

DEPUTATION REQUEST

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

MARCH 7, 2024

Subject: York Region Vision Zero Traveller Safety Plan

Spokesperson: Peter Miasek

Name of Group or person(s) being represented (if applicable):

Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee of Markham Council

Brief summary of issue or purpose of deputation:

We are pleased that vulnerable road users are a focus of this plan. There are many aspects of the plan we are pleased about. We also have several concern areas/questions that we will raise in the deputation.

OFFICE OF THE REGIONAL CLERK

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Deputation to York Region Committee of the Whole regarding “York Region Vision Zero Traveller Safety Plan”

Agenda Item F.2.1 March 7, 2024

Cycling and Pedestrian Advisory Committee, a standing advisory committee of Markham Council

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Background - We represent the interests of cyclists and pedestrians in Markham, ie vulnerable road users. Safety for these individuals is a major priority for us. We are pleased to see that vulnerable road users is a priority area for this plan.

We are pleased with many aspects of this plan, including:

- The strong evidence of cooperation between Region and local municipalities, something we have long advocated for
- The inclusion of "Vision Zero" in the program name, something we have long advocated for
- The inclusion of firm targets, both for injury reduction and infrastructure installation
- A budget for 2024
- Developing a Data Warehouse
- A listing of the most effective countermeasures for vulnerable road users. We look forward to seeing many of these installed in the future on both regional and local roads:
 - On-road protected cycling infrastructure such as bollards
 - Leading pedestrian intervals
 - Curb extensions
- A listing of all the countermeasures, recognizing of course that there are always more countermeasures that will be developed, including emerging technologies

Some of our concern areas/questions are

- **Under reporting of vulnerable user injuries.** It appears that the only injury data captured is from police reports. A 2024 study by Professor Alison Macpherson of York University in the City of Toronto used emergency room data to find that there was large (10-fold) under-reporting of cyclist injuries and significant (2-fold) under-reporting of pedestrian injuries if only police reports are used. We have previously talked to staff about this problem, and received a reply that the Data Warehouse will try to capture hospital data, such as pedestrian slips and falls and cyclist collisions on trails. What is the status of this capturing and why is it not discussed in the Traveller Safety Plan?
- The Traveller Safety Plan is silent on **stakeholder committees**. We have asked staff about this and were given two contradictory replies (a) there would be a new committee consisting of all road safety partners (b) there may not be a formal stakeholder committee but York will work collaboratively with stakeholder groups. We believe that a stakeholder committee is needed to assist with prioritization of countermeasures and to bring in new ideas. What is the collaboration plan and why is it not discussed in the Plan?
- What is the status of the **Data Warehouse**? Will it be available to the public, and when?
- Some of the **5-year implementation targets** in the vulnerable road user segment are quite modest. Can we really not do better than 5 new cross-rides across the entire Region in the next 5 years? Or only 5 new Leading Pedestrian Intervals? Or only 2.5 km of protected off-road active transportation facilities? For example, Toronto installed 213 Leading Pedestrian Intervals in 2022 alone!!
- We also wonder if more can be done on **Education and Engagement**. The listing of countermeasures for vulnerable users simply seems to be a listing of current programs. Are there no new programs planned, for example a publicity blitz as the plan is initiated?
- We note there is a specific line item to integrate with Vaughan's Move Smart Strategy. Markham also has a funded **Road Safety Plan** just going out to tender. Please add an item to integrate with Markham's plan.