

Cycling Advisory Committee  
November 20, 2019

Agenda Item: Committee process, scope and respect for Council and Staff

At the September 18, 2019 Cycling Advisory Committee meeting, staff from the City of London Transportation Planning and Design division presented a technical amendment to the Cycling Master Plan. Specifically, the presentation outlined various updates that were being made to the existing CMP, reflecting proposed changes to the mapping and charts to ensure consistency with the new EA's and studies (such as the BRT, east-west bike way, Adelaide Street CPR overpass etc.). Staff invited the CAC to provide comments on the technical amendments.

In response to the presentation by staff, CAC formed a working group to review and respond to the presentation. The last meeting of the CAC (The 10<sup>th</sup> meeting, October 16, 2019) saw a report generated by the Cycling Master Plan Review Working Group (CMPG). The report was not a review of the technical amendment by staff, but rather an extensive paper looking at both the city's Transportation Master Plan (TMP), and CMP through the lens of the Declaration of Climate Emergency and Vision Zero (both Council approved). CAC moved that the report of the CMPG be sent to Council. CAC made no delegation request. It should be noted that I as the Chair of CAC was not present at the conclusion of the presentation and the passing of the related motion.

Staff proceeded to take the 10<sup>th</sup> meeting of the CAC to the Civic Works Committee (CWC) a month early as there was a budget item for an expenditure of \$800 from the CAC annual budget. It was brought forward a month earlier than usual because it facilitated the expenditure prior to the end of the fiscal year. Having the 10<sup>th</sup> report of CAC on the November CWC agenda would have complicated the expenditure. It is noted that the 10<sup>th</sup> report was an added agenda item for the CWC, and was added approximately 24 hours prior to the CWC meeting on October 22, 2019.

Several CAC members assumed the reason for the CAC report coming a month early was to present the CMPG report to CWC with little fanfare, and also prevent CAC from speaking to the report. As previously noted, **CAC did not request a delegation to speak to the 10<sup>th</sup> report of the CAC**, and as such, gave up the opportunity to speak regardless of which month the report was taken to CWC. At this time, several members of the CAC took it upon themselves to commence a social media flurry of activity in response to the 10<sup>th</sup> CAC report coming before CWC a month earlier than otherwise would have happened.

The social media activity sparked by several CAC members resulted in many tweets and re-tweets of comments about staff and council members which were less than respectful. Accusations of staff wanting to hide the report and comments directed at Councilors who were perceived as pushing back against the report were made and/or re-tweeted by various CAC members.

I, as the Chair of the CAC became aware of the social media activity on the day after the CWC meeting (Oct 23). I requested a meeting with the City Clerk's office to confirm the reason why the 10<sup>th</sup> report of the CAC was brought forward a month early. I then emailed the CMPG advising them of the rationale. I made it clear in that communication to the CMPG that had CAC members waited until they were aware of the truth of the situation, the social media frenzy of mis-information could have been prevented.

CWC members who expressed concern about the scope of the CMPG report were entirely within their rights to do so. All Advisory Committees sit at the pleasure of Council, and the work that all Advisory

Committees are to engage in are contained within the Work Plans. The Work Plan is the “contract” between Council and the Advisory Committee. The 2019 CAC work plan (currently still in draft format) specifically lists defined activities, provides background, lists city staff members connected to the activity and most importantly, each activity has a connection to the CMP which is in turn linked to the City’s Strategic Plan. The strategic plan is set by Council, and therefore the CMP is set by Council.

It is not the purview of the CAC to seek to amend the CMP, nor is it to make sweeping commentary on the Transportation Master Plan (except in the case of the cycling component of the TMP). Rather, it is our mandate to (among other things) advise and support Council in the **implementation of the existing CMP**. To that end, the report put forth by the CMPG was an over-reach, and by extension, all of the related social media posts which were spawned by various CAC members were unwarranted.

As noted previously, our Work Plan is still in DRAFT format. We have elected to twice defer the approval of our Work Plan, and as Chair of the CAC, I take full responsibility for that. By not ensuring the contract between Council and the CAC is approved, I have failed to ensure that our work is consistent with the direction we take from Council as outlined in our Terms of Reference. **I strongly encourage the CAC to approve the 2019 Work Plan as presented in the October CAC agenda package.** If we wish to seek an amendment to the work plan, we can do so at a later point in time. We will also have to approve a work plan for the 2020 year which is fast approaching.

Notwithstanding the inconsistency of the CAC’s recent actions with respect to the Terms of Reference, the CMPG report was recommended by CWC to have Council refer the report to staff for review. Council has since made the referral. This is entirely consistent with the motions made by CAC. For this, the CAC should be grateful to staff and Council.

Our behavior has been inconsistent with the policies set by Municipal Council and Council Procedure By-Law which both govern our conduct. As the Chair of the CAC, I would like to extend on behalf of myself and all CAC members an apology to all City of London Staff and Council members who were the target of the negative social media commentary.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Craig Linton', written over a horizontal dotted line.

Craig Linton  
Chair, Cycling Advisory Committee