

The Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee (MCAC)

Ever wondered how cycling infrastructure decisions are made around the city, or who has a say about what gets done and where? Perhaps you've ventured out along a trail or your favourite cycle path and had a safety concern, or an idea about a route improvement? Then you probably thought '*... they should really do something about that!*' I'd like to share some information about the Mississauga Cycling Advisory Committee (MCAC) and how you can make a difference in the Sheridan Homelands community.

As one of several advisory committees overseen by the City of Mississauga, the MCAC is made up of local councillors, City staff, Peel Region staff and a contingent of 12 volunteer citizen members. Using a straightforward application and interview process, a local citizen can apply to sit on the committee. You don't have to be an experienced cyclist, or a bike mechanic, perhaps you may not even own a bike yet. You just have to be interested in sharing your ideas about the subject, be willing to listen to different opinions and be comfortable speaking up. Advisory committees are the City's way of ensuring that decisions are made by considering the opinions of a broad cross-section of residents. When possible, a citizen member from every city ward is chosen to sit on the committee. The term of the appointment is usually four years, which aligns with municipal elections.

The topics brought forward for the awareness and attention of the MCAC can vary, with the underlying theme being cycling. Safety matters are frequently debated and acted upon. Recommending intersection improvements, reactivating cycle cross-rides and installing new bike lanes, are just a few examples addressed over the past term. The committee also assists with activities such as local bike rides and community recognition awards for residents who promote and encourage cycling in our city. Implementing changes does take time and many residents probably wish things would move more quickly, especially in their local neighbourhoods. It should be noted though, that most decisions involve multiple teams and due diligence is exercised carefully during the process.

The MCAC meets once per month. For the last two years, meetings have been online and hopefully soon, they'll be back at City Hall. The agenda changes each month, depending upon what subjects and initiatives are raised by City staff, external organizations, committee members or members of the public. That's right, you too can have your say! Any member of the public is warmly welcomed to attend MCAC meetings. Whether it's just to listen, ask questions, or to give a deputation about an important cycling subject, your opinion matters. The MCAC encourages you to share your thoughts and present your ideas and we look forward to connecting with you soon!

For more information about MCAC, please visit:

<https://www.mississauga.ca/council/committees/mississauga-cycling-advisory-committee/>

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