinction.
The Supporting Ontario’s Trails Act, 2016 also includes amendments to existing legislation to address liability, trespassing and protection of property issues. Amendments will come into force according to their respective schedules.

As part of the passage of the legislation, Richard Wyma attended the presentation of the Bill to Second Reading, and appeared before the Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly to support the Bill. In keeping with Conservation Ontario’s comments on the draft legislation (September 2015), Richard acknowledged that the Act will bring a higher profile to the importance of trails beyond the trails community, and additionally noted that CAs, and CO support:

the designation of Trails Week, and Trail of Distinction program with some questions around criteria and relationship to existing trails promotional efforts

the establishment of a trails classification system and the establishment of best practices to clarify user experience and expectations and encouraged the Minister to consult actively with Conservation Authorities in defining those standards

the use of easements for trail purposes, but recognized these tools exist today; and the Trails Act could additionally provide incentives (tax or compensatory payments) to the landlords by the Province to encourage establishment and maintenance of easements, especially to complete trail systems

Additionally, it was noted that the Act could benefit from greater clarity around ‘negligence’ and consider reckless disregard or other terms that more firmly place the onus of responsibility on the user, rather than the trail manager or landowners. It was also noted that increased fines are not a deterrent unless there is greater enforcement, and we urge the Province to facilitate and fund increased enforcement through trail managers, including Conservation Authorities.

Current Status

The OTCC was established in February 2006 as recommended in the Ontario Trails Strategy, to represent public, not-for-profit, Aboriginal and private-sector trail stakeholders to increase collaboration. The role of the OTCC is to provide advice on trail planning, policy and coordinating matters of provincial interest and to provide oversight to the implementation of the Ontario Trails Strategy, associated Trail Action Plans and other frameworks affecting trails. The OTCC membership of 12 ministries/ agencies and 11 external organizations as well as one Aboriginal representative (24 total) was expanded in 2013 to include 14 ministries and agencies and 13 external organizations, as well as one Aboriginal representative (28 total).

The OTCC did not meet between 2009 and 2013 which created a gap in direction from the Province on trails and a challenge to progress and profile of trails in Ontario. With the release of a Trails Action Plan, provincial investments in trails, and the drafting, and now passing of the Trails Act, the Province, through Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport, conducted a review of its Terms of Reference which included clarifications related to mandate, structure, and composition of the OTCC.

The draft TOR (attached) is intended to clarify the role of the OTCC, incorporate the Trails Action Plan, and other provincial efforts (e.g. Cycle ONI) and improved effectiveness of the committee on research
and education, accessibility, and in guiding implementation of components of the Supporting Ontario Trails Act.

The OTCC TOR includes an ability to establish short-term working groups and sub-committees to support the ongoing business of the OTCC and lead, for example, discussions around trail standards, trail classifications, promotions, etc. Conservation Ontario remains with a formal seat on the Committee (currently represented by Richard Wyma) and has expressed interest in having CAs participate in sub-committees and providing its comments and recommendations related to the implementation of the Trails Act and Trails Action Plan. Comments on the TOR can be directed to the OTCC through Richard Wyma. Richard will also ensure CAs have opportunity to provide comment and input to trail classifications, promotions, and other components of the Supporting Ontario Trails Act, 2016.
TERMS OF REFERENCE FOR THE ONTARIO TRAILS COORDINATING COMMITTEE (OTCC)

PURPOSE OF THE OTCC

The OTCC provides advice on trail planning, policy and coordinating matters of provincial interest including oversight for the implementation of the Ontario Trails Strategy, associated Trail Action Plans and other frameworks affecting trails.

BACKGROUND

The Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport is the designated lead Ministry for trails in Ontario and has the responsibility for coordinating trail planning and policy matters for the Government of Ontario. The Ministry led the development of the Ontario Trails Strategy during 2004/05 and launched the Strategy on October 6, 2005. It articulates a high-level framework to guide public, not-for-profit and private sectors in dealing with key concerns. Implementation priorities are set out in Trail Action Plans.

Trails are used for recreation, transportation (including active transportation), tourism and educational purposes. They provide health, economic, environmental, cultural heritage, educational and community-building benefits across the province. Trails support the overall well-being and quality of life of Ontario citizens through social connectivity, volunteerism and appreciation of the great outdoors and nature. Ontario promotes the increased use of all types of trails and universal access.

Trails are readily accessible to Ontario citizens, located in attractive settings, many are free or inexpensive to use and appeal to people of all ages, abilities, and cultural backgrounds. Land/water, non-motorized/motorized, on and off-road trails are valuable assets found in urban, suburban, rural and remote landscapes across Ontario.

The vision of the Ontario Trails Strategy is:
“A world-class system of diversified trails, planned and used in an environmentally responsible manner, that enhances the health and prosperity of all Ontarians.”

Key strategic directions of the Ontario Trails Strategy are:
- Improving collaboration among stakeholders;
- Enhancing the sustainability of Ontario trails;
- Enhancing the trail experience;
- Educating Ontarians about trails; and
- Fostering better health and a strong economy through trails.

The core values of the Ontario Trails Strategy that will guide future decisions affecting trails in Ontario include:
- Respecting private and public lands, including agricultural lands, Crown lands and
Terms of Reference – Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee

the traditional land-use areas of Aboriginal communities;

• Protecting, conserving and appreciating the environment, including cultural heritage and natural heritage;

• Providing a variety of trail opportunities in keeping with the diverse trail interests of Ontario’s population and visitors;

• Valuing regional differences and supporting local decision-making; and

• Adopting good planning principles and approaches.

SCOPE OF THE OTCC

The OTCC is to provide advice on trail matters of provincial interest toward a more coordinated and responsible approach to trail planning, development, management, marketing and use. The scope of the committee includes:

• Overseeing the implementation and review of the Ontario Trails Strategy, associated Trail Action Plans and other frameworks affecting trails;

• Ensuring that a collaborative approach is undertaken in the planning, development and implementation of other key planning, policy and coordinating initiatives of provincial interest;

• Representing the diversity of stakeholders affected by trails;

• Facilitating stakeholder cooperation where appropriate;

• Identifying potential issues and solutions affecting the planning, development and/or implementation of trail initiatives; and

• Keeping a network of stakeholders abreast of implementation activities and opportunities to input to the process. Key messaging will be provided following each OTCC meeting for distribution to its constituents to foster good communications.

ROLES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The OTCC will:

• Review and advise on how to best achieve the goals of the Ontario Trails Strategy, associated Trail Action Plans and other key provincial trail initiatives within the context of the Ontario Trails Strategy’s core values;

• Monitor progress towards achievement of key priorities and results;

• Ensure the application of a universal accessibility lens in all undertakings;

• Support co-ordination and information sharing on planned activities and best practices among ministries and organizations represented on the Committee and in the broader trails community;

• Provide a co-ordinated response to potential issues that are acceptable to all sectors with an interest in trails; and

• Support the establishment of linkages with other stakeholders and groups not represented on the Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee (e.g. Parks Canada should be invited periodically to provide updates and seek synergies).
Terms of Reference – Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee

STRUCTURE OF THE OTCC

Co-Chair
The OTCC is co-chaired by Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM) of the Sport, Recreation and Community Programs Division of the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport and the President of the Ontario Trails Council.

Members and Alternates for OTCC Members
Each OTCC member body/interest shall have one member (unless otherwise approved) and name an informed alternate, if necessary, to attend meetings in their absence.

Sub-Committees of the OTCC
Sub-committees (e.g. Executive Committee) may be established to undertake on-going activities of the OTCC. The need for such committees would be identified by a member, discussed by the group and voted on before establishing such a committee. Any sub-committee would need to function within existing shared resources.

Working Groups of the OTCC
Working Groups may be established under a similar process for short term value-add purposes (e.g. to conduct an assessment of best practices in a subject area).

SCHEDULE

The committee will meet at least once a year and as required. Meeting dates will be announced in January of each year for the calendar year.

TERM

Members will be appointed for a 5 year term and may be renewed. Any member who does not attend 3 consecutive meetings without providing an alternate or reasonable explanation will require the approval of the majority of the committee members to continue as a member.

APPOINTMENT

External stakeholder members will be appointed by the Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport.
Terms of Reference – Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee

COMPOSITION

The Committee will be comprised of representatives from relevant ministries and agencies that have an interest in trails and external stakeholder groups from public, private and not-for-profit sectors. The Committee will also involve Aboriginal representation. Committee members include one representative (unless special arrangements have been approved) from each of the following ministries/agencies, external stakeholders and Aboriginal interests:

**Ontario Ministries/Agencies**
1. Ministry of Tourism, Culture and Sport (MTCS)
2. Ministry of Aboriginal Affairs (MAA)
3. Ministry of the Attorney General (MAG)
4. Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing (MMAH)
5. Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry (MNRF) (including Ontario Parks)
6. Ministry of Transportation (MTO)
7. Ministry of Northern Development and Mines (MNDM)
8. Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs (OMAFRA)
9. Ministry of Finance (MOF)
10. Ministry of Economic Development, Employment and Infrastructure (MEDEI)
11. Ministry of Health and Long Term Care (Health Promotion) (MHLTC)
12. Ontario Heritage Trust (OHT)
13. Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services (MCSCS)
14. Ontario Provincial Police (OPP)
15. Ontario Parks
16. Ontario Tourism Marketing Partnership Corporation (OTMPC)
17. Ministry of Citizenship, Immigration and International Trade (MCIIIT)

**External Stakeholders**
1. Trails Community - Ontario Trails Council (OTC)
2. Trails Community – Motorized
3. Trails Community – Non-Motorized
4. Farmers - Ontario Federation of Agriculture (OFA)
5. Tourism - Nature and Outdoor Tourism Ontario (NOTO)
6. Accessible Trails and Active Healthy Living Representative
7. Active Transportation Representative
8. Environmental Stewardship Representative
9. Conservation Authorities - Conservation Ontario (CO)
10. Municipalities - Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)
11. Parks - Ontario Parks Association (OPA)
12. Parks and Recreation - Parks and Recreation Ontario (PRO)
13. Northern Municipalities - Federation of Northern Ontario Municipalities (FONOM)
14. Resource-based Recreation - Ontario Federation of Anglers and Hunters (OFAH)
15. Academic - Trail Studies Unit, Trent University

Last updated May 24, 2016 for OTCC distribution.

Conservation Ontario Council Meeting
June 27, 2016
Terms of Reference – Ontario Trails Coordinating Committee

16. Regional Tourism Organizations Representative

Aboriginal Representation
1. Representative - Wasauksing First Nation, Parry Sound

Other key interest groups such as manufacturers, forestry industry, fur trappers, prospectors, funders, nature conservancies, access coalitions, Parks Canada, Niagara Escarpment Commission, cottage associations, economic development interests and non-traditional users (e.g. cultural groups) are to be kept abreast through the networking of committee members and provide direct input where appropriate.
7. ADOPTION OF ITEMS NOT REQUIRING SEPARATE DISCUSSION

Items 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11, 13, 14, 15, and 16 were identified as items not requiring separate discussion.

Moved by Councillor Humfries
Seconded by Councillor Pirri

THAT the following recommendations with respect to the matters listed as “Items Not Requiring Separate Discussion” be adopted as submitted to Council and staff be authorized to take all necessary action required to give effect to same:

14. Trails and Active Transportation Committee Meeting Minutes of June 17, 2016

THAT the Trails and Active Transportation Committee meeting minutes of June 17, 2016, be received; and

THAT the Trails and Active Transportation Committee recommend to Council:

New Business Motion No. 1

THAT the Town, when negotiating with Metrolinx, ensure that the principles as outlined in the Trails Master Plan are integrated into any consideration of rail upgrades in the Town of Aurora.

CARRIED