

Westmount LAP Community Meeting
Community Association Office
904B 22nd Street West
September 23, 2009
7:00 to 9:30 pm

Attendees: Eleanor Knight, Nancy Boyd-Zuck, Terry Redford, Glen & Lana Kenney, Arlene Rey, John Zuck, Robert Hancock, Lucille Fergusson, Brian LePoudre – Community Consultant, Chris Schulz – Planning & Development Branch, Courtney Johnson – Planner, Shirlene Palmer – Recording Secretary

1. Introductions, Review Agenda

Meeting called to order at 7:05 p.m.
Agenda remained unchanged.
Courtney Johnson welcomed everyone to the meeting on such a beautiful evening.

2. Work Plan Amended

The committee agreed to hold a meeting with the possibility a Christmas potluck in December to continue the work on the LAP.

Courtney noted the Work Plan has been revised. She also advised the committee that following the last meeting it can take up to 3 months to write the LAP and have it reviewed by the committee, as well as Civic departments prior to going to City Council.

3. Successful Meeting Foundations

Foundations for Successful Meetings specify how the meeting will be conducted. They are used to ensure that we feel comfortable sharing our concerns, opinions and ideas with the group here tonight.

- 1. Information Sharing & Gathering**
- 2. Respect & Understanding**
- 3. Integrity**
- 4. Fair and Equal Representation**
- 5. Collaborative Decision-Making**
- 6. Comments Remain Anonymous**

4. Traffic & Circulation Presentation

Tom Der & Shirley Matt, Traffic Engineers, Infrastructure Services Dept.

Tom informed committee of the organizational structure of Infrastructure Services.

Infrastructure Services (IS)

- Public Works (fix roads, snow removal, etc)

- Parks
- Strategic Services (assess what maintenance to be done)
- Facilities (take care of buildings)
- Construction Services
- Transportation
 - Traffic Operations (highway, arterial, signals, truck routes, express ways) – Goran Manager
 - Transportation Planning (plan all the new roads, take a look at how city is growing and how to fit new roads in) - Dave Manager
 - Parking (meters, impound lots, commissionaires, permit parking - Myles Manager.
 - Traffic Management (they deal with all the neighbourhood traffic, attend neighbourhood planning meetings, local and collector roads, traffic calming, sign shop – Tom Der & Shirley Matt.

Hierarchy of Roads

Local – e.g. 27th, 28th Streets and any of the Avenues – up to 1000 vehicles

Collector – brings vehicles to local roads – e.g. 29th, 31st Street, Avenue H – up to about 5000 a day but usually anywhere from 2000 to 4000 vehicles.

Arterials – e.g. 22nd, 33rd Streets, Avenue P – 5,000 to 10,000 vehicles

Expressway – None in Westmount, e.g. Circle Drive – over 10,000 vehicles

Alternate Transportation Plans (Biking)

Tom noted the City starting expanding biking infrastructure in the city this past summer. The following are the three programs initiated this summer:

1. Education Program – The City in cooperation with SGI and the Public School System delivered education, in class and out of class, to 1800 kids in grade 3 on proper biking procedures. The program has been very successful; there have been many positive comments from teachers and parents. They are hoping to continue and expand the programs to more children as well as some adult programs.
2. Downtown Program - This program is to bring awareness to motorists that biking is a legitimate mode of transportation. “Sharrows” have been situated on an outside lane to show the lane is to be shared by bikers and motorist as well as where the bikers should ride (middle of lane, right of lane, etc). When it is a wider road motorist and bikers can ride side by side and so there is a dedicated bike lane that motorists are not to enter unless there is a dotted line; there is one on 4th Avenue. There is now a north – south corridor and next summer hopefully an east – west corridor will be created.
3. Cycling Advisory Committee – This is a ten member group, of various ages and genders, that meet once a month to bring forward concerns and give feedback on plans for bike concerns in the city.

Questions:

- **What happens to the Sharrows in the winter?**

Tom stated the roads will have to remain clear of snow but like the lines they will require repainting. These markings can be made permanent once the correct locations are chosen but they are very expensive to put them on permanently so they want to make sure they are in the most appropriate spot.

- **How can someone get in touch with someone on the Cycling Advisory Committee?**

Contact Tom and he will get you in touch with someone.

Tom stated the Bike Program received \$2 million to build bike facilities i.e. lockers, painting, etc. for next year. The City came up with \$1 million and the Federal Government will match with \$1 million as well.

Questions:

- **Will there be a bike trail in Westmount?**

The Bike Program was started in downtown and expanding out into the neighbourhoods will be looked at. A bike plan was created in 2002 that showed 23rd and 31st Street requiring bike lanes and this can be looked at again during the LAP.

Tom stated the bike program is not new. There are some shared routes in the city but the roads are only marked with small green signs and the sharrows are more noticeable and will do a better job to show the bike lanes and shared lanes.

- **What will be done with 22nd Street as it is too busy to have bikes on it?**

Tom stated there is a need to remove them off the arterial roads as they are too busy and it is too dangerous. Better bike lanes are required on 23rd Street and this may help move bike traffic there instead of 22nd Street.

Traffic Issues

Questions and Concerns

- **Rusholme Road Speed Limit – From Avenue H to Avenue P there is only about half a block that is not in a school zone so why not have the entire corridor 30 km/hr, call it a "School Corridor" to make it easier for drivers to know the speed?**
- **It is noted some Police Cruisers use Rusholme as an arterial road when heading to calls and drive too fast for street as there are many young children along this road with all the schools and parks.**

- **On 29th Street between Avenue K & P people speed down the hill could a speed hump or some type of calming be put there?**

- **Could a traffic circle be looked at?**

Tom noted there seems to be a speed issue along Rusholme Road and 29th Street. He stated they would look at collecting some speed data in various locations and contact Police Services for some enforcement. If there is a larger traffic speeding issue than some type of calming could be looked at.

Also noted there are speed trailers available to show people their speed to see if they slow down.

- **When the 25th Street expansion goes ahead what are the City's plans to control the speeding down that street?**

Tom stated 25th Street will not be a straight through street so speeding right through so speeding should not be an issue, as well vehicles will not be able to go west on 25th Street off of Idylwyld so traffic will be dispersed to 31st, 29th and Jamieson Street.

- **If not able to turn west on 25th Street is the City looking at putting a turning bay on Jamieson Street or something to allow traffic to turn there?**

Tom stated details on this have not yet been finalized.

Concerns:

- While looking at calming for streets it is also important to keep in mind that through streets are important as well. With access to Circle Drive west not allowed on 18th, 19th and 20th Street any longer all traffic is moved to 11th, 22nd, 29, and 33rd Street.
- There is also increased traffic and speeding on 23rd Street from Avenue N to P as well as drunk drivers. Mostly morning and evening traffic and after bar closing. Need to collect data at this site as well to see what can be done.

Pedestrian Safety

- **Can a pedestrian crossings signal be put along 22nd Street between Avenues H & P somewhere? As well, the current cut outs in the median are meant for pedestrian crossings but are not marked very clearly and this can be dangerous, could lines or signs be put up for pedestrian safety?**

Tom stated they would review where a possible pedestrian crossing signal might be helpful along 22nd Street. They will also check what can be done at the median cut outs for pedestrians to make it safer.

- **In some Safety Audits the question was asked: "Why is there not a similar speed limit around parks as there is around schools as there are a lot of children in both of these areas?"**

Tom noted the “School Zone” speed limit was a bylaw that came from City Council so he did not know the answer this question.

Brian LePoudre stated if the LAPC would like a “Park Zone” speed limit this could be a recommendation in the LAP.

- **It is dangerous for pedestrians to cross on Avenue H between 29th and 33rd Street as well as on Avenue H by Bedford Road. Visibility is an issue as well as vehicles speeding. What can be done?**

Shirley stated that speed cannot be measured on a hill. Tom informed the committee they can do a vehicle count and evaluation as well as collect speed data some how. Sign improvement may be required or some other treatment such as enforcing speeds.

- **Have there been any concerns with the access going east and west on 22nd Street to business on the opposite side of street with median most of the way down?**

Tom was not aware of any issues but if there was the business would apply to City Council to put a cut out in and the business would be responsible for the cost.

- **Are there any bylaws in regards to not driving into the bike lanes?**

Tom stated currently there is not, but this will be corrected in the future.

Comments:

- It was noted although plans for traffic calming are important it is also important to make sure there is good traffic flow as well.

Courtney thanked Tom and Shirley for coming out to the meeting. She stated she will contact them in a month or so see where things stand with their data collection.

5. Closing Remarks

Courtney thanked all the participants for attending tonight and being involved in improving your community.

Next Meeting: Tuesday, October 27, 2009
Location: TBA
Topic: Municipal Services

Adjourned: 8:45 pm

Parking Lot:
NIL