



2021-22 Saskatoon Cycles Board Report

This past year has felt like a return to normal times. Thankfully we have many activities to report on starting with the 3 new board members that joined us in November 2021: Gord Holtslander, Dominic McKeith, and Merlin Toth. Gord has been involved with Saskatoon Cycles since the early days and has been our behind the scenes IT guy. We were very happy to have him “officially” on the board. Dominic also works in IT and started cycling in 2018 as a different way to play Pokemon Go. He now rarely drives a car, preferring to commute to work and do most other traveling by bike. Merlin has been involved in the advocacy side of things and even though he is stepping down this year he will continue to represent us at the ATAG with the City of Saskatoon. Another addition to our team was Jason Hanson. He replaced Greg Basky as our Operations Manager. Greg was such a great asset to our team, we wondered if we would be able to find a suitable replacement. We definitely found one, Jason has done such a wonderful job. He keeps our social media looking great and is such a strong advocate for cycling. He’s a perfect fit.



We started off November 2021 with some fundraising through new tshirts. We have already done a second order so they are going over well. We have since added cycling caps to our online store, another great seller.



Our Friends of Cycling program is still going strong. We have thirteen current members of the program, selling a wide range of products from ice cream to camping gear. Please consider supporting these great local businesses. We especially ask for ongoing patronage of our wonderful local bike shops who support us in so many ways: Bike Doctor, Doug's Spoke N Sport, and Bruce's Cycle works among others.

This year brought on a new project, a sustainable delivery service called ZenZed. This was an idea brought forward by past co-chair Kira Judge; she applied and received a grant through MITACS, a non-profit organization that provides funding for innovative Canadian research projects. With this grant she was able to enlist the help of Samuel Loran, a graduate of the Regional and Urban Planning program at U of S, who developed the app. We also received a generous donation from one of our Friends of Cycling, The Better Good. Without their help and Kira's vision this project would not have been possible. ZenZed is now in full swing and we have five stores that are offering delivery by cyclist and eight (!!) delivery cyclists signed up.

We thank our participating stores: The Better Good, Peryton Books, Alt Haus Design Studio, The Little Market Box, and Escape Sports for trailblazing the program, and look forward to adding more partners in the near future.



Ice Cycle 2022 was a winter cycling event we hosted with help from the Winter City YXE grant through the City of Saskatoon. A bike ride along the Meewasin with snacks, bonfire and socializing after, made for a great day. We are planning two more for this winter.



Saskatoon Cycles applied to the City of Saskatoon again to organize winter and spring BYXE Week for 2022. Winter week included an online winter cycling workshop hosted by Merlin, a scavenger hunt and chances to win prizes. For the spring event we were finally able to have in-person commuter stations again. The scavenger hunt and social media posts for prizes were also included. This was a great opportunity for Saskatoon Cycles to continue to build a good

relationship with the city and encourage active transportation. Huge thanks go to Gord and Jason for all the time put into BYXE week.



Bikes & Banter, our weekly meetup for socializing with other cyclists was well attended this year. We took a break for the summer to focus on other activities, but hopefully will be back soon (watch our social media!). Those other activities included a few slow rolls: The Ice Breaker, Pride Parade, The Good, Bad and Ugly, Cathy Watts memorial ride, and Nuit Blanche. We also held our 1st Annual Poker Chipmunk Rally. This was a fundraising event that involved cycling around the Meewasin playing games and collecting poker chips for points. We hope to make this an annual event so if you missed out this year you may have another chance. Thanks to Anna Cole for the idea and for helping to organize.



Saskatoon was once again a chosen location for the National Pedal Poll. This event is organized by Velo Canada Bikes, a non-profit organization much like Saskatoon Cycles but on a national level. Pedal Poll is a count of cyclists in communities across Canada. The data collected helps build the case for more, and better, cycling infrastructure. Thank you to all the volunteers who spent some time counting cyclists.

Bike Valet had a great season this year. Ben Vandenberg was our onsite coordinator and he did a fabulous job of keeping everything going smoothly. We parked almost 4000 bikes at 10 festival/events, with enthusiastic help from 85 fantastic volunteers putting in 500 volunteer hours.

We also received the Environment Grant from the City of Saskatoon for the bike valet this year, which was a huge help and greatly appreciated. We were able to cover the cost of fencing and towing for each festival and we offered bike valet at the Ride for Refuge put on by Global Gathering at no charge. We were also able to update some of our equipment.



We have two outgoing board members, John Dosman and Merlin Toth. John has been with Saskatoon Cycles for a number of years. He is always willing to be our face and voice of Saskatoon Cycles, speaking to city council or participating in ad campaigns. We thank John for all the work he has put into cycling advocacy in Saskatoon. Merlin has only been with us for a year but he put in many hours as chair of our advocacy committee. He will continue on as a representative for us with the Active Transportation Advisory Group with the City of Saskatoon. Thank you Merlin for your continued work in ensuring Saskatoon becomes a more cycling friendly city.

2022 Advocacy Report

The Saskatoon Cycles Advocacy Committee was formed and held its only meeting of 2022 on July 7.

At the meeting we discussed and approved our Terms of Reference and held a short discussion on current and planned cycling infrastructure projects.

No other committee meetings were held due to scheduling conflicts over the summer and fall.

Early in the year the City of Saskatoon Active Transportation Dept asked Saskatoon Cycles for input into the 2022 Saskatoon Cycling Guide. A number of ideas and suggestions were collected and forwarded to the city with many of them making it into the newest edition of the guide.

Advocacy lead and City Liaison Merlin Toth attended a number of meetings and events with the City Of Saskatoon to ensure representation of the cycling community. These included:

May 12th - Wayfinding Workshop

Information on improvements to both vehicular wayfinding and active transportation wayfinding was presented. The plans, if approved, should provide overall improvements to vehicular wayfinding and vast improvements to AT wayfinding which is nearly non-existent at this time.

May 19th - Ave C Workshop Virtual Meeting

The session sought to gain stakeholder input on turning Ave C from Spadina Cres to 45th St N into an AAA (All Ages and Abilities) cycling and pedestrian corridor to provide a North-South connection from Riversdale to the Airport/Airport Industrial areas. Ample opportunities were given for attendees to voice their opinions and give their input on various sections of the planned corridor with feedback from the consultants in charge of the project. Attendees were asked to complete a survey re this project which asked questions on individual travel through this area and for detailed input on areas of particular concern. After taking part in the session and cycling Ave C from Spadina to 39th St, notes were made and the survey submitted on behalf of Saskatoon Cycles.

June 23rd - Active Transportation Advisory Group orientation meeting

Merlin Toth was appointed by the city to the new ATAG (Active Transportation Advisory Group) as the old group of representatives which had its' participants named by various AT groups and organizations, was replaced by one where the participants submitted applications to the city of Saskatoon and were chosen from the citizenry in general.

As the appointee mainly representing cycling interests in Saskatoon he attended an orientation meeting at City Hall where appointees had a chance to meet and get acquainted with the rest of the group and familiarize themselves with the mandate, mission, roles and responsibilities of ATAG.

Aug 20th 2022, "The Good The Bad and The Ugly Slow Roll"

A slow roll was hosted by SC member Murray Gross which highlighted some of the successes and failures of the City of Saskatoon cycling infrastructure so far. The ride was well attended and included representation from city council by councilor David Kirton. Many thanks to Murray for hosting this

August 26th 2022, Active Transportation Advisory Group field trip -Avenue C corridor

The ATAG group toured the new 23rd St W facilities including the bike crossing buttons at Ave H and Ave P. We rode on and discussed the plans to add a neighborhood bikeway to 31st St W from Circle Dr to Ave C with traffic calming measures to slow vehicles to increase cyclist safety. We also discussed various ideas for the proposed north-south pedestrian/cycling corridor on Ave C connecting Spadina Cres in the south with 45th St in the north. No final design decision has yet been made.

Sept 15th 2022, Shared E-Scooter Program Stakeholder Session

Merlin was unable to attend this meeting so Gordon Holtslander attended in his absence. Ideas were presented regarding the regulatory framework for a proposed E-scooter rental program in Saskatoon. The city will take the ideas discussed and present a final set of regulations including any provincially mandated regulations, later this year at the meeting of the Standing Policy Committee on Transportation.

Sept 22, 2022, Maple Grove Master Plan Charrette

Merlin attended a session with the Meewasin Valley Authority, the City of Saskatoon, the RM of Corman park and representatives from various stakeholder groups to assist in developing a master plan for the Maple Grove site just off Hodgson Rd between the QE power plant and Valley Rd. The site which over the past 60 years has been used as a residence, an amusement park and a trailer court has been purchased by the MVA with plans to return it mostly to its' natural state while including a number of passive recreational activities and incorporating it into the Meewasin Trail. He offered a cycling friendly perspective to the many ideas put forth. This process is ongoing and the Master Plan will be finalized over the coming year.

Sept 27, 2022, Active Transportation Advisory Group Meeting.

An ATAG meeting was held at City Hall where we discussed progress being made on the AT Master Plan. Many items were discussed such as the planned addition to the Victoria St Bikeway from 8th St to Taylor St, the Dudley St Corridor from Spadina to Dawes Ave along with many proposed improvements to be made to sidewalks and other AT infrastructure in the city. The big question of design and placement of the Downtown 3rd Ave Bike lanes is being postponed until a decision is made on the Downtown Arena site and the Bus Rapid Transit route for that area.