



The Corporation
of the City
of Cambridge

REPORT

To: **GENERAL COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: November 12th, 2007

Prepared by: Alex Koch
Co-ordinator Design & Development
On behalf of Cambridge Trails
Advisory Committee

Department: Community Services

Date to Management Committee: November 7th, 2007

Report No.: CSD39/07

File No.: C06-04 Foremost 83936

Ward No.: All

Subject:

**CAMBRIDGE TRAILS ADVISORY
COMMITTEE (CTAC)
2007 ANNUAL REPORT**

Recommendations:

THAT the 2007 Cambridge Trails Advisory Committee Annual Report CSD39/07,
be received for information.

Please see attached.

*Note: Mr. Bob McMullen, Chair of CTAC will attend the meeting and make a brief
presentation and be available to answer questions.*



**CAMBRIDGE TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CTAC)
2006 ANNUAL REPORT TO COUNCIL
November 2006 – November 2007**

BACKGROUND

- Established in May 1997 following adoption of the 'City Wide Multi Use Trail Study'.
- Advises Council on implementation of the City's Trail and Bikeway Network System.
- Co-ordinates planning, project implementation and activities with the Cambridge On-road Cycling Focus Group
- Comprised of 6 citizen appointments, 1 Councillor, and 2 staff.
- Staff liaison and technical support provided by Community Services Department Co-ordinator of Design and Development and by clerical staff.
- Meets 7:00 p.m., second Thursday each month, in the Galt Room - Market Building (except for summer recess).

Chair:	Mr. Bob McMullen,
Vice-Chair:	Mr. Bryan Pinder
Council Representative:	Councillor Gary Price
Member:	Scott Buell (<i>appointed in 2007</i>)
Member:	Cynthia MacDonald (<i>appointed in 2007</i>)
Member:	Charlene Schiedel
Member:	Gary Stockford (<i>appointed in 2007</i>)
Staff Liaison:	Alex Koch, Co-ordinator Design and Development -Community Services Dept. Representative
Staff Cte. Secretary:	Joy Viveen, Clerical Assistant Community Services Department



1. 2007 TRAILS PROJECTS

1.1 Silver Heights Neighbourhood Park Trail – Phase 2

In March of this year, Committee members worked with staff in laying out the continuation of a stone dust trail route in the north section of the Park beyond the woodlot, which links Nicholas Crescent to Guelph Avenue at Blackbridge Road. Included in the project was a side trail that links the main trail through the Park to Hespelerview Parkette on Poplar Street. Trail construction (700m) was completed in September of this year at a cost of approximately \$67,000. The trail will link to the North Hespeler Community trail network at Blackbridge Road and form part of a significant neighbourhood trail loop in the North Hespeler area.

1.2 Moffat Creek Trail –Asphalt Replacement and widening – Phase 1

In August, the first phase of a multi-year trail initiative to replace and widen to current standard, the deteriorated Moffat Creek asphalt trail, was completed. The first phase of replacement, which extended from Elgin to Chalmers Streets, along the north side of Champlain Boulevard was completed at a cost of approximately \$28,000. Future years will see CTAC allocating funds in a continuation of asphalt replacement and improvements of the trail extending south to Churchill Park. Accessibility improvements will be incorporated into this future work though funds provided by the Accessibility Advisory Committee.

1.3 HWY 401 Pedestrian Bridge Opening

CTAC allocated approximately \$13,000 of the 2007 trails capital funding to the landscaping (Cambridge side of bridge at the end of Morningside Drive) and the official opening of the Pedestrian Bridge. In October, approximately \$10,000 of landscaping work that included a mall armour stone seating area and plantings was completed at the Morningside Drive entrance to the bridge. As well, \$3,000 was allocated (after donations) for Cambridge's 1/3 cost of the official opening event costs of the bridge, which was held on October 21st,

1.4 3 Trailhead Interpretive Signs

Approximately \$18,000 was allocated for the installation of three Trailhead sign panels that feature the trail map and rules of the trail. The trailhead signs use the same design format 3 earlier signs installed a couple of years ago. The signs have been quoted and will be installed in late October/early November. The new sign locations include Mill Race Park, The Record Heritage Trailpoint (Trans Canada Trail pavilion location at the Blair roundabout) and across from the Southworks Outlet Mall along the Grand River at Absolum's Walk. Also, approx \$4,000 has been allocated to update the maps on the three existing signs with new trail and bikeway routes and features.



1.5 Mid-block trail Accessibility drop curbs

As a result of input from the Cambridge Accessibility Advisory Committee, improvements to existing trails, which meet streets at mid-block locations, will be completed later this year by installing drop curbs and concrete aprons from the street to the trails, and where necessary, vehicular control access gates. \$8,000 has been allocated to the accessibility improvements from the trails funding for the Northview trail at Elgin Street in Galt and the walkway, which crosses Walter Street near Coronation Public School in Preston.

1.6. Continuation of railings along Grand Trunk Trail

In a continuation of risk management priorities, earlier this spring, \$10,000 was allocated to installing sections of railings along the Grand Trunk Trail north of the Davidson Quarry Rampway (behind the Riverwalk Condominiums on George Street). With completion of railings along this section of trail, the existing stone dust trail will be paved to improve maintenance and trail user comfort.

1.6 Brewster Trail Extension (Hammet Street to Gees Way)

This project, originally identified by CTAC as a 2007 construction project to extend the stone dust trail along a storm water management area/ wetland near Woodland School has been postponed to a future year and further consideration as part of the City Wide Trail Study Update planned for next year. Based on other higher trail priorities for this year and concerns raised by adjacent neighbours and the nearby schools' environmental group, CTAC decided to review this trail development proposal in a future year, and possibly look at a lookout/interpretive area as an alternative to the trail link.

2. CARRYOVER PROJECTS FROM PREVIOUS YEARS

2.1 HWY 401 Pedestrian Bridge at Morningside Drive (2006)

Construction of the HWY 401 Pedestrian Bridge continued over the year, and was completed in mid October, with the official opening of the bridge held on October 21st. Approximately 250 trail and cycling advocates attended the official opening ceremonies, with an estimated additional 300 using the bridge on opening day. CTAC and the On-road Cycling Focus Group developed the bridge idea concept and advocated strongly for its implementation. Bob McMullen's and Don Pavey's significant volunteer contributions to that effort were recognized at the opening.

Funds have been allocated for Cambridge's contribution of the bridge funding in previous years, and the Region of Waterloo will be invoicing the City for its share of cost in 2008.

Cambridge, Kitchener and the Region funded the \$1,725,000 project cost equally, less a \$100,000 grant received from the Trans Canada Trail Foundation.



Maintenance of the structure has been formalized in an agreement with the City of Kitchener carrying out annual maintenance work with Cambridge reimbursing Kitchener 50% of their costs on a continuing annual basis.

With its completion, CTAC looks forward to increasing use of inter-city pedestrian and cycling use of the new structure.

2.2 Riverside Park – Rogers Drive – trail loop connection (2006)

The construction of a paved trail link in the area east of the recently constructed skateboard facility along Rogers Drive now completes the trail loop next to the ring road in the front area of the Park. It enhances pedestrian safety along with providing a looped paved trail for roller blade use. The project was completed in late August at a cost of approximately \$26,500.

2.3 Moffat Creek Trail Extension – Franklin Blvd. to Dundas Street (2004)

CTAC allocated a portion of its 2005 capital budget for trail construction in concert with a sewer-servicing contract for the sanitary sewer proposed to service the Southeast Galt Community that was planned for construction in 2005. For the past couple of years this project has gone through an extended Environmental Assessment Addendum process, and the Ministry of Environment under a Part 2 Order appeal is now reviewing the final recommendation of the Addendum. Council has approved the inclusion of an additional \$250,000 funding for the sewer project for 'environmental enhancements', which are subject to inclusion of the trail. It's anticipated that this project will be constructed next year.

3. OTHER CTAC ACTIVITIES

3.1 Planning Studies

CTAC input is provided in a number of planning related studies or issues, such as plans of Subdivision applications, Environmental Assessments, (i.e. North Hespeler Community Plan Trail system as part of Mattamy (Hespeler) plan of subdivision), Regional projects (Franklin Boulevard E.A, Old Galt Furniture Site, George Street improvements, etc.) along with other City initiatives such as sidewalks along Blair Road etc. The Committee/members attend meetings, or have entertained delegations and provide input to those studies and plans.

3.2 Tour-de-Grand, and Hikes

Members participated in the very successful 10th annual Tour-de Grand Cycling event, which was held on June 11th in at which approximately 600 cyclists of all ages and abilities participated.



This year CTAC took a hiatus from running public hikes. The Committee will discuss possible Hikes for 2008 in the new year.

3.4 Other Activities

The Committee met with staff, and provided input into the City's 'Inclusion & Access' project, and the trails related proposals will be reviewed and incorporated into the 2008 Trail Study Update. CTAC held a 'work sleeve' session in July to identify draft trails issues and terms of reference for the upcoming Trail Study review in 2008, and will hold another session to finalize that work in late October, with the intent of taking a report to Council in early 2008 on approving the Terms of Reference for the Study and the hiring of a consultant to undertake the Study Update.

CTAC held several field trips (Silver Heights Trail, Brewster Trail, Moffat Creek Trail). Bob McMullen and staff attended the 'Inter County Trail Partners' meeting held this past May in Brantford, where Chairman Bob McMullen gave a presentation. CTAC has agreed to host next year's workshop in Cambridge.

The committee also entertained several delegations on development applications.

4. ON-ROAD CYCLING INITIATIVES

CTAC continues to meet and co-ordinate work with the 'Cambridge On-Road Cycling Focus Group', which is a sub-committee of CTAC, made up of three members including Don Pavey, Russell Schultz, and Mike Peddle, who work with City Engineering staff on implementing on-road cycling routes.

Chair Bob McMullen and Cynthia Macdonald are the CTAC representatives on the City's Bikeway Network Study Update Steering Committee, and CTAC will be reviewing and providing input on that Studies findings and recommendations which will be considered by Council later this year.

CTAC and the Cycling Focus Group have continued to provide comment and input on subdivision and Community development plans, and Regional road projects concerning on-road cycling planning.

5. MAINTENANCE

CTAC is pleased with the level of trail maintenance and risk management of trails implemented by Parks Division staff for City trails, made possible through continued Council funding in the operating budget for such purposes.



For several years CTAC has been and is still currently concerned with the abuse of trails by ATV's and other non-authorized motorized vehicles. The destruction it causes to trails and surrounding natural areas, and the potential impact to trail user safety and municipal liability/ risk management issues is problematic with no easy solution. CTAC is disappointed with the amount of monitoring and enforcement initiative put forward not only by our municipal forces but also by the Police and other jurisdictional agencies / property owners, especially in known 'hot spots' of such illegal use and abuse.

Towards this end, CTAC will be reviewing the City's Parks By-Law, with the intent of recommending changes to strengthen the legal aspects of enforcement, including the option of fines. CTAC will also investigate and recommend strategies to Council on enforcement to help reduce non-legal motorized use of vehicles on trails. CTAC hopes to have recommendations before Council on this matter by the June of next year.

CTAC is concerned that with increasing construction costs and limited budgets there may be a shortfall of operating maintenance funds to continue the current standard of maintenance and risk management and need for ongoing trail repairs, particularly with the need to replace a number of deteriorating asphalt trails that are now reaching their lifespan and are in need replacement. CTAC is also concerned with the poor condition and state of repair of the Whitney Rotary Boardwalk in Riverside Park. CTAC has identified the board walk concern with Park management, requesting that it get addressed, and hopes that sufficient funds will be requested by senior Park staff and subsequently approved and allocated by Council in next year's and future operating budgets to address the board walk and older asphalt trails repair and replacement requirements.

CTAC is supportive of any increased trails maintenance funding by Council in its annual operating budget review and approval.

5. 2008 CHALLENGES AND DIRECTION

CTAC looks forward to the start of several important trail initiatives next year, including the detailed design and implementation of the Moffat creek trail link associated with the Moffat Creek Sewer project, and the start of the Mattamy (Hespeler) Subdivision, which has a significant trail system as part of its design.

The Cambridge City-Wide Multi-Use Trail Study (1996) is now 11 years old and will be updated through a very public consultation process in 2008. The Trail Study Update will form part of the 'City's 2008 Master Plan for Leisure Services and Facilities' review. As well, the 'Cambridge Trails Maintenance Manual' (1999) – (a staff working document to address maintenance operations and risk management) will also be updated in 2008. The updates will bring these documents into compliance with current development,



recent changes since their adoption, and conformance to current practices, regulations, policy, and procedures.

CTAC will be recommending to Council, the "Terms of Reference" for the 1999 Trails Study Update and the hiring of consultants. It is anticipated that approximately half of next years capital trail funding will need to be allocated to that Study. The Study itself will be the major focus of CTAC efforts for 2008, and it is anticipated that the Study will take most of next year to complete.

This will leave a limited amount for actual trail construction projects in 2008, and CTAC will be meeting in November to determine priorities. CTAC is hopeful that Council will allocate further capital funds to trail implementation in the 2008 and future years capital spending in the amount of \$25,000 in its review of the Capital Budget Forecast, as the current funding level has not been raised for 8 years.

The increasing cost of trail construction, particularly paved trails, combined with the need to expend higher percentages of project budgets on studies and assessments to meet environmental and agency approval requirements also limits the number of trail projects that can be undertaken in a given year.

CTAC looks forward to continued service by providing recommendations to Council and implementing trail and cycling opportunities for our community.