

Active Transportation Advisory Group (ATAG)

April 24, 2025 from 3:00 – 5:30 p.m.

Hybrid – Discover Saskatoon, 100 – 145 1st Avenue North and Microsoft Teams

In Attendance

Community Representatives:

	Name	Representing
✓	Adam Bue	Cycling
✓	Mark Closson	People of all ages (senior)
✕	Abe Eazadi	Business community
✓v	Lisa Franks	People of all abilities
✓v	Jasmine Liska	Resident
✕	Michael Painchaud	Post-secondary
✓	Tyler Rittinger	Elementary or high school
✓	Stephanie (Steph) Siemens	Resident
✕	Curtis Standing	Indigenous community
✕	Richard Williams	Public transit user
✓	Nialan Young	People of all ages (youth)
✓v	Bonnie Zink	Walking

Organization Representatives:

	Name	Representing
✕	Troy Corbett	Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI)
✓v	Ariel Sim	Saskatchewan Government Insurance (SGI)
✓	Verna Gallen	Walking Saskatoon
✓	Cora Janzen	Saskatchewan Health Authority
✓	Alan Otterbein	Meewasin Valley Authority
✓	Chelsea Pitre	Discover Saskatoon
✓	Merlin Toth	Saskatoon Cycles

City of Saskatoon:

	Name	Representing
✕	Nathalie Baudais	Engineering Manager, Transportation
✓	Amanda Lindgren	Public Engagement Consultant (chair)
✓	Justine Marcoux	Senior Transportation Engineer
✓	Anthony Wood	Active Transportation Program Manager (Interim)
✕	Councillor Dubois	City Council
✓v	Sharon Cybulski	Executive Assistant to Director of Transportation (recorder)

✓ = in-person attendance; ✓v = virtual attendance; ✕ = regrets

1. Welcome and Housekeeping

Amanda Lindgren welcomed everyone and acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on Treaty 6 territory and the traditional homelands of the Métis. Meeting started at 3:04 p.m.

Chelsea Pitre welcomed everyone to the Discover Saskatoon offices. Roundtable introductions were done.

2. Approval of Previous Meeting Minutes

The January 2025 meeting minutes were approved as circulated.

3. Spring BYXE Week Overview (May 10 to 18)

A number of events are planned for spring BYXE week including:

- May 10 – Slow Roll
- May 11 – Saskatoon Cycles Tune-Up Tent (will be located under the Sid Buckwold Bridge near the Meewasin Trail counter)
- May 15 – Bike to Work Day

Activities will be posted on the City's social media (Facebook and Instagram) and Saskatoon Cycles website.

4. BYXE Break Promotional Campaign Update

The BYXE Break promotional campaign will promote safe and respectful interactions between cyclists, motorists and pedestrians in urban environments.

The City worked with We.Us.Them on the marketing strategy and with Aspen Films on the video production.

The videos will focus on road safety or cycling benefits and emphasize the importance of respecting all road users and their choice of transportation.

Video clips were shared with meeting participants. The tagline for the campaign is *Cycle Safe and Share the Road*. The full campaign will be launched during BYXE Week and will continue throughout the summer on social media (Facebook, Instagram). The imagery and colours of this campaign will be used in posters, bus advertisements, cycling guide, etc.

A suggestion was made to adjust the theme on bus advertisements to *Keep Safe and Share the Road*. Everyone should be sharing the road, not just cyclists.

5. Forthcoming Connecting Downtown Report

Justine Marcoux, Senior Transportation Engineer, provided background information on the 23rd Street cycling facility and Connecting Downtown reports that were presented to the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation (SPCT) and City Council in the past.

City Administration is preparing an update report on Connecting Downtown that will also address the 23rd Street cycling facility. The report is tentatively scheduled for the June SPCT and City Council meeting.

The 23rd Street cycling facility was installed in 2015. Many of the delineator posts are damaged or missing. The painted pavement markings are faded, and vehicles frequently park in the bike lane. Damaged delineator posts lay across the bike lane. The lack of physical barrier between the bike lane and vehicle traffic creates feeling unsafe and vulnerable when cycling in the bike lane. Capital funding was provided for the project, but no funding for ongoing maintenance.

Committee members were asked for their feedback on options that are being considered for the 23rd Street cycling facility. Options for consideration include:

- Option 1 – Status Quo – leave as is (no funding for maintenance)
- Option 2 – Extend Pilot Project – re-install posts and update pavement markings perennially (approx. \$50,000 per year)
- Option 3 – Rapid Deployment – could put physical barriers such as pinned curbs, planters on the street (approximately \$1.1 million and would include a review of connections at Idylwyld Drive and Spadina Crescent)
- Option 4 – Removal of Pilot Project – would go back to previous layout for the time being. 23rd Street is identified as a future greenway within the City Centre and District Plan and will be rolled out alongside the Downtown Event and Entertainment District (DEED) and Link (Bus Rapid Transit) projects. There is no timeline for this project.

Summary of feedback received included:

- Not Option 1.
- Question: Would funding for the project come from active transportation budget or other sources of funding?
Answer: Funding would come from the active transportation budget. Funding Options 2 or 3 would impact funding available for other active transportation projects.
- Is there data to support continuing with the project? City Administration has done cyclist counts in the past, but nothing recently at this location.
- Hesitate spending money when this location doesn't connect well to other locations.
- Lots of political capital with bike lanes. Going to be tough to sell to City Council. It was noted this would be the first time this Council will have seen this topic.
- Option 4.
- New "option 5" - put in greenway.
- Cheaper to extend the pilot project. Option 3 is expensive.
- Material used in rapid deployment could be reused when this location is turned into greenway.
- Inquiry if the bus mall would be relocated. Discussions are ongoing about relocating the bus mall. With the construction of Link, transportation nodes will look different in the future. The downtown terminal will not exist as it is today. Every Link station will be a connection.

- Question: Could the bus mall be designated as a multi-use path?
Answer: Unlikely, mixing cyclist traffic with the bus terminal would be unsafe.
- Saskatoon Cycles supports Option 3. 23rd Street is a vital link to Spadina Crescent, Meewasin Trail and Idylwyld Drive, which connects to Blairmore. Option 3 would provide better pedestrian and cyclist access to Idylwyld Drive. The stretch from Idylwyld Drive and Spadina Crescent is currently in disrepair.
- 23rd Street isn't safe for bikes. Prefer Option 3. Suggest having 30 km/h bikeway for Spadina Crescent to Idylwyld Drive in the interim. Have a priority lane for cyclists.
- Could there be a range of budget options with Option 3?
- Most meeting participants preferred Option 3 and some preferred Option 4 and Option 2. Option 5 – prioritize greenway.

Appreciation was extended to committee members for their feedback. Committee members can submit comments on their preferred option(s) directly to the Transportation Department (Anthony or Amanda), or request to speak at Committee/Council meetings.

6. Project Updates

The following project updates were provided:

Planning Projects

- Active Transportation Plan Refresh – consultant selected. Currently working with internal stakeholders for feedback. ATAG members will be asked for feedback. Project deadline Q2 2026.
- Millar Avenue Walking and Cycling Improvements – engagement completed, finalizing recommended design with report expected to go to Committee in the summer.
- Victoria Avenue Planning Study (Taylor Street to Ruth Street) – engagement completed, finalizing recommended design with report expected to go to Committee in the summer.
- BYXE Street Team – will be running program again this year. Reviewing the tenders. Received positive feedback on last year's pilot. The team will adjust the services provided based on feedback received (e.g. attend more festivals).
- AT Education Campaign – working on BYXE Break communications plan, as outlined earlier in the meeting.

AT Construction Projects

- Dudley Street – complete.
- ICIP Sidewalks – Boychuk Drive is scheduled for June 2025.
- Ramps – hoping to post 2025 tender in the near future, will be proceeding with prioritized list as in previous years.
- Munroe Avenue Rapid Deployment (College Drive to 14th Street) – RFP awarded. Will be installed this summer. City will be reaching out to ATAG to provide feedback on the project.

- Warman Road and Assiniboine Drive Pedestrian/Cyclist Rail Crossing – construction to begin shortly and is expected to be completed by September 2025.

Active Transportation Reports

The following reports are tentatively scheduled to go to the June SPCT meeting:

- Connecting Downtown Update
- Connecting Victoria (Taylor to Ruth) Walking and Cycling Improvements
- Connecting Millar Avenue – Walking and Cycling Improvements

The Traffic Bylaw speed limit changes for the Munroe Avenue bikeway report will be going to the May SPCT and City Council meetings for approval.

7. Social Event Planning

Suggestions for social event for the group included:

- Warman Road/Assiniboine Drive rail crossing and Warman Road shared use pathway;
- New sidewalk installation on 8th Street and shared used pathway by Wildwood golf course;
- Routes in Evergreen; and
- New pathway on the way to Wanuskewin along the highway.

If you have other ideas or suggestions, please let Anthony and Amanda know. The activity would take place sometime over the summer. A Doodle poll will be sent out to committee members with dates and options.

8. Membership

Please let Anthony and Amanda know by June 1 if you are **not** planning to continue as members of the committee so a call for new members can be made over the summer.

Inquiry was made if alternates can attend meetings.

9. Next Meeting and Closing

The next meeting will be in September / October 2025. A separate Doodle poll will be sent out to determine date of next meeting.

Appreciation was extended to everyone for their participation in today's meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 5:08 p.m.

