

Sustainable Mobility Advisory Panel meeting notes

October 22, 2015

5:30 p.m., Tom Davies, C-10

Present: Jennifer Babin-Fenske (EarthCare), Pam Banks, Samantha Baulch (1st half hour, past chair), Daniel Barrette, Carol Craig, Mary Ann Duynisveld (by phone), Michelle Ferrigan, Chris Gore, Naomi Grant, Stephen Holmes, Deb McIntosh (1st hour), Barb McDougall-Murdoch, Rachelle Niemela, Lilly Noble, Marc Pleau, Steven Russell, David Shelsted (1st hour, City of Greater Sudbury, Roads and Transportation), Niall Williams.

1. Approve agenda; meeting roles and process

- Ground rules discussed and agreed upon. Generally, we agree to respect each other and the agenda.
- As in the last term of SMAP, we agreed to make decisions using an informal 'consensus-1' process. We will aim to have all voices heard and to come to consensus on decisions. Consensus cannot be blocked by any single individual, by guests attending the meeting, or by support staff.
- Note keeping will be rotated. Lilly agreed to take notes. Dan volunteered to take notes at the next meeting. Chris suggested using a doodle poll so that people can choose which meeting they'd like to volunteer as note keeper. Jennifer volunteered to take notes on the flipchart as needed.
- David and Deb had to leave early for another commitment. Therefore, we moved the 'Transportation Study' up in the agenda, after 'updates' and 'background.'

2. Updates

(a) SMAP website and resources

The SMAP website is up at: <http://sudburysmap.ca/>. We will continue to add resources. All members are invited to share resources they feel would be useful to include.

(b) EarthCare update (Jennifer)

- Car-Free Day - full results will be posted on-line and shared with SMAP. 567 transit vouchers used, 253 paper surveys answered, 79 on-line survey respondents. Next year they will try to target those who don't normally use transit. People said they don't use the bus because of the: schedule, route locations, fees. People want discount or group passes, reduced fees or family passes. Earthcare is considering new programs to encourage a more comfortable transit experience like a "Read on the bus" contest.
- Possible Earthcare working groups
For specific events such as: Commuter Challenge, Car-Free Day
- Active Neighbourhoods Canada – Sudbury was accepted within the program. Starts January 2016 for a year. The end result is an Active Neighborhood plan the Donovan neighbourhood.

The majority of SMAP was interested in being kept updated on Active Neighbourhoods and the opportunity to provide feedback.

3. Background (Samantha)

Samantha gave us an overview of the last term of SMAP, with a mandate to assist with implementation of the Sustainable Mobility Plan's 66 recommendations.

SMP was written with many stakeholders and lead by Rainbow Routes.

Written to identify what was needed for better transportation choices for Sudbury.

Accomplishments: Stroller policy (still a pilot project – should be formalized); an inventory of accessible and useable bicycle racks; research on best bike racks (installed at TDS); reduced speed around primary and secondary schools (speed limits are now 40km/hr in designated school areas on all residential and collector roads); education campaigns including safe cycling and walking messages and bus passes being useful for tax credits, promoting cycling, walking, and transit as a healthy mode of travel; improvements to transit website; commuter challenge.

Research in progress (could be followed up on): Researching possibility of high school students using public transit to get to school; compare transit fares structures (e.g. flex fares).

At the end of its term, SMAP identified the following priorities:

- Complete Streets policy
- Cycling and walking to have clear line items in the budget
- Improve transit to meet the community's needs
- Transportation Demand Management
- Transit on google maps – DONE*
- Transit rep on SMAP – DONE*

4. Transportation Study

Staff sought Council approval to finalize the Transportation Study as per their responses to public input at the October 20 Council meeting. However, Council asked that more time be taken to bring public comments into the document, that the final document be brought to Council for approval, and that it include an implementation plan and timeline.

Responses to public input, including SMAP's comments, can be seen at:

<http://agendasonline.greatersudbury.ca/index.cfm?pg=feed&action=file&agenda=report&itemid=19&id=822>

An e-mail was sent to Council from the SMAP chair and co-chair regarding outstanding clarifications and concerns.

David Shelsted (Director of Roads and Transportation) provided additional information:

- The revisions have not yet been made to the document.
- The document will be revised, and brought to Council again. This additional delay pushes completion to the second quarter of 2016 (documents need to be ready 4-6 weeks prior to meetings). The biggest impact of the delay is that the resulting Master Transportation Plan will miss the Official Plan completion timelines, and will get rolled into a phased implementation process that will include the Water/Waste Water Plan phase – this delays implementation in site plans for new developments. They were looking to the completed Transportation Study for guidance on investing in cycling infrastructure.
- Notice of completion will occur after Council approves it and then the public will have 30 days for further comments.

- New policies and plans are recommended including a Sidewalk Priority Index, a Roundabouts policy, a Transit Master Plan, a Complete Streets policy, and Transportation Demand Management strategies. A TDM section will be added with a suggested framework, as well the recommendation for the implementation of a TDM Plan.

- The Roads department will begin working on the proposed policies once the report is approved.

- The Transportation Study is a living document and Council can change the priorities at any time. The recommended Active Transportation Plan is needed to guide where new AT dedicated funding will go. -

- Decisions around road priorities are constrained by existing policies.

- Facilities on the TMP maps are what the Roads Department can build therefore we need to be sure to look at those maps and facilities and ensure there are no gaps.

Clarification and discussion re SMAP input on the Transportation Study, and staff responses

SMAP input: Target timelines should be set by the Roads department for the proposed policies and plans so everyone knows when they are targeted for completion and which are the top priorities of Council.

- Response: 'recommended to be completed before the next Transportation Study.'

- David: they do not go to that level of detail of scheduling on the Transportation Study – they use short (0-5years), medium (6-10yrs) and long term (11-15+yrs). They expect the next review to happen in 5 years.

Follow up: suggest clarifying that completing these policies is a short term goal – this is more definite than 'before the next Transportation Study,' as long delays sometimes occur.

Precise dates would be set in a separate document that would go to Council after the Transportation Study is finalized.

- Deb: it is important that the community have a separate discussion on each of these policies. This is where community conversation and input from SMAP on the policy will occur.

SMAP input: Using an approach of completing cycling infrastructure with other planned roadwork will not create a connected network for many years. The proposed timeline for cycling routes will not complete any major routes for 10+ years.

- Response: 'AT improvements will proceed as budgets are available'

- Naomi: SMAP feels we need an approach and timeline that prioritizes cycling infrastructure for its own sake. Major routes should be first priority because of need, safety and impact. We need concrete short term goals for major cycling routes and connectors.

-David: Decisions around road priorities are constrained by existing policies. They would need Council direction to change the way they prioritize road projects. Their preferred approach is more economical and realistic.

-Deb: it all comes down to where money is invested

- *More time is needed to further discuss this sticking point.*

Unfortunately, David and Deb needed to leave for another commitment. Therefore, there was not time to discuss other outstanding SMAP input, such as: a recommendation for a Cycling Infrastructure Priority Index; comments on the Active Transportation Plan component; Safe streets; short term goals for transit; traffic modelling incorporating TDM; evaluation metrics and Levels of Service related to all users; the role of SMAP.

Naomi will follow up with David to see if a meeting can be arranged with the Policy subcommittee of SMAP. It was unclear whether this could be arranged.

5. Active Transportation infrastructure in upcoming road projects

- SMAP is eager to provide input on active transportation infrastructure and transit considerations for upcoming road projects at the conceptual and design stage. The Infrastructure subcommittee will look at the details.

- Stephen is eager to communicate with SMAP on upcoming road projects and cycling, walking and transit infrastructure designs and facilities. Upcoming road projects can be found on the City website.

(2015 capital budget & 5 year outlook:

<http://www.greatersudbury.ca/sudburyen/assets/File/Infrastructure%20Services%20-%20Capital%20Budget.pdf>)

Most projects are for resurfacing. On arterial routes, they will be adding paved shoulders. Complete Streets can only be realistically implemented on expansion projects.

The Infrastructure subcommittee will meet with Stephen to go over upcoming road projects, and to bring feedback on cycling infrastructure maps in the Transportation Study.

It would be helpful to see what revisions have already been made (or are planned) for these maps.

6. Individual Priorities of Members of SMAP

- Mary: accessibility through improvements to infrastructure

- Niall (cycling rep): cycling maps top priority

- Marc (Friends of Sudbury Transit,): walk, cycle and transit user. Pedestrian safety, route changes on transit

- Rachelle (Chair SCU, Sudbury Cycles rep): good plan of integrated network to benefit all users. Real investment in TDM. Safety on streets, zero injuries for cyclists and pedestrians. Education.

- Pam (Transit rep): Transit improvements for work and play. Build ridership. Transit users need walkable streets too.

- Carole (SDHU): connectivity, prioritizing projects. Metrics for our work. Develop indicators for our work. Transportation mobility integrated into city programs (how are people getting there). Health aspects.

- Dan (Rainbow Routes); connectivity, wayfinding to fill gaps, increase transit ridership, change perception of active transportation/transit, endorsement of staff plans.

- Lilly (pedestrian rep): pedestrian safety, crosswalks, transit improvements

- Naomi (CLS): TDM, culture shift so all modes are usable and available, Minimum grid of safe cycling routes, participatory planning by the community for the community

Staff support/resource:

- Stephen (roads): communication on a regular basis on upcoming projects – what we're doing and why; resource to help with understanding; accomplish something tangible (e.g. wayfinding, transportation website improvements)
- Michelle (Transit Planner): new data coming, wayfinding in the works, website – get feedback, work together to get things done faster
- Steve (GSPS): resource for Highway Traffic Act & laws, road safety & education. Safety for cyclists and pedestrians. Partnerships between police, engineers, citizens.
- Chris (Community development): support the panel, make connection to council, education of cyclists so they represent us well
- Barb (Community development): Staff resource, integrated network so people can use all modes of transportation, investment in education outreach to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians.

Jennifer – education, connections with Earthcare groups, transit

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Some of the themes that emerged were:

- pedestrian safety and road safety, walkability and safe crossings (Carol reminded the group that there is a Roads Safety Committee with a number of stakeholders that already exists. Three people on SMAP sit on that committee and can update SMAP on their activities)
- the importance of connectivity, and an integrated network for all users
- education, a culture shift & change in perception, wayfinding
- Process: choosing priorities, engaging the public & participatory planning, metrics for our own work
- transit improvements, improved routes, building transit ridership
- Transportation Demand Management, integrating transportation in all city planning/programming

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Other ideas discussed:

- Carol: identifying key travel nodes (what are key spots and who are our targets e.g. new Trinity school – how are students and staff getting there?) – engage with people
- Niall: citizen mapping – share routes and integrate citizen knowledge with wayfinding
- Rachelle: track number of volunteer hours spent on SMAP
- Rachelle: check back against our mandate and objectives
- Carol: consider an update to the SMP as an output

7. Subcommittees

Immediate

- Infrastructure subcommittee: review Transportation Study cycling infrastructure maps and provide feedback; provide feedback on active transportation infrastructure and accessibility and transit considerations for upcoming road projects at the conceptual and design stages; identify a list of candidate priority cycling routes and potential approaches (for budget \$'s earmarked for cycling infrastructure).

Niall, Dan, Rachelle, Mary, Marc

-Policy subcommittee: follow up to SMAP input on Transportation Study; further comments as draft is finalized, and during 30 day comment period.

Naomi, Dan, Rachelle, Samantha, Lilly

Interest in getting started with:

-Transit

Michelle, Pam, Lilly, Marc, Jennifer (Lilly will coordinate)

-Education

Jennifer will coordinate initial conversations. Barb was especially interested in education.

8. Action Items (homework)

- Infrastructure subcommittee: review Transportation Study cycling infrastructure maps and provide feedback; provide feedback on active transportation infrastructure and accessibility and transit considerations for upcoming road projects at the conceptual and design stages; identify a list of candidate priority cycling routes and potential approaches

- Policy subcommittee: follow up to SMAP input on Transportation Study

- Jennifer – circulate link to Car Free Day information

- Stephen – circulate list of upcoming road projects

- Stephen – if possible, share revised TS maps (or list of revisions to be made) to avoid repetition

- Naomi – will include a ‘doodle poll’ with next meeting notice for people to volunteer for notekeeping

- Dan - will follow up with Jonathan Clark (site plan control) about providing recommended bike rack options.

- All - sharing of resources for resource library on SMAP website

- City resource staff - compile AT relevant policy documents

N.B. Keep in mind: feedback requested for wayfinding and Transportation website

9. Meeting schedule: Thursday evenings, 5:30 p.m., Tom Davies

- November 26 (C-10)

- January 28 (C-10)

- March 24

- May 26

- June 23